

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON CARMEN'S UNION, LOCAL 589

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, who for the past 100 years has been a strong voice for transportation professionals in Boston and the surrounding areas.

As it celebrates its centennial, the Boston Carmen's Union represents 6,000 union members and is a part of the Amalgamated Transit Union, the largest labor union in America with over 190,000 members. The union was born in the same way as the labor movement itself: with a great deal of cooperation, dedication and perseverance. In 1912, after a number of failed attempts to meet with management to assert their rights and address their grievances, the first organized Boston Elevated Carmen's Union voted to strike—1,389 votes to eight. During the strike, the newly-formed union faced uncooperative tactics and strike breakers hired by the transit company. Despite these challenges, the union members fought for their rights, enjoying strong support from the labor community, and soon after, from District Attorney Joseph Pelletier, Governor Eugene Foss and legendary Boston Mayor John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald. Finally, after more than six weeks of striking, the union was able to come to a settlement and gained recognition from Boston Elevated Company.

In the years to come, the Carmen's Union continued to grow and collaborate with other local unions, evolving with the changing transit industry to best serve its members. As it marks this centennial milestone, the Boston Carmen's Union has both served and represented the many transportation professionals whose important work forms the backbone of our city and the surrounding area's infrastructure. It is with their help that the employees of the MBTA have been able to stand up for better working conditions, hours and wages.

The Boston Carmen's Union has a stellar record of activism and community service. This year, the union participated in the National Day of Action for Transportation on April 4th. The event gathered the Carmen's membership and supporters to demand fair treatment for transit workers and to demonstrate that available, affordable and well-maintained public transit is an issue of civil rights. The union also works hard to build awareness about the crucial role transportation professionals play in the daily life of every Bostonian. From subway drivers to mechanics to baggage handlers, and so many more, members of the Local 589 provide integral services to their communities every single day.

Along with its efforts to improve working conditions for its membership and empower them to assert their rights as an employee, the Boston Carmen's Union values its ability to play a positive role in the community. When firefighters, policemen or other public servants are killed in the line of duty, members of Local 589 routinely volunteer their

time and services to provide transport to and from the memorial service. I applaud the Boston Carmen's Union both for its dedication to its mission of empowering transportation and allied professionals and for its commitment to serving the Boston community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, its President John Lee and the entire community on the celebration of 100 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEWLY RESTORED HOTEL LAFAYETTE IN DOWNTOWN BUFFALO NEW YORK

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary celebration. It is with great enthusiasm that I learned of their recent partnership with the newly restored Hotel Lafayette in Downtown Buffalo and I am inspired by their creative collaboration with significant restoration projects throughout our great city and region.

As the premier historical organization in Western New York, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society serves to collect, research, interpret and share the rich history of the Niagara Frontier. Founded in 1862, the organization holds more than 100,000 artifacts, 200,000 photographs, and 20,000 books.

On Thursday May 10, 2012, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society will celebrate their 150th Anniversary Gala and will partner with the Hotel Lafayette at a premier event held at the hotel to announce their collaboration and concept of leveraging Western New York history as a brand. Their shared vision will be showcased at the hotel in the form of inspired images, artifacts and ephemera from the museums vast collection.

Other creative collaborative efforts include: the use of BECHS designed Pan-American dinnerware for use as dessert plates in the newly named Pan-American Grill and Brewery in the Hotel, curating reproduced images for the hotel suites and corridors, and wall coverings to name a few.

As Buffalo's Congressional Representative, and a former teacher of History and Economics at Buffalo State College, it gives me great pride to see such innovative collaborations come to life. This presents a remarkable opportunity to tell the great story of Buffalo, its rise as one of America's fastest growing cities with a bustling and diversified economy, home of the Pan-American Exposition in 1901, and

home of many of the great works of architectural and landscape greats of America. This partnership also allows us to tell the story of a city that is making a great comeback, in large part due to the creativity and contributions of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the long-standing work and commitment of the staff, board of directors, docents and volunteers at the Buffalo and Erie County's Historical Society on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary Gala at the grand, Hotel Lafayette.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRESIDIO ROCKETRY NATIONAL FINALISTS

**HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate students from Presidio High School and Lucy Rede Franco Middle School for qualifying for this year's Team America Rocketry Challenge national finals. This prestigious competition, which includes approximately 7,000 students from across the country, is the largest model rocket contest in the world.

Through their extraordinary talent and hard work these 3 teams earned a spot within the top 100 finalists, earning them a trip to Washington, DC for the national finals on May 12th. I am proud to congratulate Ana Karen Nieto, Itza Hanai Rodriguez, Antonio Bujanda, Marla Baltazar, Dylan Rivera, Rene Cardona, Gwynelle Condino, Jillianne Franco, Andres Villa, Hector Montemayor, and John Valeriano for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

IN RECOGNITION OF JASON BRANCH

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Specialist Jason Branch, the winner of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 2012 Best Warrior Competition.

To be eligible for the grueling contest, Spc. Branch was first selected by his unit, the 189th Engineer Detachment, as the most qualified candidate. The Massachusetts Best Warrior Competition is known to test participants with rigorous physical and mental challenges. Now in its fourth year, the competition continues to evolve to meet the caliber of the contestants. This year's event included tests

• 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.

of physical fitness and marksmanship, a written exam and a challenging mock urban combat situation. The demanding weekend culminated in an interview with a board of Command Sergeants Major testing each participant's knowledge on a variety of subjects.

Throughout the competition, Spc. Branch demonstrated the dedication, ingenuity and perseverance that make an excellent soldier, and in the end, emerged victorious amongst the commissioned officers competing. When not in uniform, he continues to serve his community as a Unit Manager at Plymouth's Radius HealthCare and Pediatric Center, playing a vital role in the rehabilitation of the center's patients. Spc. Branch truly represents the very best of our community and our country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Spc. Jason Branch as he is honored for his excellence as a soldier, and we wish him the best of luck as he moves on to the regional stage of the competition.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA  
YING-JEOU ON HIS RE-ELECTION

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize and congratulate Ma Ying-jeou, President of Taiwan, as he continues to honorably serve the people of the Republic of China. On January 14, 2012, through a free and fair election, the people of Taiwan reelected Ma Ying-jeou to serve a second term as president, continuing the country's commitment to a strong and stable democratic government.

Over the past century Taiwan has increasingly become an influential free-market democracy in the Asia-Pacific region. Now a model government to surrounding countries, Taiwan continues to play a vital role in maintaining peace and stability in the region and has experienced sustained economic growth and sociopolitical development in recent years.

As a result, U.S.-Taiwan relations have become especially close. Our shared economic, cultural, political, and strategic values coupled with our mutual interest in forging strong ties have encouraged innovation and growth between our nations. U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have more than doubled over the past several years and on December 22, 2011, the U.S. State Department announced Taiwan's nomination for inclusion into the Visa Waiver Program. Officials estimate acceptance into this program will increase the more than 400,000 Taiwanese citizens who visit the United States each year by 20 to 30 percent.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I commend President Ma for his exemplary leadership and his efforts to advance and ensure regional stability and peace. President Ma and his administration have worked tirelessly to develop a strong strategy of rapprochement which upholds our shared values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. I look forward to the future as we continue to work together to seek mutual best interests for both the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating President Ma Ying-jeou and wish him continued success as he

begins his second term as president of the Republic of China.

CONGRATULATING CUMBERLAND  
SCHOOL OF LAW

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my colleagues Robert Aderholdt, Martha Roby, and Dennis Ross in congratulating Cumberland School of Law on the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary as an entity on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. The school's legacy and impress extends across the globe and indeed into this very chamber, my three colleagues having walked its historic halls as law students.

What began as a humble and at times struggling law school in the hills of Lebanon, Tennessee, through tenacity and divine providence blossomed into a first rate and nationally-recognized center of legal education. Today, Cumberland boasts the fourth ranked trial advocacy program in the nation and has served as the educational backdrop for countless state and federal judges, legislators, and other elected officials. Judge John Carroll, whose service as the Dean and chief advocate for the law school, deserves our utmost commendation for thrusting Cumberland onto the national stage. His dedication and leadership have ensured the continued growth and prosperity of this respected law school.

Mr. Speaker, as a body that daily ponders the law and the effects of law, it is only fitting and proper that we honor an institution dedicated to excellent legal education and commend Cumberland and Judge John Carroll on a job very well done. The city of Birmingham, our great state of Alabama, indeed the entire nation owes a debt of gratitude to Cumberland School of Law for its educational prowess, its historic legacy, and its integral part in preparing the next generation of our nation's leaders.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM FOEGE,  
RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL  
MEDAL OF FREEDOM

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great epidemiologist and immunization champion Dr. William Foege and to celebrate his receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Dr. Foege's commitment to public health throughout his career—particularly in the area of promoting child survival and immunization worldwide—is nothing less than extraordinary.

In 1966, Dr. Foege served as a medical missionary in a remote part of Nigeria where he encountered the devastating disease of smallpox. He campaigned tirelessly for a more aggressive response to this terrible disease. In the absence of sufficient vaccine supply, Dr. Foege developed a strategy called "surveillance and containment" to combat the spread

of smallpox. An innovative strategy, his focus on "hot zones" was remarkably successful and led to the global eradication of smallpox in 1979.

Dr. Foege's work led him to become the Chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Smallpox Eradication Program and in 1977 he was elevated to Director of the CDC where he remained an aggressive champion for childhood immunization and continued his leadership in the fight for the eradication of smallpox.

Dr. Foege's accomplishments and awards are many and span his long career. After leaving the CDC, he formed the Task Force for Global Health (1984), which continues today as a critical nexus for the establishment of international collaborations to promote child wellness and survival. The impact that Dr. Foege and the Task Force has had on the world through childhood immunizations to prevent polio, measles, river blindness, and many other diseases has been nothing short of astonishing.

In 1986, Dr. Foege joined the Carter Center in Georgia serving as their Executive Director until 1992. He is a professor emeritus at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta and an affiliate professor of epidemiology in my District at the University of Washington (UW), School of Public Health. In 1999, he became senior medical advisor to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he remains an emeritus fellow. With this record of accomplishment and service, it is clear why UW chose to name their Bioengineering-Genome Sciences building after Dr. Foege.

To this day, Dr. Foege continues to educate the world on domestic and international health policies through his writing and speaking engagements. His is a career defined by service and rooted in science. Dr. Foege's enthusiasm and talent for global health continues to generate and influence future generations of public health professionals. I am delighted that he has been awarded this honor.

WELCOMING THE SEVENTH HONOR  
FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA TO  
WASHINGTON, DC

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Honor Flight South Alabama and the World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing on its seventh flight to Washington, D.C. on May 9, 2012. It is also my honor to insert this tribute into the RECORD during the week of the 67th anniversary of the Victory in Europe (V-E Day).

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from southwest Alabama to see their national memorial.

Nearly seven decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you," yet for

those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at historic Fort Whiting in Mobile and travel to Mobile Regional Airport to board a chartered flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.

The veterans will return to Mobile Regional Airport that evening, where some 1,000 people are expected to greet them.

Mr. Speaker, the May 9, 2012, journey of heroes from South Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They collectively—and literally—saved the world. They personify the very best America has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

I salute each of the veterans who made the trip to Washington. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices:

Bradford Amazeen; Frank Boykin, Jr.; Henry Brady; Wesley Davis; Charles Jackson; Manley Kulman; Archie Lewis; Raymond Lovell; Travis Mitchell; Niland Mortimer; Wilson Oglesby; James O'Rear; John Osterday, Sr.; Almon Ready; Kermit Reedstrom; Dr. James Rencher; Harold Richard; Jesse Robinson; Raymond Roser; Lawrence Roubion, Jr.; John Ruffin; James Santa Cruz, Jr.; Harold Schumann; Richard Stairhime; Lloyd Stewart; William Sumrall; Harlan Taylor; Tom Ware; Robert Wheeler; Wendell Williamson; Hugh Blount; William Boone; Cecil Bosarge; John Bosco; Howard Bowman; Vercial Bray; William Brennan; Claude Broun; Johnnie Burgess; Paul Carroll, Jr.; Cordelia Catlin; Dan Coleman; Leo Crain; Miles Crutchfield; Carl Daughdrill; Dr. Conan Davis; Nathan Denmark; Kirby Evans; Almus Goins; Johnnie Grovenstein; Michael Guarino; Angelo Harris, Jr.; John Hickman, Sr.; Joseph C. Holliday; Philip Kile; Richard Lentz; Alfred Phillips; Rudolph Rolison, Sr; John Tyson, Sr.; Thomas Brown; Frank Daniels; Lyman Daugherty; Elisha Davis, Jr.; John Folson; Edward Haeflinger; Oliver Henderson, Jr.; Frank Holyfield; Hal Johnson; Mitford Keel; Thomas Kelly, Jr.; James Lambert; Father George Lassett; Josephine Lassett; Donald LeDuc; Seymour Lichtenfeld; Arnold Loucks; John Magnon; Ulderico Marcucci; Moss McCarty; Raymond McCrary; Earl McDonald; Pervis McMillan; Nicolas McShea, Jr.; Robert Nodar; Edward O'Neal; Charles Parker; Kenneth Patrick; Edwin Phillips; Arthur Raines; and James Werner.

IN MEMORY OF GARY SAIN

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a friend and an ardent advocate for Central Florida. Gary Sain passed away May 6, 2012, just hours after delivering opening remarks at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida's "Celebrate the Fu-

ture" fundraiser, an event for which Gary served as chairman, and which typified Gary's dedication to the people and community of Central Florida.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Pam Sain and the Sain family. Gary was a talented and enthusiastic proponent of Central Florida's future and development. Gary was personable, humble and energetic. He was refreshing to be around and optimistic for the future. He envisioned great things for Central Florida, and he worked hard to make them happen.

As CEO of Visit Orlando, Gary was instrumental in making Orlando America's number one tourist destination. With his work, Orlando became the first travel destination to host more than 50 million visitors in a calendar year, with 51.5 million people visiting Orlando in 2010.

Gary's vision for Orlando, and the legacy he leaves, will serve the Central Florida area well for years to come. His work will be carried on, but he will be sorely missed. May his example of dedication, hard work and altruistic enthusiasm lead many to follow in his steps.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON CPA  
AND ACCOUNTANTS

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Caucus on CPA and Accountants, I rise today to congratulate the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), on reaching the historic milestone of 125 years of service to its members and the public. Founded in 1887, the AICPA has grown into an organization with over 377,000 members in 128 countries.

As the ten CPAs and accountants in Congress, we each have deep personal connections to the accounting profession and profound respect for the work the AICPA does to strengthen it. As a professional organization, the AICPA supports and educates its members, but it also promotes financial literacy and education for the general public as well.

The accounting profession is about trust: trust between a CPA and a client, and trust between an auditor and the public. It is these relationships, carefully tended, that are the foundation of our economy. For 125 years, the AICPA has been hard at work building this trust by promoting the highest standards of independence, objectivity, competence, and ethics for the profession.

