

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF
DOCTOR WILLIAM UHLAND

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Doctor William Uhlend.

Dr. William Uhlend grew up in the town of Arbutle, California, which at the time had a population of 800. When he was fifteen, his father died, and he went to work to support his mother and younger brother. After graduating high school, he went on to earn a bachelors degree from Chico State University, a masters degree from San Jose State University, and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University.

Dr. Uhlend is a nuclear chemist who is involved in the production and research of radiopharmaceuticals. For the past decade he has been with Covidien-Mallinckrodt, at their plant in Maryland Heights, Missouri. This plant has six cyclotrons, capable of accelerating protons up to 30 MeV kinetic energy. Several times a year he travels to the Covidien-Mallinckrodt plant in Petten, Holland, where they have two cyclotrons and a nuclear reactor.

At these facilities he is busy ensuring that the badly needed supply of radiopharmaceuticals is available to the hospitals and nuclear pharmacies. He is involved with the production of such essential drugs as thallium-201 for cardiac imaging, indium-111 for tumor detection, gallium-67 for tumor and infection detection, iodine-123 for thyroid imaging, iodine-131 for thyroid therapy, and molybdenum-99 to be used for technetium-99m generators (aka "Moly Kows"). In addition to this, he is currently involved in the production of a new radiopharmaceutical, which is proprietary at this time. Dr. Uhlend's contributions also include eight text-books on chemistry and physics (REA Press, Piscataway, New Jersey), and eight patents.

He and his wife, Dr. Elaine T. Jurkowski, are also active in their community. They are active in their parish, Incarnate Word, where they are lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and deliver Holy Communion to the ill and elderly. They are also members of the Wellness Ministry, Bereavement Ministry, and Disability Ministry. Dr. Uhlend provides free tutoring in mathematics and science to students in high school and college. Some of these youngsters are first generation college attendees from single parent families.

Dr. Uhlend is a shining example of the innovation, scholarship and leadership that we have in Missouri. I thank Dr. Uhlend for his service to his community, the St. Louis region and the nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of his contributions.

HONORING ROBERT A. BARTRON

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Robert Bartron, for his recognition as the Montrose Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

Robert, a current resident of Montrose, Pennsylvania, has been an active community advocate and business leader for many years. Since 1968, he has provided comfort and assurance to families throughout the area, as well as providing part-time employment to numerous residents, in his role as owner and director of the Bartron Funeral Home.

Additionally, Robert has served his community through his membership in numerous civic organizations including, former president of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, former president of the Tri-County Funeral Directors Association, and retired Susquehanna County Coroner.

Currently, Robert is serving his 33rd year on the Board of Directors of the Susquehanna County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. He is also a Paul Harris fellow with the Montrose Rotary Club, where he has previously held titles of secretary, treasurer, director, and sergeant at arms.

Robert and his wife Marie are the proud parents of three children, and have dedicated significant involvement to area-youth through their support of local club and high school sports. Robert was instrumental in establishing the Montrose High School Cross Country team, as well as encouraging the continuance of the high school ski and tennis clubs. Robert and his wife are both long-time members of the Montrose Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Robert Bartron, and ask my colleagues to join in praising his commitment to country, community, and family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH BARBA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Joseph Barba, a man that has served his community through educating, mentoring and encouraging students to innovate and succeed at their greatest potential. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader as we recognize his impressive accomplishments on his 60th birthday.

Dr. Barba was the first of four children born to Lily and Guillermo Barba, who instilled lessons of hard work and accomplishment into their children. Born on May 28, 1952 in New York, he followed the discipline of his father and used his mother's sacrifices to shape his

upbringing. As a student attending high school, he performed well ahead of his grade in the sciences and mathematics. He was encouraged by a teacher to continue his studies in advanced mathematics at the University level instead of following a vocational occupation.

With the support of that teacher and his own desire to achieve, Dr. Barba attended City College of New York to pursue a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering. He would later earn his Masters and PhD in Electrical Engineering from CCNY. When he finished his thesis and dissertation, CCNY had a professional position waiting for him.

The son of immigrants, he understood the importance of having a sound foundation built on education. He joined the CCNY faculty as an Adjunct Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in 1977 and in 1982 became a tenure-track faculty member when he was appointed Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1987 and to full Professor in 1993.

As a Professor, Dr. Barba authored over 100 scientific papers and has served as Principal Investigator for both research and institutional grants. From 1997 to 2000, he was Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the School of Engineering. In 2000, he joined the Office of the Provost as Acting Associate Provost. Two years later, he was appointed Deputy Provost. He became Acting Dean in July 2004, having served previously as Deputy Provost from June 2002 to June 2004.