The AICPA's members practice in specialties across the accounting spectrum—from private practice to business and industry to education to government to consulting—but all are supported by the resources, information, and leadership provided by the Institute. The AICPA serves its members in many activities including standards, certification, peer review, education, thought leadership, and promoting the public image and professionalism of CPAs.

For over a century, the AICPA has stood as a custodian of the accounting community, protecting the integrity of the profession and promoting the competence of its members. Today, Americans are served by a cadre of well trained, objective CPAs whose analysis

and advice serves as the foundation for millions of financial and business decisions each day. These professionals are the living legacy of the AICPA's 125 years of service.

Today, as a member of AICPA, I join with my fellow CPAs and accountants to congratulate the staff, leadership, and members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants on their 125th Anniversary. Our nation is a better, stronger nation because of your work.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-  
PRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5326, the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill for FY2013.

This spending bill provides funding for essential agencies, including the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Census Bureau, Economic Development Administration, FBI, Drug Enforcement agency, U.S. Attorneys and Marshalls, NASA, and the National Science Foundation.

I recognize that Chairman WOLF had a difficult task because of the sharply reduced allocations included in the Ryan Budget, which I opposed. The bipartisan agreement represented by the Budget Control Act of 2011 already made sharp cuts to spending levels. The decision by this Republican-led Congress to break that agreement to make even deeper cuts on the programs Americans rely on will make it very difficult to come up with a final spending agreement with the Senate. The Obama Administration has issued a Statement of Administration Policy expressing strong opposition to H.R. 5326.

This bill underfunds programs that are critical to Hawaii, including programs that support fisheries and ocean stewardship programs. It includes a \$20 million cut to the Legal Services Corporation, denying legal aid to tens of thousands in underserved communities, as well as many military families. Funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, program in the bill is well below the administration's request. Fortunately, we were successful in passing an amendment to increase funding for COPS by \$126 million (equivalent to the FY 2012 level), but many other amendments to this bill have made it even worse. For instance, amendments were adopted that would: Prevent use of Department of Justice funds in the legal defense of the Affordable Care Act; Prohibit funding to implement the National Ocean Policy; Eliminate funding for science-based climate change education efforts that will help prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; Prohibit funding of Census Bureau collection of detailed housing, economic, and demographic statistics.

I expect this bill will pass today. I only hope that it can be improved in conference with the Senate so I can vote for the final spending agreement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, and 223. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 202, 205 and 214. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 199, 200, 201, 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, and 223.

HONORING DR. AILEEN RIOTTO SIREY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt thanks and appreciation that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of my good friend, Dr. Aileen Riotta Sirey. After founding and leading the National Organization of Italian American Women for more than 30 years, Aileen has decided to step down from the helm. She has led NOIAW with pride, integrity, honor and, most importantly, passion—molding it into the outstanding organization it is today.

Aileen has one of the most unique personal stories I have ever come across. After receiving both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brooklyn College, she began teaching in Brooklyn. With the birth of her daughter, JoAnne, she left the workforce and spent the next five years as a full time mother. When she decided to go back to work, she joined Beth Israel Hospital as a community organizer and she was soon recruited by the Maternal Infant Care Project, a program within the New York City Health Department, to develop the first In-Hospital Family Planning Program. Under this program, community women were recruited, screened, and trained in peer counseling in birth control and were placed in 25 New York City Hospitals. Women talking to women about family planning—which at the time was still not commonplace—was an extraordinary effort. Aileen went on to for two consulting firms in health services and later earned her doctorate in psychology and started her own practice. For most this would seem like a lifetime's of work already completed—but not for Aileen.

One of Aileen's greatest professional interests has been the effects of culture on values, attitudes, and behaviors. It was because of

this interest that, more than 30 years ago, Aileen gathered a small group of Italian American women in her Upper West Side apartment. That meeting and their desire to assist other Italian American women and develop a nationwide network of women sharing a common ancestry sparked the formation of the National Organization of Italian American Women. Through their commitment to this effort, NOIAW members have developed a very successful scholarship and mentoring program and also offer a variety of educational and social programs. Today, NOIAW has a strong membership and is well-known as a resource for other Italian American women pursuing their own educational and professional aspirations. Throughout our nation's history, Italian Americans have played a pivotal role in the success and progress of America. The myriad of invaluable contributions that those of Italian ancestry have made to this nation are immeasurable. NOIAW celebrates these contributions and our rich ethnic history—it is Aileen's lasting legacy to our country and to all Italian-American families.

I have had the distinct pleasure to work with Aileen on a variety of projects over the years. She is an extraordinary resource and her positive energy and enthusiasm is contagious. She instills an inspiration in others that does not quickly fade. I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend and would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to her for her many years of special friendship and support.

More than anything else, Aileen's greatest pride is in her family. I am proud to join her husband, Charles, her daughter and son-in-law, JoAnne and Sol, and her granddaughters, Emma and Maia, as well as all of those who have gathered this evening in extending my very best wishes to Aileen Riotta Sirey as she celebrates her retirement. She has set an extraordinary example of service and dedication—it is a bar to which we should all strive.

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's "Women Who Make a Difference" being honored by the YWCA in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Since 1954, the YWCA of Bucks County has worked to empower women and provide a wide range of educational programs to the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in our community.

After accepting nominations from the community, the YWCA has chosen the following women to receive this year's honors: Anne Clark, Yolanda D'Arcangelo, Jeryl DeGideo, Susan Eckert, Mynetta Edwards, Kim Everett, Kathy Feldcamp, L.J. Herman, Jo Klienmann-Wood, Jacqueline Garnett Neal, Sally Pollock, and Kathleen Rosso-Gana.

All of these women have made a big difference in my Congressional District. Their overall empathy for others has helped our neighbors fight life threatening diseases and overcome physical challenges. Their enthusiasm for learning has inspired our youth, and their sense of duty has compelled them to assist total strangers in crisis, sometimes putting their own lives at risk.

The hard work and dedication that these women have shown has made Bucks County a better place for all of us. Thanks again to the YWCA and all of this year's honorees.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

**HON. LYNN JENKINS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, we pride ourselves on the support we give our men and women in uniform.

So much so, that over the last ten years, "Support the Troops" has become a rallying cry that cuts through all social and political difference.

This month is Military Appreciation Month, and today I rise to thank the men and women serving in our military in Kansas and around the world.

This week, as the House attempts to block the gutting of our defense department, I think it is important to remember that the first priority of the Federal Government is to protect us and there are brave men and women across the globe who deserve our support.

So from Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Field, and other military installation across Kansas's Second District and indeed the world, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of our armed services. Your service makes my service possible.

ACLU RECOGNIZES SHARON KISSEL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I enter this statement on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU. The ACLU is a non-partisan organization with more than 500,000 members, 53 state and local affiliations, and countless additional activists and supporters, dedicated to the principles of equality and justice as set forth in the U.S. Constitution and in our laws protecting individual rights. The ACLU asked me to enter the following statement into the RECORD recognizing Sharon Kissel, a DC resident who serves as Legislative Librarian for the organization.

On the 15th anniversary of Sharon Kissel's tenure with the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, her colleagues and many friends would like to honor her tremendous work over the past two decades on many of our nation's most pressing civil rights and civil liberties issues. In her role as the Legislative Librarian, Sharon is one of the unsung heroines in the ACLU's efforts to achieve equal justice, freedom, and fairness for all. Over the past 15 years, Sharon's work has been critical to a wide range of issues, including the ACLU's advancement of the Fair Sentencing Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the ACLU's national security advocacy.

Sharon has been a key participant in some of the most important civil liberties and civil and human rights campaigns over the past 15

years. One area of concern particularly in which she has been involved is the restoration of the rule of law in interrogations and detention practices in violation of human rights and the U.S. Constitution. She has participated in one of the leading coalitions against torture and indefinite detention, as a researcher, writer, and source of wise counsel for her colleagues.

Further, her work has been an integral part of the ACLU's efforts to protect our democracy from Constitutional amendments that would diminish the basic rights afforded to all Americans. Her research and advice were important to helping prevent an array of constitutional amendments, including the flag desecration amendment, the school prayer amendment, the federal marriage amendment, and the so-named victims' rights amendment. Without the work of Sharon and her coalition partners, the Bill of Rights would have been riddled with exceptions.

No matter what the issue, Sharon always approaches research with a joy and a curiosity that is contagious, which is part of the reason she is beloved by her current and former colleagues. Sharon is also described by her colleagues as a "genius" for her ability to find arcane tidbits of legislative history. Her daily in-depth review of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other legislative research provides incredibly timely information. By feeding her colleagues these buried nuggets of information, Sharon helps the rest of the legislative staff shine as advocates for their issues. Sharon is the ACLU's secret weapon—pouring over 800-page bills and the barrage of amendments attached to omnibus bills. Her keen attention to Congress and broader public policy debates has enabled the ACLU to address many potential challenges to civil liberties, even before they reach the House or Senate floor. Moreover, Sharon has ushered the entire ACLU team's legal research capacity into the 21st century. She works continually to maximize resources and expand access to online research tools for her colleagues nationally. Throughout her career, Sharon's colleagues have also celebrated and admired her perennial role as a patient teacher and a devoted mentor to many who have worked with her over the years.

In addition to her invaluable work at the ACLU, Sharon's impressive career as a librarian spans over 40 years, and includes her work at the White House, the World Bank, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and Shea & Gardner. Sharon also organized and managed the information resource center for President Bill Clinton's transition team after his election in 1992. Furthermore, Sharon's accomplishments in the field of library science extend to her professional affiliations—she has previously served as the President of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC, and as a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Equal Justice Institute Library. Sharon has also worked as a faculty member for the American Association of Law Libraries Summer Institute.

Sharon came of age during the civil rights movement, and her passion for civil rights and social justice extends to her personal life. She has been actively engaged in DC politics for decades and is the go-to resource on local

civic and political issues, with a particular interest in safety and zoning issues. Many in the office, who have been working in national politics for decades, go to Sharon for information on local DC matters. Sharon's strong personal belief in the Bill of Rights and her devotion to her local community occasionally have sparked her to take action, such as the time she organized a demonstration of roughly 30 librarians in front of Kramer books when it appeared that the bookstore was going to comply with Kenneth Starr's subpoena of private book purchases in 1998. The owner of the store ultimately decided to challenge the subpoena on constitutional grounds.

Sharon and her beloved husband of over 40 years, Peter, also are active alumni of their alma mater, Syracuse University, and they established an endowed fund at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs to support activities that contribute to public understanding of civil rights and liberties. Sharon actually decided to pursue a career in librarianship after a work-study job in the Maxwell School Library, and Sharon and Peter have long maintained close ties to the school. She also received an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland, where she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society.

Beyond her many professional accomplishments and contributions, Sharon is a dear friend to many at the ACLU. She has a generous and compassionate spirit. Sharon is always willing to share her deep love of Ireland and Irish politics, which has been a shared passion of her and her husband throughout their lives, and she will often bring back food or treats from her trips to Ireland with Peter to share with her colleagues. She is devoted to her family and enjoys her dogs, traveling, gardening, art, and music—especially Irish music! The personal and professional lives of her ACLU colleagues are richer because of Sharon's contributions, and we honor her 15 years of service to the ACLU and hope for many more.

WILLIAM F. EZZELL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William F. (Bill) Ezzell, one of America's leading Certified Public Accountants on his retirement from Deloitte, LLP.

As a member and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Bill has been an industry leader and pace setter for the accounting profession. His numerous accomplishments include the establishment of a major project within the AICPA foundation to increase the number of PhDs teaching auditing and tax in university accounting programs. He also played an integral role in the implementation of key legislation including Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as well as the associated regulations.

Bill has been a frequent speaker and panelist at corporate governance forums and accounting conferences and has an expertise in emerging issues of interest to audit committees, corporate management, and auditors.

Bill graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a B.S. degree in Business Administration and Accounting and had been with Deloitte 38 years. He has been a Commissioner on the Pathways Commission on the Future of Accounting Education, a recipient of the AICPA Gold Medal for Distinguished Service, and is a former Chairman of the AICPA Legislative Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, the Accounting Profession will miss Bill Ezzell's leadership and the Congress will miss the expertise he has provided through the years. I know my colleagues join me in thanking my good friend Bill for his years of service to the accounting profession and the guidance he has given us over the years. We wish him well on a well-earned retirement and hope he will be successful in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHERYL E. THOMPSON  
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cheryl E. Thompson on the occasion of her retirement from Mantua Elementary School on June 30, 2012. She began in the Fairfax County Public School System in 1973 as a Physical Education teacher and she became the Lead Physical Education teacher at Mantua 21 years ago. After serving in that capacity for 11 years, Ms. Thompson was promoted to Assistant Principal, a role which she embraced for the last decade.

Ms. Thompson has served the children of Fairfax County for the past four decades, spending the last 21 years at Mantua, where she personified the concept of community-building. She was the voice of the Mantua Elementary Intramural Basketball Finals; she organized and served as the DJ for the yearly Ice Cream Social, Sixth Grade End-of-Year Party, Spirit Parade, and the Mantua Citizens Association Pool Party. Ms. Thompson coached girls' basketball at Woodson High School, my daughter's alma mater, for 14 years, winning a number of division titles and the Virginia State Title in 1982. She earned Woodson Coach of the Year honors three times. The athletic instruction and support that Ms. Thompson gave to her students was exemplary; however, her dedication to her students' education is even more admirable. She earned Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year honors with Mantua Elementary as well.

While Ms. Thompson's absence will be felt throughout the Fairfax County Public School System, and especially at Mantua Elementary School, her dedication to her community will continue to resonate. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement and recognizing her many accomplishments.

COMMENDING FORMER IOWA  
CHIEF JUSTICE MARSHA TERNUS  
AND JUSTICES DAVID BAKER  
AND MICHAEL STREIT

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, courage is a virtue that is too often in short supply. That's why I congratulate former Iowa Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Justices David Baker and Michael Streit. These courageous public servants received the prestigious John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for doing their jobs on the Iowa Supreme Court. Together, they stood up for equal protections under the law for all Iowans. These courageous Justices were part of a unanimous decision that recognized marriage equality for all Iowans.

Although these Justices faced intimidation and threats after deciding the landmark case *Varnum v. Brien*, they did what they were supposed to do: uphold the Constitution. Justice Baker's words are a great example of why they deserve such a prestigious honor, "I am comfortable with my vote in that case and even if I had known what would have occurred, I would have not changed my vote. We fulfilled our role as judges."

Efforts to intimidate judges and try and turn the bench into a political soap box will do nothing to advance justice. Iowa judges are chosen based on merit, not politics. After they are appointed, their positions are subject to retention elections. In 2010, these judges were on the ballot for a retention vote and were ousted from their positions on the Supreme Court after large sums of out-of-state money funded a "Vote No" campaign.

They were voted off the bench because they fulfilled their sworn oath to uphold the Constitution of Iowa, which guarantees equal protection under the law to all citizens of Iowa, without regard to their sexual orientation. They are great role models for my children and all Iowans. By their actions, they became symbols that doing what's right isn't always easy; and doing what's easy isn't always right.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING AN-  
NIVERSARY OF CONCETTA  
(CONNIE) AND CARMEN  
CACCIOTTOLO

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two long time residents of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois, Concetta, to her friends, and Carmen Cacciottolo who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on May 3rd, 2012.

Their story starts back in 1937 when Connie and Carmen met in their kindergarten class at St. Mary of Mount Carmel School in Chicago. At the age of five, Connie and Carmen became very good friends; and now, 75 years later, they are celebrating 60 years of marriage. They attended classes together throughout grade school and split for their four years

of high school with Connie attending Lourdes and Carmen attending Tilden Tech. On May 3, 1952, Connie and Carmen were married at St. Richard Church on Kostner Avenue in Chicago.

Carmen served our country proudly in the United States Army during the Korean War for two years. Upon returning home, Carmen worked as a full-time printer and lithographer for Raynor/Carquivele Company while running the family-owned Italian store on Kolin Avenue in the Archer Heights community with Connie.

Connie went on to become a real-estate agent, insurance sales representative, and finally retired from her job at Talman/LaSalle Bank after 23 years. Carmen retired after 38 years with Raynor/Carquivele. Connie and Carmen have raised three beautiful children: James, born in 1957, Albert in 1963, and their daughter Mary Ann who was born in 1964. All three of them still live close to their parents in the Chicago area preserving their strong family bonds.

Since their retirements, Connie and Carmen have enjoyed spending time with their five grandchildren: Kristin, Anthony Connor, Jenna and their angel Megan. Connie and Carmen have selflessly given their time for their community. They have been active residents in the Chicago Archer Heights neighborhood, at their schools, church, and community, including the local American Legion and V.F.W. After moving to Palos Park in 1995 they once again became active in their new church, Sacred Heart, with the local senior club, along with their neighbors and the Palos Park Women's Club.

Today as Connie and Carmen Cacciottolo celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with their children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, and bridal party, I would like to extend my best wishes to the happy couple. This is truly an amazing event in their lives, and as they celebrate together their 60 wonderful years of love and marriage, I wish them great happiness and joy for many more years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for several of the rollcall votes on amendments to H.R. 5326 held that day. Had I been present I would have voted:

"no" on rollcall 202, the Peters Amendment to increase funding for the International Trade Administration and US Trade Representative by decreasing funding for NASA's Cross Agency Support account. While I support fully funding the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center in FY 13, I believe it is unwise to do that by taking funding away from NASA.

"no" on rollcall 203, the Broun Amendment (#1), which unwisely seeks to make dramatic cuts to numerous accounts in the bill.

"no" on rollcall 204, the McClintock Amendment, which would make an excessive 59 percent cut to the International Trade Administration at a time when we are trying to grow US exports.

"no" on rollcall 205, the Michaud Amendment to increase funds for Economic Develop-

ment Assistance Programs by taking funds from the Bureau of Census, Periodic Censuses and Programs. While I support increasing EDA funding, if there is any lesson to be learned from the last decadal census it is that short-changing the program in the early years of a census cycle leads to much greater costs in later years.

"no" on rollcall 206, the Scalise Amendment, which seeks to cut Economic Development Administration funding at a time when we need to invest in growing our economy.

"no" on rollcall 207, the Pompeo Amendment, which would go even further than the Scalise and completely eliminate Economic Development Assistance programs and grants.

"no" on rollcall 208, the Quayle Amendment, which unwisely seeks to cut funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia, which will help us regain our edge so that we "Make it in America" again.

"no" on rollcall 209, the Harris Amendment, which continues Republican efforts to keep their heads in the sand on climate change by cutting funding for a NOAA climate website.

"no" on rollcall 210, the Grimm Amendment, which sought to increase funding for Regional Information Sharing Activities at DOJ by cutting funding for NOAA. While I support RISS, I do not believe this is an appropriate offset for that funding.

"no" on rollcall 211, the Broun Amendment (#2), a wrong-headed attempt to cut funding to recover Pacific salmon.

"no" on rollcall 212, the Runyan Amendment. While I support increasing funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, which is a worthy program, the offset used is ill advised, particularly because it would impact the Civil Rights Enforcement Office of the DOJ.

"no" on rollcall 213, the Davis (IL) Amendment. While I support the Second Chance Act grants that this amendment sought to increase funding for, I am greatly concerned that the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program is already woefully underfunded and cannot support further reducing SCAAP funding for an offset.

"no" on rollcall 214, the Grimm Amendment. While I support the COPS program that this amendment sought to increase funding for, I cannot support the use of NASA as an offset.

"no" on rollcall 215, the Huizenga Amendment, which seeks to allow the outsourcing of federal correctional worker jobs.

"no" on rollcall 216, the Johnson (GA) Amendment. While I support the EEOC and the purpose that this amendment sought to increase funding for, I cannot support the use of NASA as an offset.

"no" on rollcall 217, the Flake Amendment, which sought to make drastic cuts to the National Science Foundation.

"no" on rollcall 218, the Westmoreland Amendment, which sought to dramatically reduce funding for the Legal Services Corporation at a time when more and more Americans facing hard times rely upon the services it provides.

"no" on rollcall 219, the Austin Scott (GA) Amendment, which went even further than the Westmoreland Amendment and sought to eliminate LSC.

"no" on rollcall 220, the Black Amendment, which blocks the federal government's ability to defend its authority to write and enforce immigration law.

"no" on rollcall 221, the Blackburn Amendment, which sought to make indiscriminate, across the board cuts of 1 percent throughout the bill.

"no" on rollcall 222, the Broun (GA) Amendment, which sought to make draconian cuts to most of the agencies within the bill.

"no" on rollcall 223, the Southerland Amendment, which unwisely prohibits the use of funds to develop, approve, or implement fishing catch shares programs in certain areas. Catch shares have been shown to be a successful tool for managing fisheries, one we should not rule out.

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RECOGNIZING THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE  
UNITED STATES

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again reaffirm my interest in maintaining a strong working relationship with Israel. Unrest in the Middle East has once again brought national security concerns to their doorstep.

Our two unwavering democracies in the United States and Israel have held firm together against outside threats for more than 60 years. As a close ally and trading partner, it is imperative that we provide training and materials for their military for years to come.

The nations surrounding Israel continue to seek nuclear weapons, an action that directly compromises the United States' security and interests. We must work together to ensure that Israel is able to defend themselves if such an event occurs. With the passing of H.R. 4133, I am pleased to see our nation again confirm its support for Israel's right to self-defense. This security cooperation will provide Israel with necessary aircraft and weaponry against the ever-present threat of attack.

The continued violence against the Israeli people must be condemned. However, as there is no immediate end in sight, the United States must stand up and continue to support Israel as they look to enhance their national security.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. CHRISTOPHER T. JONES

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor Christopher T. Jones as he retires from the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama.

Dr. Jones joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as Superintendent for the CDP on August 3, 2008.

He began his public service career with the Department of the Army Medical Command,

following successful completion of active duty as a U.S. Naval Medical Service Corps officer. Dr. Jones then served as Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) liaison to the U.S. Public Health Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, where he worked collaboratively with Federal and State agencies addressing high-risk public health issues arising from releases of military compounds, to include weapons of mass destruction components and military munitions.

Dr. Jones earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from Fairmont State College and a Master of Science degree in Occupational Health from West Virginia University. Additionally, he holds an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology, with an emphasis in federal procurement and earned a Doctorate of Education from George Washington University's Executive Leadership Program. He graduated in 2010 from the Executive Leadership Program, Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School. He's a member of the Academy of Management and a recipient of The Surgeon General of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

As Superintendent for the CDP, Dr. Jones brought leadership to workforce, operational and contracting challenges. Dr. Jones greatly helped in achieving the mission of the National Training Program and institutionalizing the CDP as the Nation's premier first responder training center in the United States. A native West Virginian, Dr. Jones is married with three children.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Dr. Jones and thank him for his outstanding service to our community and our Nation.

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HONORING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINTS PETER AND PAUL BASEBALL CLUB

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saints Peter and Paul Baseball Club for one hundred years of service to Chicago's McKinley Park community. This year, the club will celebrate a century of quality athletics and social outreach by hosting the Centennial Celebration and Annual Dinner Dance. The Saints Peter and Paul Baseball Club has been a valuable asset to the community for many years, and I thank all those involved in the club and the current president, Mr. William Gonerka, for their dedication to our community.

The club was founded in 1912 by a group of parishioners from Saints Peter and Paul Church who realized the need for a community organization that could provide both athletic and social outlets for youth in the area. Growing with the community, the club soon expanded its sponsorship to other sports such as basketball, softball, and touch football and broadened its fundraising efforts for parishes and local schools. For the last twenty years, the club has continued its stewardship to the neighborhood by hosting communion breakfasts, trips to White Sox and Bears games,

and other parish social events. Although Saints Peter and Paul Church has since joined with St. Maurice and Our Lady of Good Counsel to form the Blessed Sacrament Parish, members of the club have continued to hold events under their original name.

For the last one hundred years, the Saints Peter and Paul Baseball Club has worked to form healthy relationships and camaraderie among the people of McKinley Park. In supporting numerous athletic programs and acting as a social organization, the club has created a safe and productive outlet for many members of the local community. The work of this organization has helped members of the community develop vital leadership skills, appreciate the value of teamwork, and cultivate self discipline. I am grateful for the Saints Peter and Paul Baseball Club's outstanding one hundred years of service and am proud of the members who keep the club active.

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A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF  
FLORENCE LARIVIERE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman, an environmentalist before the term was invented, one who has taught generations the value of wetlands and forests, mountains and oceans, and who learned and taught so many how to protect and preserve these immeasurably valuable resources. A gentle giant of a woman; a quiet roar of a voice; a tiny footstep with a huge footprint . . . Florence LaRiviere has righted many wrongs and prevented many environmental tragedies by the sheer force of her knowledge, determination, advocacy, participation, and persuasive talents.

Florence LaRiviere recognized the devastation that development was creating in San Francisco Bay long before others did. She saw the need for a National Wildlife Refuge and working closely with many others, she persuaded Congressman Don Edwards, despite opposition from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to introduce legislation creating the Refuge. President Nixon signed the legislation creating it in 1972.

One of my proudest moments as a Member of Congress was the 1998 inclusion of the 1600 acres of Bair Island in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Florence worked closely with me on this project, tirelessly promoting it, working with the Citizens committee, challenging the owners of the property and using many creative means to move public opinion.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to have my Bay Area colleagues—Rep. ZOE LOFGREN; Rep. MIKE THOMPSON; Rep. MIKE HONDA; Rep. JERRY MCNERNEY, and Rep. JACKIE SPEIER join me in honoring this great and good woman, our dear friend of many years, as she is honored with the 2012 National Wetlands Award. This is an honor she has earned and richly deserves. We ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in thanking Florence LaRiviere for her decades of invaluable service. She is a national treasure and it is a high privilege to represent her.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following eleven rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

1. Aye—Peters (D-MI)—Page 3, Line 10—Adds \$9 million for International Trade Administration offset by cuts to Cross Agency Support—NASA.

2. Nay—Broun (R-GA)—Page 3, Line 10—3% cut to Salaries and Expenses/Administrative Accounts, \$847 million, and puts the savings into the Spending Reduction Account.

3. Nay—McClintock (R-CA)—Page 3, Line 10—Cuts \$277.8 million from the International Trade Administration and puts the savings into the Spending Reduction Account.

4. Aye—Michaud (D-ME)—Page 5, Line 17—Adds \$38 million Economic Development Administration, offset: Census Account.

5. Nay—Pompeo (R-KS)—Amendment No. 3—Cuts funding for the Economic Development Administration, \$219.5 million, and puts the savings in the Spending Reduction Account.

6. Nay—Scalise (R-LA)—Page 6, Line 7—Reduces spending and overhead of Economic Development Administration and the Department of Commerce to FY08 levels and reduces the Deficit by \$18.2 million.

7. Nay—Quayle (R-AZ)—Page 11, Line 18—Eliminates funding for Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia, \$21 million, and puts the savings into the Spending Reduction Account.

8. Nay—Harris (R-MD)—Amendment No. 10—Strikes \$542,000 increase from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Website and puts the savings into the Spending Reduction Account.

9. Aye—Grimm (R-NY)—Page 13, Line 2—Adds \$18 million for Regional Information Sharing Systems, offset: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Services.

10. Nay—Broun (R-GA)—Page 15, Line 13—Cuts \$15 million from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery account and puts the savings into the Spending Reduction Account.

11. Aye—Runyan (R-NJ)—Page 21, Line 23—Transfers \$22.4 million from Department of Justice General Administrative Expenses to the Byrne Memorial Justice Program.

**TO COMMEND THE HURLEY ELEMENTARY SCIENCE BOWL TEAM FOR REACHING THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alfredo Guzman, Ulises Trejo, Vanessa Campos and Alondra Arciga of Hurley Elementary School, and their coaches Ms. Jazmine Smith-Falicetti, Ms. Roxana Del Real, and Ms. Shellie Affolter for earning the opportunity to compete in the 2012 National Science Bowl.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with these outstanding students and con-

gratulate them and their teachers on their success. They clearly represent our country's bright future. Their confidence, intellect, and respectfulness will take them far, and I encouraged them to pursue studies in science, engineering, and math.

The National Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge of mathematics and science. This competition was launched by the Department of Energy as a new way to encourage students' interest in math and science career opportunities. During the bowl, competitors participate in a fast paced question-and-answer quiz, as well as attend science seminars and workshops. Middle school teams also compete in the Lithium-Ion Battery-Powered Model Car Challenge. This challenge stimulates creativity and fosters engineering skills as students compete to design, build, and race model cars.

Since the beginning of January, regional tournaments have been held across the country narrowing the competition to the best and the brightest in the nation. Hurley Elementary was the only school from the Midway Network of the Chicago Public School system that qualified to compete in the Chicago Regional Science Bowl. Likewise, the national competition was extremely tough this year as only 44 middle school teams earned the opportunity to compete in the final rounds in Washington, D.C.

As a team of sixth graders competing against students up to two years older, it has been an amazing accomplishment for Hurley to make it to the national competition. Although they did not bring home any awards this year, I am proud that they advanced as far as they did. Their hard work coupled with natural talent will take them far in life. I commend Ms. Smith-Falicetti, Ms. Del Real, and Ms. Affolter, for motivating these excellent young minds as well. Their leadership and guidance has been an invaluable asset to this team. I am proud of these bright students and I look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.

**EXPORT-IMPORT BANK  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012**

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2072, the "Securing American Jobs Through Exports Act of 2011." This legislation reauthorizes for three years the charter and lending authority of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. In addition, the legislation contains several financial reforms that will help ensure the "Ex-Im Bank" remains fiscally sound so it may continue its outstanding record supporting American business increase export sales, which is perhaps the best way to preserve and increase high value manufacturing and service jobs.