Currently, Dr. Barba serves as the Dean of The Grove School of Engineering, recognized for its rich history of opportunity and resources. Along with being an educator, Dr. Barba has been a pillar of the CCNY community. For over 20 years he has led the nation's largest Latin American Engineering Student Association-Society of Professional Engineers (LAESA-SHPE) as well as being the director of the New York S.T.E.M. Institute. A visionary for and product of CCNY, Dr. Barba has continued to push the envelope for what the school, student body, and community can achieve.

Dr. Barba is the proud father of his only son, Jesse Barba. Dr. Barba is an accomplished individual with a distinguished track record in improved education standards. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Joseph Barba on his 60th birthday. He continues to live a life full of joy and is a model citizen to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2012, I was on official business at the White House and unfortunately missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present,

• 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.

I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 255 and "aye" on rollcall 256.

HONORING THE ACADEMY FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP FOR BEING NAMED A GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Academy for Global Citizenship in Chicago, Illinois, for its recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as a "Green Ribbon School."

Green Ribbon Schools (GRS) is an award program launched in 2011 that recognizes schools participating in activities that promote and encourage a healthy and environmentally friendly learning environment. This year, the Department of Education recognized 78 schools across the United States, including the Academy for Global Citizenship located in Garfield Ridge on Chicago's Southwest Side.

The Academy for Global Citizenship engages students in a green experience from the moment they set foot on campus. Its asphalt parking lot was transformed into an organic garden that the students help sow, cultivate, and tend throughout the year. Inside the school students are fed organic and locally-sourced meals each day, after which they separate their garbage and recyclables, as well as their compost waste which is used to fertilize the gardens around the campus.

In class, students learn about sustainable and renewable energy and lifestyles, including a transportation unit that includes the study of walking, biking, and alternative fuels, and a wellness class that focuses health, nutrition, and environmental sustainability as a lens to understand how the world works.

Through these formal and informal activities, teachers enhance students' education as they teach the biology and chemistry behind composting and fertilization, the energy physics behind alternative energy sources, and the health-science behind good nutrition.

The Academy for Global Citizenship is also green at the administrative level. The school hosts community workshops on topics such as small space gardening, backyard composting, and energy use reduction. In addition, the school tracks its energy and water usage, setting reduction goals each year, and purchasing 100% of its electricity from a provider that produces only wind power.

Green schools, like the Academy for Global Citizenship, benefit our communities in numerous ways. In buying food from local sources, they contribute to the local economy and local jobs. In reducing their energy usage, these schools help improve our energy independence. In producing a rich and interactive curriculum on green living, they educate our children and create the workforce needed for the future of our economy. I am happy to see such important work being done on a local level and the Academy for Global Citizenship acting as a model for other institutions.

I commend the Academy for Global Citizenship and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating all 78 of the Green Ribbon School award winners.

FIRST GRADUATION OF SOUTH GIBSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Gibson County High School (SGC), which will be holding its first ever Graduation on Friday, May 18th. SGC, located in Medina, Tennessee, opened its doors in August of 2009 to approximately 250 students. Since then, SGC's first freshman and sophomore classes have developed into critical thinkers who are active participants in their communities.

Few institutions are as vital to preserving our country's future as our public schools, and SGC has done its part to foster a spirit of academic success.

On behalf of the residents of the 8th Congressional District of Tennessee, I am proud to congratulate each and every student in SGC's first graduating class, and I wish them the very best in their upcoming endeavors.

WMD INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bill before us, H.R. 2764, the WMD Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2012. As a former member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud to co-sponsor this bill, which will increase coordination and information sharing between the Department of Homeland Security, the Intelligence Community, and Federal, State and local authorities. This bill will also enhance DHS's ability to analyze, prepare for, and prevent potential threats from weapons of mass destruction.

We all know that WMDs continue to pose a serious threat to the United States. As rogue states such as Iran with established ties to terrorism continue to pursue nuclear weapons, the threat is all too real that WMDs could fall into the hands of those who would like to attack our country.

The bill we are considering today is comprised of two provisions from H.R. 2356, the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2011, which was considered and passed by the Homeland Security Committee earlier this month. I was proud to introduce H.R. 2356 as a comprehensive bill to prevent a WMD attack along with my colleague from New York and the Chair of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman PETER KING. This bipartisan legislation would finally begin to implement the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, and I hope we can bring the entire bill to a vote as soon as possible.