As the representative of the congressional district that adjoins the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the largest port complex in the nation, I know first-hand the important role the Ex-Im Bank plays for U.S. exporters, and the thousands of jobs created by increased international trade.

The Ex-Im Bank is the official export credit agency of the United States and provides financial assistance for the export of American goods and services to international markets. In Fiscal Year 2011 alone the Bank supported 290,000 export-related American jobs by providing more than \$32 billion in financing to facilitate more than \$40 billion in export sales by more than 3,600 American businesses.

Since 1934, the Ex-Im Bank has served as the principal government agency responsible for aiding the export of American goods and services, thereby creating and sustaining U.S. jobs. With its 75 year track-record, the Ex-Im Bank is projected to inject \$900 million into the U.S. Treasury by facilitating the sale abroad of hundreds of billions of dollars of American made goods, which in turn will create or preserve hundreds of thousands of American jobs. In 2011 alone, the Ex-Im Bank facilitated sales supported 290,000 American jobs.

The United States must stay competitive in the emerging and competitive global market. The Ex-Im Bank assists U.S. manufacturers, small and large, in selling their products abroad. The Bank facilitates financing for foreign buyers who wish to purchase American manufactured goods, thus increasing sales, which translates into more good-paying American jobs.

Reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank's charter will have a positive impact on job preservation and creation in the United States, and in the 37th Congressional District in California which I represent. My district is home to more than a dozen companies that export millions of dollars of products annually.

Mr. Speaker, exporters in my congressional district include a diverse group of small and large businesses as well as businesses that are minority or women owned. In the aggregate they generate about \$100 million dollars in export sales annually. I ask unanimous consent to include in the record a list of local businesses in California's 37th Congressional District that have directly benefited from financing by the Ex-Im Bank.

The Ex-Im Bank is self-sustaining and does not cost taxpayers a dime. Rather, the money it generates is returned to the U.S. Treasury, nearly \$2 billion over the past five years, and helps reduce the deficit. Moreover, since its inception, less than 2 percent of the Bank's loans have ever defaulted, and even in those cases, loss is minimized because the borrower's manufactured goods are pledged as part of the collateral for the loan.

Mr. Speaker, exports are increasingly critical to the economic growth and job creation, economy and job recovery. The Ex-Im Bank is an indispensable tool in the national effort to increase export sales. That is why I am a proud and enthusiastic supporter of H.R. 2072, which enjoys broad support from business and labor and the Obama Administration.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to pass this important legislation.

**TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BLACK  
ELWELL**

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Susan Black Elwell, a constituent and a woman of strength, courage,



and vision. I am sad to say that Susan just lost her life to cancer, but, until her very last weeks, she used her life to make a difference in the lives of others. From her work as a founder and director of an innovative neighborhood nursery school and her visionary leadership of the largest and oldest women's political club in Maryland, to her service as a Peace Corps volunteer, Susan sought to enlighten and engage others through education and activism.

Born in North Bay, Ontario and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Susan graduated from Chatham College for Women in 1962. She came to Washington as a young college graduate, working for the Washington Urban League and then the Peace Corps, where she met her husband Richard. They served in the Peace Corps together in Niger. After returning to the Washington, D.C. area and starting a family, Susan became a founder and the first director of the Chevy Chase Baptist Church Children's Center for children aged 6 months to 5 years. An innovative school, CCBC Children's Center became a much sought-after nursery school.

Susan was an active member of the Chevy Chase Historical Society Board. In 2007, she launched a new Historical Society program called "History Go-Round," a series of programs for residents who love to learn about our community's history. The series offered neighbors with similar interests guided visits to historical sites, roundtables led by distinguished speakers, and exploration of historical sites both in the neighborhood and throughout the larger community.

Susan brought the same creativity and enthusiasm to her leadership of the Woman's Suburban Democratic Club, Maryland's oldest and largest political group, which celebrates its 55th anniversary this year. As a board member and president, she led the group to unprecedented growth and activity, encouraging a broader membership and mentoring younger members.

In addition to these achievements, Susan was a Master Gardener, the founder of the Chatham College for Women's Washington Area Alumnae Club, a Democratic precinct chair, and a lifelong activist. In 2005, she was awarded the William Trimble Beatty Award, which is presented to a Chatham College volunteer who embodies the spirit and hard work of that college's founder, Reverend William Trimble Beatty. Even as she has fought her own battle with cancer, she spoke out against the shortage of some cancer drugs and the terrible impact these shortages have on those who so desperately need them.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to know Susan and to represent her in Congress. As an elected official, I benefitted from her idealism, wisdom, and hard work. More importantly, her strong sense of community and her dedication to building a better, more educated and thoughtful community made the world a better place, and she will be deeply missed.

I send my deepest condolences to her husband Richard and son Martin, stepsons David, Joe, and Peter, and daughter-in-law, Josie, and ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this remarkable woman.

CONGRATULATING GOLD EAGLE  
CO. OF CHICAGO FOR RECEIVING  
THE PRESIDENT'S "E" AWARD

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the owners and employees of the Gold Eagle Company of Chicago, Illinois. On May 17, 2012, they will receive the prestigious President's "E" Award from the Department of Commerce. The "E" Award is presented to select American companies that demonstrate excellence in their ability to export American goods abroad. I appreciate the work of the employees and management at this company who have demonstrated leadership and resilience over the past several years.

Creative and successful in its business growth model, Gold Eagle utilizes innovative international marketing strategies that have led to four years of dynamic export expansion. Moreover, Gold Eagle has demonstrated its ability to overcome export barriers, selling its products in more than 75 countries and five continents. To reward rising global sales and its commitment to entering international markets, the Department of Commerce will recognize Gold Eagle at its 50th Annual President's "E" Award Ceremony. The Secretary of Commerce, John Bryson, will present the award. For strengthening America's trade portfolio and creating high-paying jobs, I commend everyone at Gold Eagle for their hard work in pioneering product development and market expansion.

Located on Chicago's Southwest side, Gold Eagle has been an unwavering stalwart of the local economy. The company, founded in 1932, is an industry leader in the manufacturing of automotive and marine engine additives, fluids, and cleaners. This is not the first time Gold Eagle's excellence has been recognized: the company was named by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity as 2008's Manufacturer of the Year, and Chairman Bob Hirsh and Vice President Rich Hirsh were named Ernst & Young's Illinois Entrepreneurs of the Year in 2002. In its mission to create innovative chemical products that help "protect, preserve, and perform," Gold Eagle has been committed to community development, sustainability, and employee satisfaction for over eighty years.

For their efforts in creating manufacturing jobs and providing quality products around the world, I am proud to have Gold Eagle in my district. I wish them my sincerest congratulations as they receive this prestigious award, and thank them for their efforts in driving export growth in this challenging global trade environment.

HONORING MR. GORDON  
HIRABAYASHI, RECIPIENT OF  
THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF  
FREEDOM

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Mr. Gordon Kiyoshi

Hirabayashi and to celebrate his Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor. As a student at the University of Washington during the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Hirabayashi resisted the internment of Japanese Americans by refusing to board a bus to an internment camp and by questioning the constitutionality of an imposed curfew.

Mr. Hirabayashi challenged Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Japanese American internment during World War II. Along with Mr. Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui brought lawsuits before the Supreme Court. Though Mr. Hirabayashi lost his first case in 1943, he would go on to win in 1987 as the evidence proved there was no military reason for the exclusion order.

As Mr. Hirabayashi noted "there was a time when I felt that the Constitution failed me, but with the reversal in the courts and in public statements from the government, I feel that our country has proven that the Constitution is worth upholding. The U.S. government admitted it made a mistake. A country that can do that is a strong country. I have more faith and allegiance to the Constitution than I ever had before."

As the representative of Seattle, I am proud this high honor will be presented, albeit posthumously, to Mr. Hirabayashi. He had the bravery and strength to stand up for civil rights during a time when racism was widespread against Japanese and people of Japanese descent. I join many in honoring Mr. Hirabayashi for his courage.

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT SCOTT  
FRIX

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Major General Robert Scott Frix, and recognize his 34 years of service in the United States Army. General Frix will be interred May 11, 2012 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Major General Frix served in the United States Army for 34 years as a combat infantryman, Ranger instructor, master parachutist, and master aviator. He served tours in the Vietnam War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and was deployed to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, and Somalia. Among Major General Frix's decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medals for valor, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Major General Frix passed away Thursday, December 15, 2011, at his home in Sequim, Washington. He is survived by his loving wife, Maureen; his sister, Joanna; his brother-in-law, Andrew; his son, Alexander; his daughter-in-law, Kathryn; and his daughter, Michele.

Major General Frix lived his life in dedication to his Country, and he has passed that down to his family. Major General Frix's life serves as an inspiration to all of us on living a life dedicated to service to our country and to our fellow man.

HONORING ROSE PADILLA JOHNSON AND THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rose Padilla Johnson, and the Family Resource Center located in San Leandro, California. The Davis Street Family Resource Center provides services to over 20,000 people annually. Rose Johnson has provided outstanding leadership as Executive Director of the Center for the past twenty years.

Rose has transformed Davis Street into one of the most vibrant and comprehensive non-profit providers of human services in Central Alameda County and the Greater San Leandro area.

She began her career working with low income, immigrant families in Alameda County. Her focus on working poor families throughout her career has led her to develop a keen understanding of the problems facing them. Rose's vision, leadership, business and community relationships, and sheer determination have grown Davis Street from the \$380,000 organization of 1994 to the current \$11,000 million dollar agency today.

Davis Street provides childcare services to over 1,000 children monthly and over 4,000 individuals receive food and clothing from the Center. Hundreds of individuals, who are uninsured and underinsured, are seen in the Center's medical and dental clinic and hundreds of others consult with housing and employment specialists, tax specialists, therapists, and counselors who specialize in drug and alcohol prevention.

In October 2002, Rose achieved her personal goal of creating a "one stop shop" in the form of the Davis Street Family Resource Center. All of the agency's programs are in one location, thereby eliminating transportation obstacles for those needing assistance.

Under Rose's advocacy and leadership, Davis Street launched a \$3.5 million Capital Campaign to secure the purchase of Davis Street's 22,000 square foot building. On June 30, 2010, the organization became proud owners of the building.

In addition to her work at Davis Street, Rose is active in the community contributing her time and expertise to the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, Alameda County Childcare Local Planning Council, the San Leandro Rotary Club and is co-administrator of the RotaCare Free Clinic. She is the recipient of many significant awards and honors.

I join the community in congratulating Rose Padilla Johnson for her 20 years of exemplary commitment and leadership, which have led to the phenomenal success of the Davis Street Family Resource Center.

TRIBUTE TO PETE REIXACH

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize A.J. "Pete" Reixach, Jr. as he retires

from his longtime position as the executive port director for Port Freeport, Texas. Port Freeport is one of the largest ports in my district, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside Mr. Reixach on a number of maritime issues. Pete is very well known in South Texas and the port community not only for his strong commitment to Port Freeport, but also for his efforts to expand international trade throughout the Gulf. He also is very well known for his tremendous contributions to the Brazoria County business community.

I'm happy to announce that Pete will not be retiring from the port business altogether, however. On the contrary, congratulations are in order for his recent promotion to chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities board. With his years of experience, talent, and expertise on a wide variety of issues I am certain Pete will enjoy a very successful tenure as chairman of the AAPA board. I'm also happy to see the Gulf coast represented at the highest level of the AAPA.

Pete has been an integral part of Gulf Coast port operations since his career began in 1970. He started as the assistant manager of the Greece-based Hellenic Lines Ltd. in New Orleans. He later arrived in Houston to become the general manager for Netherlands-based F.A. Voight Inc., before becoming the Texas Gulf Coast port assistant manager in 1985 and then general manager in 1986. In 1988 he finally made his way down to Port Freeport where he has been the executive port director now for over 20 years.

Port Freeport is ranked 16th among U.S. ports in international cargo transport. The landscape extends over 7,500 acres creating promise for future infrastructure and development. Port Freeport serves my district through technological advancement and is one of the leading job creators on the Texas Gulf Coast. Pete understands the importance of economy-enhanced sustainability efforts especially during these tumultuous times.

Not only has Pete been a treasured asset in Port Freeport, but he has also taken an active role on the national level as chairman of the Gulf Ports Association of the Americas and was vice chairman of AAPA Legislative Policy Council. Locally, he has also been involved with the Texas Ports Association and served on the Brazosport Area Chamber of Commerce.

The AAPA board has certainly gained a knowledgeable leader to spearhead their international trade efforts. In September, Pete will assume a one year chairmanship during the AAPA's 99th annual convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate this great accomplishment and to wish Pete Reixach all the best as he moves into the next part of his career.

JANELLE JAMISON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Janelle Jamison for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Janelle Jamison is a 12th grader at Ralston Valley High and received this award because

her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

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

SIX ISSAQUAH POLICE OFFICERS  
HONORED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, September 24 of last year during a beautiful fall afternoon, six police officers in Issaquah, Washington stopped a gunman intent on murdering innocent people. Because of their quick actions and bravery, the officers will be honored Saturday evening at the 19th annual TOP COPS Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

On that fateful day last fall, the gunman walked through yards and on sidewalks indiscriminately firing a rifle at homes, businesses, and passersby. Not far away, more than 100 people were watching a youth football game at a local school. Before the players and spectators could find refuge, the six officers put an end to his rampage utilizing the information being relayed via 9-1-1 operators. On that day, as on every day, law enforcement officers saved lives calmly, swiftly and selflessly.

Each year, Mr. Speaker, the National Association of Police Organizations recognizes law enforcement officers from federal, state, county and local agencies for acts of bravery, courage and outstanding service to their communities over the preceding year. I am proud that six of our nation's finest officers—and who serve in the district that I represent—8th of Washington—will be acknowledged with the rest of our heroes during police week.

Mr. Speaker, to Officers Brian Horn, Jesse Petersen, Laura Asbell, Tom Griffith, Corporal Christian Munoz, and Sergeant Chris Wilson, I say "thank you." I will continue to support you and all of our law enforcement professionals around the country.

HONORING STEVE DENSLEY

**HON. JASON CHAFFETZ**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and dedication of Steve Densley, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce. He served and guided Utah Valley for over three decades, becoming the second longest sitting Chamber President in Utah history. Steve Densley leaves a tradition of excellence in business and leadership throughout Utah Valley. He has been recognized numerous times

throughout his career including the Provo City Mayor's Medal of Honor and the Silver Beaver award from the Utah National Parks Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Densley was also chosen to be a representative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to serve on the Western Region Board of Regents. Mr. Densley has served on over 70 boards, committees and councils during his 30-year career.

Steve Densley is a 35-year resident of the city of Provo and the proud husband of Colleen Densley. They have a beautiful family, with six children and 17 grandchildren. Mr. Densley was an All-American football and basketball player at Jordan High School and is an alumnus of Brigham Young University. He was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the same university.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of this community leader who has served the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce for the past 30 years. In essence Steve Densley built the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce into what it is today and will leave a lasting legacy.

ERIKA SOLIS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

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

HONORING HOBSON PATRICK  
WOOD

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor one of the most prominent leaders in my District.

Hobson Patrick Wood, or Pat as he was known by everyone, passed away recently at the age of 83. He was well-known and beloved in Knoxville for his endless optimism and service.

Pat was a longtime friend of mine, and my District is a better place because of him and his tireless effort to make Knoxville a better place, both through his business ventures and through community service.

He is probably best known for his real estate and insurance firm, the Wood Agency, which he created in the 1950's. He later went on to form the Lawler-Wood group, which is responsible for developing large portions of downtown Knoxville, including the old Whittle building now housing the U.S. District Court and my Knoxville District office. Much of the downtown skyline of Knoxville is a product of Pat's community development work.

His business partner, Rodney Lawler, remembered Pat as one of the most generous people he has ever known. He told the Knoxville News Sentinel the only disagreement the two men ever shared was when Pat tried to give him too big a share of a deal they were working on. "We had a disagreement, a sizeable disagreement, over him being too generous to me," Lawler said.

Pat loved Knoxville and spent his entire career there, never losing touch with East Tennessee despite great personal success.

He also served the community as a political leader, being elected to the Knox County Court and serving on the board of the 1982 World's Fair, which he was instrumental in bringing to Knoxville.

I offer my condolences to his three children, five grandchildren, and devoted wife of 25 years, Brenda, who said she will remember Pat as "a loving husband and father and friend."

I too will remember Pat as a good family man who touched the lives of hundreds of people in many positive ways.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in remembering Pat Wood and the immeasurable impact he made on my District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 196, 197, and 198. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 196, 197 and 198.

JACOB CISNEROS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Cisneros for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CENTER, INC. AS THEY CELEBRATE  
THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join all of those gathered in congratulating the Community Health Center, Inc. on their 40th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization and I am proud to recognize their invaluable contributions to our community.

Health care is a right, not a privilege. It is a simple motto and the fundamental basis of the establishment of Community Health Center, Inc. Forty years ago, a group of students from Wesleyan University joined with community activists in Middletown—drawn together through a shared vision for affordable, accessible and responsive health care—to create a free clinic to meet the needs of the community. Fueled by idealism and a deep belief that patients should be the cornerstone of whatever was created, the Community Health Center, Inc. was born.

Since its inception, CHC has a fixture in Middletown's downtown community. What began as a free clinic has grown to provide care for 130,000 Connecticut residents—ninety percent of whom live at or near poverty level. Though its main offices remain in Middletown, CHC has expanded to include more than two hundred locations throughout Connecticut. In addition to the provision of primary care, CHC has also become known for its work in two other areas: research innovation through their Weitzman Center as well as training the next generation of health professionals through their residency programs. Recognized as a national model of care, most recently CHC was named by both the Joint Commission and the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a Primary Care Medical Home—the first and only health care organization in Connecticut, and one of the first in the Nation, to receive such a designation.

President and CEO Mark Masselli has been there from the beginning. As a founding member of CHC, Mark has devoted a lifetime of hard work and energies to turning the vision of CHC into a reality. His leadership has been integral to the success of CHC and I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of congratulations and thanks to Mark for his extraordinary work.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Mark and the team at CHC and have often found myself in awe of the quality and quantity of service that they provide every day. The staff and administration dedicate themselves to providing those most in need with a wide-range of patient-centered medical, dental and behavioral health services. In fact, as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary, they also mark the opening of the newest addition—the Dodd Primary Care Center, a revolutionary

new space housing a 21st Century delivery system of primary health care. This innovative, and beautiful, new facility will ensure that CHC can continue to provide outstanding care to the thousands of residents they see every year.

I could not be more proud to join the Mid-dletown community in celebrating this very special anniversary with the Community Health Center. Their outstanding dedication and commitment to ensuring that everyone—regardless of circumstance—has access to affordable, quality health care serves as an example to us all. I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations and very best wishes to Mark Masselli and the entire CHC family on this very special occasion.

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RECOGNIZING CONVOY OF HOPE

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Convoy of Hope's generous outreach following last year's tornado which devastated the community of Joplin, Missouri, on May 22, 2011.

Convoy of Hope provides food, clothing, medical aid and other resources to disaster areas or to those in need. They are a shining example of the generous American spirit and the immense power of private faith-based charities to be a force for good in our local communities. Since its founding in 1994, Convoy of Hope has served over 51 million people throughout the world. Hours after the tornado struck Joplin, Convoy of Hope was on the scene offering a helping hand to those in need.

Convoy of Hope's initial response was coordinated with the cooperation of Ignite Church in Joplin where a mobile distribution site was established. Twelve local churches in Joplin and surrounding states organized volunteers to assist Convoy of Hope in the disaster response effort, which has provided more than 3 million pounds of food, water and supplies to help the community get back on its feet.

Through a partnership with Pyramid Foods, Convoy of Hope operated a "compassion store" where tornado victims received free relief products like rakes, shovels, trash bags and gloves to assist them with debris removal. The compassion store remained opened until November 2011.

In January 2012, Convoy of Hope announced their commitment to provide \$1 million to help tornado victims on the series finale of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, which featured the building of seven homes in seven days in Joplin. In February, Convoy of Hope, in partnership with the Global Green Building, Project Safe Home and T.F. Concrete Forming systems, embarked on a mission to help build storm-resilient homes for at least a dozen deserving families.

Convoy of Hope is constructing homes that emphasize protections against strong winds and promote energy efficiencies. Convoy of Hope and its partners are coordinating these and future efforts with the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide guidance on other future "resilient" constructions.

These new high-tech, low-energy buildings are specially designed with reinforced concrete walls and other innovations to be sturdier than traditional houses.

Convoy of Hope and their 3,852 volunteers served 12,161 families, helped clear and clean 42 houses at no cost to the homeowners, and completed four major critical needs projects for homeowners who did not have adequate resources to address the safety concerns on their property.

Convoy of Hope's generous spirit of outreach helped thousands of Joplin residents during a dark chapter in their lives. I know that many families impacted by this tornado are grateful for the helping hand and support they received from Convoy of Hope.

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FRANK CURIEL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

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

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RECOGNIZING DANIELLE GREEN-BYRD

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the pleasure to recognize a hometown hero, Ms. Danielle Green-Byrd as she has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Red Cross, Tiffany Circle Distinguished Woman Warrior Award for her outstanding service to our country.

Ms. Green-Byrd is a 1999 graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a BA in Psychology as a full scholarship athlete, excelling in varsity basketball. Once a standout left-handed shooter, she scored 1,106 points, averaging 9.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game for the women's basketball team.

Upon graduating from college, Danielle chose to serve her country by enlisting in the Army and subsequently sent to Iraq, serving with the 571st Military Police Company from Fort Lewis, Washington during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She explained that she wanted to gain life lessons as an enlisted soldier before one day receiving a commission.

One of the first women injured during the beginning of the conflict in Iraq, Danielle had been at her post for only a few minutes when two rocket propelled grenades hit a barrier on the ground and exploded. A third hit her arm and damaged her thigh and face. She lost her left hand and arm and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Presently, Danielle is the assistant sports coordinator in the Chicago Board of Education's Department of Sports Administration and Facility Management and spends time with military veterans in the Chicagoland area. She enjoys time playing golf, a sport that she has said has taught her patience and brought enjoyment.

I am so proud to acknowledge a "she-ro" who is still living among us and I encourage her to continue to live her dreams, give back to the community and continue to make the greater Chicagoland community a better place.

Congratulations and may God continue to bless you in every field of human endeavor.

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JAZMIN MEDINA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

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

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TRIBUTE TO DANIEL R. MANTHE

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel R. Manthe, an extraordinary leader in education policy and a dear friend who recently passed away.

In my nearly half-century in education policy and politics, I have been blessed to work with and meet the widest range of committed and caring teachers and leaders. Daniel R. Manthe was both. Dan had education in his heart and mind and was one of the most knowledgeable people I ever met in the field. His efforts to make education more effective made a difference in the quality of education in whatever he touched. Education is better because of him.

As a young teacher, Dan toiled and suffered innumerable indignities securing the signatures that formed the roots and early support

base for the Michigan Education Association. As an Assistant Superintendent for the first Wayne County Intermediate School District, and then the modernized and retooled Wayne Regional Education Service Agency, Dan not only crafted the Michigan student aid formula section for education service agencies, but became the go-to person whenever any legislative bill or regulation even hinted at changing state education policy or practice for the county school district delivery system. His embedded in-depth knowledge base was beyond compare and unquestionably accurate.

Dan also had an innate ability to be able to know and foretell the inter-agency effects of legislation outside the education realm. He was the recognized expert on the complicated process of school consolidation and was Dan universally liked and admired in the corridors of the State Capitol of Michigan. He was courteous, knowing, and ever ready with a joke and generous in assisting young people new to the Capitol. Dan secured handwritten amendments, bill drafts and multiple documents and was often the first to recognize emerging, important legislative information.

Dan Manthe proudly represented the children of Wayne County, Michigan—all 34 districts, from Detroit to Ecorse, Hamtramck and Belleville. He was sought out by administrators and union members alike for his sage advice and deep expertise on how to accomplish various legislative feats. He tutored and fine-tuned the skills of a lineup of Michigan Department of Education state directors of legislation and school law who have gone on to become chiefs of staff for a Michigan governor and Speaker of the state House, a multi-district legislative consultant, and several Congressional and state legislative assistants.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Daniel R. Manthe, a great Michigan education leader as we offer our heartfelt condolences to Dan's family on his passing.

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EVERETT MILLER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

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

MOTHERS' DAY

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mothers' Day and to thank our nation's mothers, grandmothers, and aunts, as well as all the women who mentor and nurture future generations. On this holiday, I thank these incredible women by recommitting myself to the effort to preserve Medicare and to protect their health and wellbeing.

My mother was a true inspiration to me, and she taught me the importance of a solid work ethic and compassion for others in the community. She took on the challenge of raising two children by herself, which meant work during the day and school at night. Life certainly was not easy for her, but she always provided for my family and is one of the strongest women I have ever known.

Today, many families in my district and across the country are also coping with limited resources while demonstrating the same determination and compassion that my mother instilled in me. Many are seniors who cannot afford the exorbitant cost of treatments for chronic medical conditions and preventative care. Medicare program is a vital lifeline for so many and should be protected at all costs.

The proposed Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it would distribute vouchers for beneficiaries to purchase health insurance. Under the plan, the voucher would not grow as fast as health care costs, shifting the burden of the costs onto seniors. It would repeal the free preventive services benefit in Medicare, increasing seniors' out-of-pocket costs for preventive care by over \$110 million in 2012 alone.

The Republican plan would have a particularly damaging effect on women, who, on average, live longer than men, have lower incomes than men, and have more chronic health conditions than men—making Medicare even more vital to their wellbeing. 57 percent of women on Medicare live below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, compared to 45 percent of men. Additionally, 49 percent of women on Medicare have three or more chronic health conditions, compared to 38 percent of men.

As a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California, this issue is of particular importance to me. In California alone, there are nearly 2.7 million female Medicare beneficiaries, more than any other state in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with these women—America's mothers and grandmothers—as I reaffirm my support of the Medicare program. I will not support legislation that balances our budget on the backs of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in this critical fight.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy Mothers' Day to all the mothers of the 37th district and across the country.

JESSE LUCERO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

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

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage month and to a service organization from my district, the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) that provides crucial services to our community. This month gives us an opportunity to reflect and honor the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) who have enriched our nation with their countless contributions to American history.

While generations of AAPIs have had profound impact on our nation and have achieved the American Dream, the AAPIs community is extremely diverse and some AAPIs have challenges and require assistance from federal programs to overcome obstacles in the journey to achieve the American Dream. Around the country, there are number AAPI community based organizations that provide assistance to the diverse AAPI community and doing great work to support AAPIs families. I applaud them for the work that they do everyday to help AAPIs to overcome these obstacles and to support to better their lives for themselves and their families.

An example of an outstanding AAPI organization is the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) that is led by a committed and dedicated individual—Kerry Doi, the President and CEO. The mission of the PACE is to create economic solutions to meet the challenges of employment, education, housing, business development and the environment in the Pacific Asian and other diverse communities. PACE is a non-profit community development organization founded in 1976 to address the employment and job training needs of the Pacific Asian Islander communities. PACE has since expanded into a variety of service areas, all tailored to meet the growing

and changing needs of the multi-ethnic communities in Los Angeles County. Now, in addition to job training and employment services, significant PACE programs encompass: business development; early childhood education; financial education and asset building; housing and rehabilitation services; weatherization and energy-conservation programs; and affordable housing development. PACE's guiding principle in all their programs is the idea of expanding opportunity. A small sample of their business lines include:

An extensive workforce development center which offers a variety of job training opportunities.

190 affordable housing units and a home repair service to enable elderly and disabled persons to stay in their homes.

An extensive energy and environmental program that promotes energy conservation.

A business development center that provides entrepreneurial training, business counseling and access to capital.

28 school sites offering early childhood education programming for more than 1,900 low income children and their families.

A financial literacy and asset building program that provides financial skills training.

This year, PACE established a new initiative called the Diversity and Democracy: America's Strength program that celebrates the important contributions that our nation's many diverse ethnicities, nationalities and races have made to our way of life—and the important role that government has played in their success. With the donation of 40 tickets from Southwest Airlines, PACE embarked on a journey to bring a diverse group of Federal program participants to Washington, DC to meet and hold a briefing with their elected representatives in Congress and representatives of federal agencies and the White House to tell their stories of how these programs have helped them on their journey to achieve the American Dream. The clients who are of various ethnic backgrounds will tell their own unique story describing how various programs empowered them to be able to become productive, economically self-sufficient Americans. They hope by conveying their real stories from PACE program participants will illustrate the key role that the various Federal programs have played in the lives of low income, ethnic minority, refugees, immigrants and asylees. Numbers tell one story; faces tell an even more important story.

As we in Congress debate the funding levels of the Federal programs that have helped numerous PACE participants, it is important that we listen to the voices of the PACE participants who have been helped by these programs that helped them—to start a business, to get the job training they need to secure good paying jobs, to provide early childhood education and to help refugees gain the skills they need to begin a new life in America. I encourage all my colleagues to read the compelling stories of these individuals who have become productive, economically self-sufficient Americans because of the existence of these Federal programs.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

I am Arax Nazarian.

My story is about hope—how I almost lost it and then found it again.

In April 2009, my family and I arrived in the U.S. as refugees from Iran. We fled our country seeking opportunities for a better life and to raise our son in a safe place with-

out harsh discrimination. We came here without any money. But we had lots of hope.

The U.S. was going through one of its worst economic downturn in 2009. I worried about how I could get a job to support my family, repay my debt and help my parents back home. I spoke very little English. I didn't have any work experience in the U.S. I also needed some time to adjust to a new society, new culture, and new rules.

I applied for different full time jobs but I was denied repeatedly for different reasons. I was studying days and nights to improve my English and at the same time working in any odd jobs that I could find. But I was barely making ends meet. I felt helpless, desperate, frustrated and sad. I was losing hope.

My worry and sadness must have shown on my face.

Because my 11-year old son came to me one day and said, "Don't worry, Mom. I don't need a new bow for my violin and I am not interested in going on the school's field trip. I just need your smile." I choked back the lump in my throat with a sense of guilt that I could not provide for my child's needs. I also felt a tinge of pain and pride in my heart that my child would sacrifice his own needs for his mother. I must not give up hope.

A ray of hope came to me when I heard about the Transitional Subsidized Employment program. I started my first Work Experience job at PACE's Home Energy Assistance Program Department where needy families get helped by paying their gas and light bills. Through this on-the-job training opportunity I became more skilled and confident. I learned about my new society, work environment, rules and regulations. Little by little I adjusted myself to a new life here in the United States.

Then I was offered a permanent job and I am now working at PACE Weatherization Department as a Program Support Clerk. I have earned recognition and respect from my coworkers.

And the best of all, I am able to support my family. I am happy that I am no longer dependent on public aid. My husband has a peace of mind to focus on his education in pursuing his carrier as an Electrician. My son has been growing up with good manners. He is one of the best students in his school, and receiving many awards.

I hope the program will continue to give other people the same opportunities I received. These programs give people hope, create jobs and change people's lives. They gave me my hope and changed my life.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My name is Benjamin Alcaraz.

My story is about a Legacy through Education.

Like many other families in my neighborhood my mother and father emigrated from Mexico to America for a better life. One thing my mother always preached to her children was to get an education and bring her a High School Diploma. This for any immigrant family was considered a great accomplishment. After my father abandoned our family, my mother's determination to give her children an advantage through education became more acute.

That was when Head Start became a focal point in our lives. My mother enrolled me in a neighborhood Head Start school. I have vivid memories of her cleaning and helping to prepare food for the classroom as a parent volunteer. But what it did more than anything was what education meant to her and what it should mean to me. Once I was in the K-12 system, I flourished. I joined the honors program, and was the 1st in my family to go to a four year university straight after high school.

Now at the age of 33 I have two sons of my own, Mario and Alexander. And I do all of the things my mother did with me like reading books, counting, and learning. And I told them to bring me their College Degrees, one step up from the goal my mother set for me. Once Mario was old enough, I began to look for a preschool for him. I still live in the same neighborhood and I still have vivid memories of my Head Start days. Behold, the same school is still there! Mario loved it once he was enrolled in the same school.

Every day was a new adventure and a new learning experience, for both Mario and me. Just like my mother some 29 years ago, I was now the one helping out with the school, joining the policy councils and looking for ways to grow as a parent.

Head Start did not just give Mario a leg up in learning, but it also helped me to become a better parent. Mario has moved on to the K-12 system, but the experience, the social interaction, and the growth he gained from Head Start was immediately noticeable by his Kindergarten teachers. They expressed that they appreciate those parents who send their kids through Head Start program because they noted those children are more prepared for the K-12 system. Now Mario still sees me involved in his Elementary school and knows how much we as a family emphasize the importance of education.

And I know he understands this expectation because he declared that he will be attending UCLA after high school. Head Start instilled a love of education with Mario and I know it will do the same with my second son, Alexander. And I know they will carry on my mother's legacy of an emphasis on education, especially early on, with their young ones when the time comes. And I know they will also be looking for ways to be as involved as I am as parents.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My name is Estella Navarrette.

My story is about Mariana and her Head Start experience.

Mariana is my 6th child out of 7. Being a single mom for so many years putting all my children through schools was a well-adjusted routine for me by the time Mariana reached the pre-school age. Playing both mommy and daddy for my seven children were all about finances, feeding and clothing them. Educating my children was not on my radar screen.

As Mariana grew older, she started to be curious and interested about school because of her older siblings coming home talking about their days at school. Right around this time I became a stay-at-home mom because of the learning disability of my youngest child.

Realizing Mariana's interest in school became more persistent, I began looking for information about a Head Start program. And that was when I came across PACE Early Childhood Education and enrolled her in the program.

Mariana was a very quiet and timid child. She was afraid to do anything. With the Head Start program I saw the change in her. Mariana went from always being quiet to being very outspoken. She expresses her feelings whether they are good or bad, and accepts them.

Before Head Start, Mariana reminded me of the same traits I had when I was her age. But unlike me, Mariana will not grow up with a sense of insecurity. I did not have the same opportunity as she does. Mariana will have the opportunity to grow with confidence. She will feel secure and develop a sense of independence because of the learning that the Head Start education has instilled in her. What Mariana has learned at school, she brings home to share with her

other siblings. She is so proud and animated in explaining how her day at Head Start went to her siblings. She even dished out project assignments to them. While explaining the projects to them she gets everyone to sit around like she did at school. I was watching Mariana playing this lead with her sibling and can't help but feel proud and appreciative of how important education is at this early age. Through the process that Mariana has been going through, Head Start has not only brought an interest in education to her, but it has also brought our family together.

Our schedules were always crazy and there was never any family time. Everyone was so busy with school and I was occupied for being a single mom caring for a child with disabilities. Now, after dinner Mariana brings everyone together for family time and to appreciate education.

I appreciate PACE Early Childhood Education because of the love, compassion, and interest that their staff has for our children. I want to thank the PACE organization for showing how warm hearted and caring they are about early childhood education.

#### ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

My name is Francisco Talamantes.

I work for PACE's Home Energy Assistance Program or HEAP. The HEAP program helps families pay their utility bills. I help hundreds of families each week to pay for their electricity, water or gas bills.

For example, a lady in her late 20s walks into the office one day with a notice from the utility company that her electricity was about to be disconnected. She had that worry and weary look on her face. Her husband lost his job recently and they have 3 young children to support. Her situation was dire. Should they not feed their children or live in darkness without electricity?

Her electric bill was over \$1000. I calmed her down and told her to not worry and this program is here to help her. Right away you can see the relief on her face. She filled out her application and we got the proper documents copied, and I was able to call the utility company and help her with \$1000, which was enough to prevent disconnection. So perhaps for a little while, they can feed their children with hot food that can be cooked on their electric stove. And perhaps for a little while, her children can read and do their homework not in the dark.

These stories are very common. My co-workers sometimes asked me why I could be so patient and empathetic for so many clients that line up all way down the hall way each day. Do you know why? Because I was one of those children like this lady when I was young. This lady reminded me of when I was growing up when my family also often faced the choice between having food on the table or paying the utility bills.

I feel very honored and proud to be here today. You see, I come from an immigrant family. My parents were born and raised in Mexico and when my father lost his job there he decided to come to this country for a better life. With little education and not being able to speak English, it was hard for my father to find a job. He did his best and was able to find a job to support his family, but still struggled because he did not make much.

What my father brought home was barely enough to pay for rent and food for my eight brothers and sisters. It was great that we had food and a roof over our head but we still worried about our lights being disconnected. So my dad had to work extra shifts to pay the electric bill since we did not know about HEAP program like this.

With the HEAP program families can find relief and hope that they will have a good

chance to overcome their financial struggles. I know what it feels like for not having electricity, water or gas. I feel for the struggle our clients are going through when they come to my window for assistance. My job makes it easier for families to succeed and I feel honored to help them.

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

My name is Guojian Cui.

My story is about my transformation as an F.O.B.

I am a trained artist specializing in Chinese calligraphy and traditional Chinese framing. But since I came to America in 1993 with one suitcase and a big dream, I had worked in various other odd jobs for 17 years. But I had always yearned to follow my true passion.

You can tell that I am getting old, thin on top and losing my teeth. For 17 years, I felt like an F.O.B.—“Free on Board”. It is a shipping term. For 17 years, I felt like a shipping good in between departure and destination. I was going somewhere but have not yet arrived. With one push, I could fall into the ocean; or with a push in a different direction I could land in my dream.

In 2009, a push helped me land in my dream. I decided to set up an art gallery business providing framing and Chinese calligraphy services. But my plan ran into a lot of challenges. I faced the challenges of having limited start-up capital. I faced the challenges that my traditional way of using water, paste, brush and simple tools can't compete with modern framing technology. I faced the challenge of declining demand for valuable art because of the near economic crash in 2009. The sharp increase of price of oil did not help either because it made all materials and supplies more expensive. I needed to buy equipment and machines to make my framing more precise. I needed a computer and gave up my abacus. I needed some technical assistance. I felt like an F.O.B. again because I could give up and get dumped into the ocean like a piece of damaged good. Or I could get a different push and land where I wanted to land.

I met PACE's Business Counselor Dandan Shan right around this time. He is a smart young man. He encouraged me to step forward and not give up. He told me that PACE has programs to help small business to start up. So, I was encouraged. I was transformed to become a different F.O.B.—Focus on Business. I was given a little push to step forward on boarding the battle field of business. PACE offered me some technical assistance and some financial support through its Individual Development Account or IDA program designed especially for business start-ups. With the help of PACE, I started my gallery in September, 2010. And I became another FOB—Fighting on Board of the business battle field. I was having fun because I was also a different F.O.B.—Fun on Board.

Now, I have more and more customers and they become my friends. They are satisfied with my services and getting good prices in the deal. For this Year of Dragon, my Chinese calligraphy of “Dragon” was prominently displayed on all the lamppost banners in Los Angeles Chinatown. My conclusion? Micro businesses do need that assistance and that critical push to move forward because it really can help people to go forward with their own business.

This is my F.O.B. Story.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

My name is Hasmik Sargsyan.

My story is about reaching for the American Dream.

My family and I immigrated to the US in 2007. As an immigrant family, we had to

start our life from zero. We had no job, no car, not knowing English, and no one to support morally or help with any advice. In my home country I was a Certified Public Accountant. In the new land my husband and I took any job that came along, and attended school to learn English as a fourth language. Besides taking English classes, I pushed myself to take classes in accounting with a dream that someday I will return to my profession. I got very little sleep in those days for always being busy going to classes, working, washing, cooking, and taking care of my three children.

As I was improving my English skills and beginning to acclimate with my new environment, I did not realize that my own struggle paled in comparison to what my children were going through.

My eldest son always wanted to be an artist and in those days he could only afford to draw pictures with regular pencils. Understanding our financial situation, at his young age, he never asked for anything. I don't know enough about his potential as an artist or if I was just an adoring parent, but I liked his drawing very much. But I could not afford to buy him any art supplies or pay for any art classes. It was extremely painful for me for not being able to help my child to reach his dream as I was struggling to reach mine.

At that time, I was attending Glendale College. I heard about programs that help people with employment. I called many workforce programs in Los Angeles but only PACE responded to me. PAC's Transitional Subsidized Employment program helped me to land a temporary job that helped me to gain work experience, knowledge, skills and confidence. Then PACE offered me a permanent position in the Department of Energy and Environmental Services in Weatherization Program as a Program Specialist. It was unbelievable to me when I was being interviewed and they said to me “you are hired”. I started to cry because they gave me hope that I had lost.

I am so thankful for this program. Now I am self sufficient and I feel happy awakening every day with the sense of joy knowing that I have a job. I have gained recognition from my co-workers. I am grateful that I no longer live at the expense of the government. I cannot find words to express my gratitude for what PACE and the federal government program has done for my family, especially for my son. Now I can afford to pay for his art lessons and buy him art supplies for his drawing. Because of this, he is taking part in many Art exhibitions. I believe that one day he will become a famous artist and he will write about the history of his family and the struggles of immigrant lives.

My story is neither a special nor an extraordinary one, but it is similar to the lives of many other people who have been struggling. We are truly grateful with the support we received to reach for our American Dream. I wish the opportunities afforded me will continued to be made for other families like mine.

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

My name is Judy Thang.

My story is about how a passionate entrepreneur got started!

Starting a business as a young woman is tough in any industry. Being a graphic designer working with small business owners is even harder. As a recent graduate from a California State University, I've always had two passions—starting my own business and helping other small business owners build their brand image. I guess my parents passed their entrepreneur bug to me.

My parents owned a restaurant where I worked as a little cashier at age 12 and graduated to potato peeling when I got older.

They promoted my little sister from janitor to cashier. We grew up with lots of work ethic, eating lots of delicious hot wings. When my parents moved to Australia, my sister and I kept the restaurant operating for a while. So naturally, out of school, I couldn't wait to open my own business. I took a low-paying job in marketing to gain some experience, then quit a few years later to start my business, girlwithflair design.

I had no money, no formal design experience, and no connection in the industry since I majored in business. There were a lot of obstacles. Age was my biggest difficulty. Here I was, trying to convince a client to let me build his brand image and generate sales, but I looked like I was fresh out high school! I charged peanuts for what I did three years ago.

Fortunately, I found Swann, my savior and mentor at PACE Woman Business Center. Here are a few important things she and PACE have done for me: 1) Great Advice—When I had problems with my pricing, she gave me invaluable advice on how to stick to my guns; 2) Networking—I've gotten to know other small business owners, which makes me not feel so lonely; 3) I've gotten a lot of referrals to other small business owners.

It has only been a year, but I am far from where I started. I now have an office space in Chinatown, a much steadier clientele and lots of happy customers that help me constantly with new referrals. Without Swann's guidance in the past year, I would probably be eating instant noodles everyday for dinner. That, or go find a 'real' job, as my parents would say. I'd rather eat instant noodles.

I have come forward to share my story because I believe in the value of social programs that empower people to start their own businesses. Programs such as PACE Woman Business Center provide hope and opportunity for underrepresented segments of society. These are the people working at restaurants for minimum wages, making tamales, bookkeeping or assembling furniture in between work who dream of becoming an entrepreneur one day. The fact that they are great at their hobby and passionate enough to invest their energy, time and money to pursue it merits the support that programs such as PACE Women Business Center provides.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My Name is Kimberly Hua. I am a Head Start Parent.

My story is about "The Window of Opportunity".

When my family and I emigrated here from Vietnam, my parents could barely provide food and shelter for me and my two siblings, much less taking us on buses to go places. My parents did not speak English and did not know where to look for help. They did not know that they could have put my siblings and me through free pre-schools that would prepare us for kindergarten. Their concern was working two jobs to make ends meet. So from the beginning, school was hard for me and I struggled every day. I ended up hating school and did not appreciate the value of a quality education.

The "window of opportunity" opened for my children when I enrolled my two sons in the PACE Head Start Program. I wanted to make sure that my sons would have the opportunity that I did not have when I was a child. Although I appreciated the benefits and resources that PACE Head Start education offered to my children, I was working a lot and did not spend enough time with my children.

I did not know at the time that this "opportunity" was for me too. What changed was when I became a PACE parent policy committee member.

My active volunteerism inspired and empowered my children to develop their own sense of independence and self-confidence and love of learning. In my children's eyes, I was no longer just their mother; I was also a teacher and a mentor. Because of all that, I believe that my children will establish a solid educational foundation and acquire the early learning skills to carry them through their higher education.

Watching my children blossoming at the Head Start Program, I was inspired to grow with them. I decided to follow my life-long dream of pursuing an advanced degree. I completed my master's degree with a 3.80 GPA in April this year. I will always be grateful to the parenting and empowerment programs that Head Start program had to offer to parents like me. My story of "The Window of Opportunity" is why I am here today to show my support for the Head Start program. I believe early education can play a critical role for young children and increase their odds of success in later life.

The Head Start program also played a critical role for parents like me. It helped me to become a better parent to my children. Along the way, I became a better person and an advocate for my community.

#### BUSINESS LOANS

My name is Linda Wong.

My story is about sacrifice and courage.

My parents immigrated to the US from Taiwan when I was 6 years old so their children could have a better education in America. My sister and I were the only two Chinese children in a new school that taught in a language that I knew nothing of, except my new name, Linda—I was no longer Chih-Ling. I quickly learned that adapting to a new culture would be just as challenging as the language barrier.

There were many days when I came home crying because I was made fun of for being different. My parents did their best to console me, while hiding their own struggles of assimilating to this country. When I was 16 my father decided to leave my mother, my sister and I to return to Taiwan.

Since my mother did not speak any English, I was left with all the responsibilities of my father: I made sure all the bills were paid on time, did all the grocery shopping and signed my own letters of excuse when I was sick from school. Some might think a child with that kind of "freedom" would take advantage of the situation; however, this had the opposite effect on me. I knew I had to really work hard in school to get into a good college since my parents had sacrificed for us to have a better life.

After receiving my Bachelors of Arts from Otis College of Art & Design, I was hired by a multi-million dollar jewelry company to help launch their first clothing collection. I took the skills I learned there and formed my own clothing company, The Battalion. In 2011 my business generated \$350,000 in sales, but lacked the capital to pay our fabric vendors and contractors. If we could not pay to produce the goods that we had already sold we would lose both the orders and trust of our customers. We turned to PACE to help us find solution to our problem. In March 2011, with the guidance of PACE's Mr. Howard Sun, The Battalion received a loan of \$30,000 from PACE SBA Micro-Loan Program. Two months later we promptly delivered our products to our customers' satisfaction.

Running a business never gets any easier; there are always new challenges and road-

blocks that loom ahead. It is easier to summon the courage to face these obstacles when you have a program like PACE in your corner. I believe this is an essential program because it makes it possible to succeed for people who have sacrificed and have courage to charge forward.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My name is Patrick Martinez. I am a Head Start parent.

My story is about keeping a promise, a promise I made to my son before he was even born. I vowed that I'd be there for him no matter what obstacles we faced.

My story began with a typical boy meets girl story. Boy and girl fall in love. They give birth to a precious little baby boy after spending eight years together.

The arrangement was for me to be a stay-home dad to take care of my child and our home. I was very proud of my little family. Then it became the girl leaves boy story.

My baby boy and I were kicked out of our house. We suddenly found ourselves displaced.

We found ourselves having to live at my parents' house. In a living room that grew cramped with our play pens and diapers. Why did this happen to us? What was I to do? I was in a lot of pain and felt depressed. I was left with two choices. I either walk the road of self-destruction, or keep that promise I made to my son. One night, to distract my heart and mind, I watched one of my favorite movies, Star Wars. I sat on the couch watching that movie, while my son slept in his playpen in front of me. I tearfully looked into that playpen as he slept and I thought, "You're my Luke! You're A New Hope." We weren't going to succumb to the Dark Side. That promise would be kept.

Early the next morning my Padawan and I went to seek help at a local agency. That agency led us to services such as food stamps, fatherhood support groups and parenting classes. I took everything and anything I felt that could help my son and me. We were then led to PACE Head Start program. Through PACE and Head Start I watched my son grow socially and mentally. I grew along side of my son through its parenting and Male Involvement programs. I became a more engaged father. I became encouraged to volunteer at my son's site, which I've done nearly every single day. I became involved on the parent policy committees at both the delegate and grantee levels. Through this involvement, I was helping other families as well and by being a positive male role model to my son and to other families.

PACE and Head Start have made me a man, a better parent, a leader, an advocate, and a representative for my community. It has enriched my son's education, as well as thousands of other children they serve. If Head Start and the services were to be cut, it could surely crumble the future of hundreds of thousands of families like mine. That is how effective and powerful this program is to our children, our families, our community, and our country. Early childhood education is where our future leaders are created and where our families are strengthened. Without this program we may lose all hope.

My story of that promise is why I am here today to tell how Head Start and early childhood education helps parents keep promises to our children.



COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) final rule detailing requirements for accessible entry and exit for pools and spas under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and in opposition to a provision included in the Commerce, Justice, and Science FY13 Appropriations Bill to inhibit DOJ's enforcement of this important rule.

Over twenty years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the accessibility of swimming pools and other recreational facilities remains important to people with disabilities around the country. The 54 million Americans living with disabilities deserve to finally be able to enjoy these facilities to the same extent as others in our society.

The Department's process to develop accessibility guidelines for swimming pools began over 7 years ago on September 30, 2004, and the DOJ published the final rule on September 2010 after receiving feedback from all stakeholders and the public. DOJ delayed compliance until May 21, 2012 and issued guidance at the beginning of this year, clarifying the intent of the final rule.

The final rule ensures that small, family-owned business are not overburdened, by only requiring installation of fixed pool lifts for existing pools and spas if it is "readily achievable," meaning that it is not overly costly or burdensome. It strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of Americans living with disabilities and our businesses.

The need for pools and spas to be accessible for people with disabilities is not a new idea, but one that has been in federal law for more than 2 decades. The requirement to remove barriers to accessibility to swimming pools for people with disabilities has been part of the statutory requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act since it was passed in 1990, almost 22 years ago. The regulatory process is functioning just as it was intended to.

People with disabilities should be able to enjoy the same recreational amenities and opportunities as every other American. Delaying the effective date of the regulations any further will mean another season where people with disabilities will be denied the opportunity to use pools when they travel on vacations with their families or on business.

JADA HERRERA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jada Herrera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jada Herrera is a 7th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

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

IN MEMORY OF DR. ZEB F.  
POINDEXTER, JR.

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a trailblazer, Dr. Zeb Ferdinand Poindexter, Jr. With exceptional distinction, Dr. Poindexter served his community and acted as a role model for young people from diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Poindexter was born in Forth Worth, TX on April 5, 1929. He excelled in school, graduating from Wiley College with a B.S. in 1949 and then Texas Southern University with an M.S. in Endocrinology in 1952. Dr. Poindexter, upon completion of his Master of Science, served our great nation as a Second Lieutenant and later Captain in the United States Air Force. Later, he and the University of Texas (UT) took a bold and historically meaningful step forward when he was accepted into University of Texas School of Dentistry in Houston. He became the first African American to receive a doctoral degree from the school in 1956.

Dr. Poindexter's graduation from and association with the University of Texas (UT) literally changed the image of UT. His indelible example can continue to impact future generations of UT graduates, should UT take another bold and historically meaningful step forward by naming the School of Dentistry in his honor. It would symbolize his commitment to UT, and memorialize UT's commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

After receiving his degree from UT, Dr. Poindexter opened the first dental clinic in south Houston. The clinic still stands as a landmark to his achievement in the Sunnyside neighborhood. After establishing his practice, he went on to form the Zeb F. Poindexter, Jr. Chapter of the Student National Dental Association, and become the first black member of both the University of Texas Dental School

faculty and the Houston District Dental Society.

Dr. Poindexter's leadership and community service have been consistently recognized by his colleagues. Amongst other honors, Dr. Poindexter became the president of the Gulf State Dental Association, life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, board member of the Urban League, and received the University of Texas Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1990.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Poindexter will be dearly missed by his wife of 58 years, Ruby Poindexter, son, Dr. Zeb F. Poindexter, III, and daughters, Merlene Russell and Eleanor Patricia Dixon. He is also survived by his sisters, Revodia Johnson, Vandetta King, his brother, James Poindexter, and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He will be remembered in the city of Houston as a dedicated public servant and principled leader.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF NATIONAL TEACHER  
DAY

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 645 to urge my colleagues and our nation to observe Teacher Appreciation Week and the monumental contributions of America's teachers.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 645, I commend our nation's teachers for their tireless work on behalf of millions of students and families; their knowledge and expertise; and their selfless dedication to their profession.

Throughout the year, our nation's teachers spend countless hours preparing lesson plans, evaluating student progress, counseling students and families, and instilling the vital importance of civic responsibility and national service.

In South Texas, we are fortunate to have exceptional educators who work day in and day out to educate and prepare children, youth, and adult learners to lead prosperous and healthy lives.

I especially want to thank Dr. Daniel King, Superintendent of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (PSJA) Independent School District, for honoring 44 of PSJA's teachers of the year this month.

Today, it's truly an honor for me to recognize and congratulate two of PSJA's outstanding teachers of year: my daughter, Iliana Hinojosa, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Dr. William Long Elementary who was selected as the PSJA Elementary District Teacher of the Year; and Agnes Ocampo, a science teacher at PSJA Memorial High School who was selected as the PSJA Secondary District Teacher of the Year.

Due to their hard work and extraordinary commitment to students and academic excellence, Iliana and Agnes have advanced to the regional competition. This is quite an accomplishment!

Iliana Hinojosa and Agnes Ocampo are shining examples of what can be achieved in our nation's classrooms. By instilling a love of learning in our children and ensuring that they

succeed, Iliana and Agnes are transforming lives and helping students to reach their full potential.

As our nation observes Teacher Appreciation Week, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to support critical investments in education that help to provide all students with a high quality education and to make teaching one of the most valued professions in America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEBORAH SZEKELY

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a treasured member of the San Diego community. Deborah Szekely is an extraordinary woman of tenacity and dedication, and on May 3rd she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Deborah is a renowned health and wellness advocate, philanthropist, community leader, and champion for childhood nutrition. At 90 years old, she represents the beauty and energy that comes from a life committed to health and wellness, and she outpaces younger fitness advocates. She truly lives what she teaches. Along with her husband, Edmond Szekely, she founded Rancho la Puerta, a destination spa and wellness center in Baja California, and the Golden Door Spa in Escondido, California. She is committed to helping others prioritize healthy living.

Deborah has worked with my office on initiatives related to educating children about health and nutrition. She is committed to changing the culture of eating and making sure young children understand the importance of healthy food, and the role it plays in wellness. Ever the energetic advocate, on May 3, 2012, her 90th birthday, Deborah launched wellnesspring.org, a grassroots effort to encourage the creation of a culture of wellness throughout the United States. I appreciate her laser focus when it comes to reaching people and educating them about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and eating well.

In addition to her healthy living work, Deborah has served as the president of the Inter-American Foundation, worked with the Organization of American States, and served as principal delegate to the Inter-American Commission on Women. She currently works as the Chairman and Founder of the New Americans Museum in San Diego and serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

Deborah ran for Congress in 1982, and while she did not win that election, through that process she conceived the idea of Setting Course, a publication of the Congressional Management Foundation which provides guidance on the fundamentals of managing a congressional office. The first edition of Setting Course was published in 1984, and the 12th edition of Setting Course just recently came out. This manual has been an invaluable resource to congressional offices, including my own. Deborah is still a member of the Board of Directors for the Congressional Manage-

ment Foundation and continues her critical role in the publication of Setting Course.

I truly admire Deborah's ongoing commitment to helping people of all ages understand the importance of good nutrition, healthy living, and being a force for positive change in their communities.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our greatest American success stories. Today let us all pause to recognize the United States Department of Agriculture's 150th Birthday.

President Abraham Lincoln established the USDA 150 years ago, on May 15, 1862. That act helped ground our nation's agriculture industry in science, and helped give our nation the ability to lead the world in feeding the globe. One of the first responsibilities delegated to the USDA was the Homestead Act. The Homestead Act gave pre-approved U.S. citizens undeveloped federal land at no cost if they agreed to develop that land. This act led to the settling of the Great Plains; today those lands are the world's largest producers of wheat and corn.

Our nation's agriculture industry has, throughout our history, been a significant force in our economy. One out of every twelve Americans is employed in an agriculture-related industry. So it is important to recognize that agriculture is not just a nostalgic notion of the past but remains a foundation of the American economy. The influence of American farmers and ranchers not only reaches every state and household within the United States, but it can be felt all around the world. The Port of Long Beach, in my district, exports millions of metric tons of agricultural cargo to our vital Asian trade partners every year.

American consumers spend on average less than ten percent of their disposable income on food. That ten percent represents the lowest percentage in the history of the world. By comparison, most European consumers spend more than double that and in developing countries the percentage is often higher than 50 percent. Our nation's advanced system of production agriculture is evidence of how successful the USDA has been in ensuring a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.

Today, the United States is the world leader in the development and use of agricultural biotechnology, contributing to our positive balance of agricultural trade. We must continue supporting policies that promote the smart use of research, science and biotechnology that has enabled production agriculture to thrive. We must embrace the importance of agricultural innovation in the same way we endorse innovation in fields such as health care or communications.

Mr. Speaker, our producers remain a critical source of jobs and innovation. Maintaining a strong agriculture industry is vital to the present and future U.S. economy and is critical to the economic and political stability. It is with great pride and respect that I honor our

nation's farmers and ranchers and extend birthday wishes to the USDA.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the teachers of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties during National Teacher Appreciation Week, taking place this year from May 7 through May 11, 2012.

This week affords students, parents, and communities across the nation a chance to come together and honor the extraordinary work our teachers are doing in the classroom to transform the lives of young people and educate the next American generation.

It is a time to remember that education is the cornerstone of a vibrant and prosperous America, and to recognize the teachers that make America's successful future a reality.

As a member of Congress and the proud mother of three children in Broward County Public Schools, I see the talent and hard work of our teachers every day—not just in my role as a policy maker, but in a very personal way.

Educating the next generation is an essential and great act of public service—it's a calling that our teachers have answered because they care, they believe in our children, and they choose to make a difference in the lives of future generations.

For our students, nothing is more important than an excellent teacher at the front of the room and in their lives, and now more than ever, we must make an investment in our future by investing in our teachers.

We must provide them with the resources they need to successfully do their jobs, and we must afford them the respect and support that their profession deserves.

Thank you to Florida's teachers for investing your skills and talents into the lives of future generations, and thank you for the sacrifices made each day to ensure that our kids have the tools they need to learn. We are all grateful for your work.

HONORING FALLEN STAFF SGT.

THOMAS KENT FOGARTY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with my colleague Rep. BARBARA LEE of California, to honor the service and sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Thomas Kent Fogarty, age 30, of Alameda, California. He was killed in action on May 6th, 2012 in Pakita Province, Afghanistan. The married father of two sons, ages 2 and 5, was felled by an improvised explosive device that detonated near the vehicle he was commanding.

My heart goes out to SSG Fogarty's wife Vanessa, their young sons, his parents and his friends for the loss of this noble man and soldier. SSG Fogarty made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. His fellow countrymen and women, and I, will be forever grateful.

A graduate of Alameda High School, SSG Fogarty entered the military in 2003 and his first deployment was in January of 2005. His tragic and untimely death occurred after eight years and three months of service to his country, and only a month after his arrival in Afghanistan. He had served two previous tours in Iraq. Before being deployed, SSG Fogarty was a military recruiter. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

SSG Fogarty was an accomplished soldier. His military awards include: 3 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, 2 Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qual Badge—Bar, Weapon: Rifle (Inscription: Rifle), Expert, Parachutist Badge, Basic, U.S. Army Recruiter Identification Badge, Gold, and Overseas Service Bar.

It is because of the commitment of truly brave individuals like SSG Fogarty that our Nation can enjoy the freedoms that we are all afforded. It takes an exceptional man to give his life for the betterment of his country, and SSG Fogarty was a truly exceptional man.

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**HUNTER FRITZ**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

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

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

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

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CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA  
YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his inaugu-

ration to his second term as the leader of The Republic of China (Taiwan).

Back in January of this year, the people of Taiwan reelected President Ma Ying-jeou and on May 20th he will have his second inauguration. President Ma has worked hard to maintain a peaceful relationship with China and his efforts must be recognized. The United States deeply appreciates his efforts to keep the peace, promoting stability in an important region.

Over his first term, President Ma worked with the United States to continue Taiwan's longstanding security partnership with the United States, requesting to purchase and U.S. defense systems. I and my colleagues in Congress remain strong supporters of The Taiwan Relations Act, which spells out the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and is critical to the peace and prosperity of the region.

President Ma achieved acceptance from the World Health Organization for Taiwan to observe at the World Health Assembly, a significant step forward for Taiwan's international standing, and for the health of the people of the East-Asian and Pacific region. We should work to encourage Taiwan's participation in participate in other international organizations such as the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

I would also like to note that this also marks the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, of which I have been a proud member for years.

President Ma has diligently maintained peace and stability and we look forward to his future term as it provides an opportunity to achieve even greater accomplishments for the people of Taiwan and further strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

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HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF UNION BAPTIST  
CHURCH IN ALTON, ILLINOIS

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Union Baptist Church in Alton, Illinois.

In the first half of the 19th Century, Alton, Illinois had developed as a major stop on the Underground Railroad as slaves came north in search of their freedom. It was a small group of these former slaves, some having arrived via the Underground Railroad and some having previously been freed, that gathered to form a Baptist Church in Alton.

The group organized as the African Mission Freedmen. In 1837, the same year that the City of Alton was incorporated and also the same year that the famed abolitionist journalist, Elijah Lovejoy, was killed, the Union Baptist Church was founded. The first pastor was Rev. John Livingston and one of the founding members, John Anderson, had worked as a pressman for Elijah Lovejoy at The Alton Observer.

As the church congregation grew, a two-story building was constructed in 1854, with

Union Baptist Church meeting on the second floor and the first African-American school in Alton using the first floor.

The church was forced to sell the building in the later years of the 19th Century and went back to meeting in congregation homes. In the early 1900's a new church was built.

The 175 year history of Union Baptist Church has seen its membership go through periods of decline, followed by resurgence. Throughout those years, however, the spirit of its founders, who came searching for freedom and a better life, has sustained the church and kept it thriving as a place of worship up to today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 175th Anniversary of the Union Baptist Church and to wish the congregation the best for many years to come.

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A TRIBUTE TO KAYLA DE WEERD

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Kayla De Weerd, a 14-year-old 4-H'er of Hull, Iowa, who has been named the state's top high school youth volunteer for 2012 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is our country's largest youth recognition program based entirely on volunteer community service. Since 1995, 345,000 American youths have participated in this program, with only 102 state honorees chosen each year. Kayla's path to this prestigious award began with her efforts through Reach Out Iowa, a federally funded grant that supports young people who benefit their local communities through service.

To accomplish this goal, Kayla started a nutrition and physical activity program at her junior high school. Kayla gave presentations to her fellow classmates warning of the dangers of obesity and how to live a responsible, healthy lifestyle to avoid the long-term consequences of inactivity. In addition to arming her peers in the fight against obesity, Kayla also educated others to effectively implement similar programs in more schools across her community. Kayla and her mother, Deb, traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this week to accept this great honor.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miss De Weerd for her sincere dedication to positively impact the lives of others in her community and beyond. Kayla's commitment to a cause greater than herself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans both young and old. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Congress in congratulating Kayla, thanking her supportive family, and thanking all of those involved in this wonderful project for their life-changing efforts. Thank you.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I unintentionally voted "aye" on rollcall No. 215 when I intended to vote "no" on the Huizenga amendment to H.R. 5326. I reiterate my strong support for public sector employees.

HONORING THE WEST ESSEX  
FIRST AID SQUAD'S 75TH ANNI-  
VERSARY**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Essex First Aid Squad, located in the Township of West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

The West Essex First Aid Squad formed in November of 1937, when a group of local citizens joined together to solve the problem of obtaining a prompt and efficient "First Aid and Ambulance" service to meet the needs of the sick and injured. Two months later, the group had completed training, and on January 7, 1938 the West Essex First Aid Squad answered its first call for help.

During its early years, from 1937 to 1941, the Squad answered 543 calls for assistance and contributed 2,402 man-hours answering those calls, additional hours were logged for training and practicing. During its second 5 years from 1942 to 1947, the number of calls more than tripled to 1,759.

The West Essex First Aid Squad now includes 85 volunteer members who serve Caldwell, West Caldwell, North Caldwell, Essex Fells, and Fairfield. The Squad's four ambulances and one rescue truck provide 24-hour emergency medical service to the community, as well as rescue with the Jaws of Life, all at no cost to the public they serve. In 2007 and 2008, the Squad received more than 2,500 calls each year.

Men and women of the West Essex First Aid Squad have demonstrated a marked commitment to the public by dedicating their time and resources to providing lifesaving services to the community. The Squad is always available to provide aid to local fire departments. The Squad also provides support during hazardous material incidents, structure fires, and natural disasters.

The West Essex First Aid Squad has exhibited dedication to serving the community by answering a full spectrum of calls for help, ranging from complaints of chest pain or difficulty breathing, to motor vehicle collisions. The volunteers further serve the community by standing by at community events such as football games, parades, concerts, and 4th of July fireworks. Members have not only volunteered their time to the Squad and to public events, but have also sponsored blood drives and donated their time and talents in offering first aid and CPR instruction to members of the community.

The West Essex First Aid Squad is truly a selfless group of individuals, devoted to pro-

viding basic life support services, emergency medical services, and heavy rescue to the public. Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the needs of area families and businesses, the West Essex First Aid Squad has proved itself to be a pillar of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the West Essex First Aid Squad as they celebrate their Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 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 \$15,674,047,733,490.96. We've added \$5,047,170,684,577.88 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.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
CANCER RESEARCH MONTH**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as National Cancer Research Month. This month we recognize the critical importance of cancer research and the contributions of researchers, clinicians, and patients across the country.

Before I was a Congresswoman, I was a survivor of ovarian cancer. I was lucky—my cancer was found by chance in its earliest stage, and I have now been cancer-free for 25 years now. So I arrived in this body knowing firsthand the crucial importance of medical research.

I am glad to say that our progress in fighting cancer since the National Cancer Act of 1971 has been nothing short of amazing. Nearly 12 million Americans are cancer survivors. There is a vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer. The overall five-year survival rate has increased from 52 percent in 1975 to 80 percent today.

And biomedical research is growing our economy. The National Institutes of Health support over 300,000 researchers at more than 3,000 universities, institutions, and businesses across the country. Every single dollar of National Institutes of Health funding is estimated to result in an additional two dollars of business activity and economic impact. Keeping it simple, this means that research supports jobs, and has a nearly two-fold return on our federal investment.

But, there is more to be done. Some cancers, including ovarian cancer, still have an extraordinarily high mortality rate and are typically caught far too late in the disease. This year, more than 1.6 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed with cancer. More

than 570,000 Americans will pass away this year because of cancer; meaning more than 1,500 Americans each day, or one person a minute, will die because of this disease.

This is why our continued investments in cancer research are so important. Medical research creates investment opportunities for private industry. It strengthens our university medical system. It creates jobs, makes America more competitive, and drastically improves the quality of life for so many Americans. And it has the potential to save lives.

And it is why this month we join to thank scientists and clinicians for their work on cancer research. And we thank the patients who support that research by participating in clinical trials.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote numbers 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, and 243. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote numbers 224, 225, 227, 237, 238, 239, and 240. I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote numbers 226, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 241, 242 and 243.

## A TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S TOP COPS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six members of the Des Moines Police Department, Sergeant Michael McTaggart, Reserve Officer John Carter, and Senior Police Officers Colin Boone, Aaron Cawthorn, Jeremy Sprague, and Robin Swank, for being named Iowa's TOP COPS for 2012.

In the early morning of August 28th, 2011, these officers responded to a report of a car accident in Des Moines to find a vehicle on its side completely engulfed in flames. Inside the car, the cries for help of three teenage girls could be heard. Fighting jagged metal and fire hot enough to melt glass, Des Moines' finest didn't hesitate in risking their own lives to save the lives of the three trapped young girls. The quick action of these officers embodies the professionalism the Des Moines Police Department instills in its officers, but it's the selfless courage displayed immediately by these law enforcement professionals that truly makes this story inspiring. All six officers involved in the rescue were awarded the DMPD's highest honor, the Medal of Valor.

For their display of courage, the National Association of Police Organizations bestowed these officers with Iowa's 2012 TOP COP Honorable Mention award. This award is a tribute to outstanding law enforcement officers who display actions above and beyond the call of duty. Each year, TOP COPS are nominated nationwide by their fellow police officers, but only one case from each state is selected to

be honored with this award. Each state's TOP COPS are invited to an award ceremony in Washington D.C., which is attended by celebrities, politicians and members of the national law enforcement community alike to pay tribute to these local heroes.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary heroism displayed in the face of danger by these police officers is nothing short of awe-inspiring. These members of the Des Moines Police Department are a testament to the high quality of our state's law enforcement community. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Congress in congratulating Jeremy, Robin, Colin, Aaron, John and Michael, and thanking all of Iowa's police officers for their selfless efforts in protecting communities across our great state. Thank you.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNUAL DEBUTANTE SCHOLARSHIP COTILLION OF THE THETA LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER OF THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members and alumni of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s (AKA) Theta Lambda Omega Chapter on the 40th Anniversary of its Debutante Scholarship Cotillion.

Over a hundred years ago, in 1908, AKA was founded by a group of brave, determined and socially conscious African-American women at Howard University in Washington, D.C. As the first organization of its type, the pioneers of AKA banded together out of simple need to ensure that women of color not only attend college, but that their experiences while there helped them to fulfill their greatest potential. Over the decades following its creation, AKA has not only empowered its members, but has cultivated an attitude of commitment to service to the community.

Like its national organization, the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter of AKA shares in a rich history and commitment of service. Over the last four decades, the members of the Theta Lambda Omega chapter have engaged in countless community service projects and organized many charitable campaigns that have had a tremendous impact on communities in Southeast Michigan.

Among the Theta Lambda Omega chapter's many endeavors is a concerted effort to improve educational opportunities in the Pontiac community. As part of this effort, the Chapter's Emerging Youth Leaders Initiatives help youth develop their leadership skills, encourage parental involvement in the education process and promote civic activism. In addition to helping youth develop these important skills, the sorority provides scholarships to members and future members helping them achieve their educational goals.

For the past 40 years the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter has gathered to honor the young women of Pontiac and its surrounding communities at the annual Debutante Scholarship Cotillion. The scholarship cotillion is one of many community service contributions of the Pontiac chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and during the 40th year celebration, eleven extraordinary hard-working young women and high school seniors will receive scholarships to assist them in attending college. Each debutante is recognized for their outstanding scholastic achievements in addition to the many hours they have committed to community service and personal development.

Mr. Speaker, for almost half of a century, the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority has been supporting the young women in Southeast Michigan and giving them the tools they need to build a bright future. Over its time, Theta Lambda Omega chapter and its members have been honored with many awards for their work, which has undoubtedly strengthened and ensured the continued vibrancy of the region. I wish the members and alumni of the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority many more years of success as they fulfill their mission in service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably delayed, I missed the vote on the Huelskamp Amendment, which prohibits the use of funds in contravention of the Defense of Marriage Act, to H.R. 5326 (roll No. 235), the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Appropriations Act for FY 2013. I would have voted against this amendment, had I been present to record my vote.

IN MEMORY OF DORIS B. MCMILLAN

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of an exceptional public servant and psychiatric nurse, Doris B. McMillan. A loving mother, godmother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mrs. McMillan devoted her life to serving her family and community.

Mrs. McMillan was born in New York City on July 8, 1928. She was educated in New York City, graduating from the Psychiatric Institute of Nursing in Rockland County and then completed her graduate studies at Long Island

University Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University and Glassboro State College.

After Mrs. McMillan completed her studies, she started her career as a school nurse in New Jersey with the Cape May County Special Services School. Mrs. McMillan excelled in her profession, she went on to work as a nurse at the Atlantic County Jail, and also became the supervisor and director of nursing at Harborfields Juvenile Correction Facility. Mrs. McMillan worked tirelessly for the underserved in society, frequently serving as an advocate for female inmates in county jails.

In addition to her lifelong service in her community, Mrs. McMillan volunteered her time with several organizations, including The Red Cross, The Advisory Commission on the Status of Women and the American Association of Retired People.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Doris B. McMillan leaves to cherish her legacy a host of friends and family members, including her beloved son, Minister Robert Muhammad of Houston.

CELEBRATING JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as the proud representative of one of the most ethnically diverse congressional districts in the nation, I am honored to join my friends in the Jewish American community in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month, and to recognize the many contributions Jewish Americans have made to our country.

Jewish immigrants, like the immigrants from many other countries throughout our nation's history, came to our country for the promise of freedom, tolerance and socioeconomic mobility. For more than 350 years, Jewish Americans have enriched American society by placing a strong value on education, community and culture.

Through their entrepreneurial spirit and innovations in technology, the Jewish American community has contributed to the economic vitality of our nation and particularly of my district, leading the way in renewable energy development and high technology. Without question, Silicon Valley would not be the hub of innovation it is today without the many significant contributions of Jewish Americans.

The Jewish American community in my district serves as a shining example of what makes Silicon Valley a global leader. I am privileged to serve a district that celebrates its diversity, and proud to represent a community of Jewish Americans whose contributions in the fields of technology, business, education, and many others, have served as a testament to America's promise as a land of opportunity and of dreams.