I am glad to see that we are taking these long-overdue steps to make our country safer in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks which occurred over a decade ago on September 11, 2001, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Representatives LORETTA SANCHEZ, ED ROYCE, JOHN CAMPBELL, GARY MILLER, JERRY LEWIS, RANDY NEUGEBAUER and LYNN WOOLSEY in recognition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, one of the youngest of the American congregations, for its historic and ongoing contributions to the proliferation of education and health care across the country. The assembly traces its roots through the St. Joseph congregations of La Grange, Illinois; Concordia, Kansas; Rochester, New York; and Carondelet, Missouri, all of which are traced back to around 1650 in Le Puy, France.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange was established in 1912 by Mother Bernard Gosselin when she and eight sisters left La Grange, Illinois, near Chicago with 60 cents among them to establish a school in Eureka, California. With the outbreak of the flu epidemic in 1918 the Sisters expanded their ministries from teaching to include providing for the medical needs of the community, and opened St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka in 1920.

By 1922, the Sisters were teaching in several Southern California areas and recognized that the community could better develop its ministries by moving the Motherhouse to Orange, California.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are dedicated to transcending language, culture and access-to-care barriers to bring healthcare to people in need throughout the world. The Sisters extended their work in health, education and religious instruction to the people of Papua New Guinea and Australia in the 1940s.

Today, the congregation's commitment to education is expressed in a variety of forms including elementary, secondary, university and other adult education. The organization remains committed to the cause of promoting and providing an outstanding level of health care through acute-care hospitals, rehabilitation programs, home health care, community education, primary care clinics, and wellness programs.

The works of the congregation have expanded beyond education and health care to also include such things as helping new immigrants and women in need, feeding the hungry, giving shelter to the homeless, and fostering spiritual development.

As a result of their dedication to the same spirit of charity, simplicity, and humility characteristic of the Sisters of St. Joseph throughout the world and Mother Bernard's further guiding words of faith, foresight and flexibility, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange help thousands of people in need each year.

Mister Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and thank the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange for their dedication and service to the people of California and the world. We congratulate the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange on their 100th anniversary, on the occasion of their 100 year Jubilee.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share a few words on the vast and significant contributions Jewish Americans have made towards making America the greatest country in the world.

The first Jewish Americans arrived on our shores in 1654, for the same reason millions would follow in later years, as refugees from harm, poverty, and persecution.

These first Jewish Americans would settle in New Amsterdam (now New York) and eventually spread throughout our country from places as dispersed as Charleston and Philadelphia in the 18th century to nearly every corner of our country today, including a large and thriving community in my hometown of Houston.

The contribution of Jewish Americans to our Nation's history, culture and development are almost too numerous to list—from the legal contributions of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, to the musical talents of Leonard Bernstein, to the athletic prowess of Sandy Koufax, to the unknown thousands of Jewish American men and women who struggled for equality, workers' rights, and fought and died bravely for our country against tyranny.

Today, the Jewish American community, now over six million strong, continues this long and proud tradition as members of every segment of American society—from the classroom and the boardroom to the battlefield and the halls of Congress.

I ask all my colleagues in this chamber to join me in celebrating May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HIS-
TORY BOWL TEAMS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

MR. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the two teams of Thomas Jefferson High School students who have qualified for the National History Bowl's Championships in Washington, DC.

The teams made up of seniors John David McClearly, Sarah Lee, and Matthew Kullberg, and juniors Abigail Rood, Julia Huber, Hanna Moore, Anna Metcalf, Elissa McDavid, and Paul Jaquish, battled teams from across Washington State to qualify for the National Championship. They were challenged with questions ranging from Chinese dynasties to the lyrics of the ACDC hit "Back in Black." The two teams placed second and fourth to qualify for the National Championships.

In addition to participating in National History Bowl, these students belong to the rigorous International Baccalaureate program, which gives students a global education experience that prepares them to thrive in today's intercultural world. They are coached by Inter-

national Baccalaureate history teacher, Steven Hall, an Air Force Military Police Veteran.

The National History Bowl is an inter-scholastic team history competition. Each year between 60 and 75 regional tournaments are held to determine the top teams that will move on to the National Championships in Washington, DC. This year competitions were also held in Europe and Asia, and over 100 teams will compete in the National Championships. The goal of the National History Bowl is to instill a curiosity for the past that will help students as they grow into tomorrow's leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the accomplishments of the Thomas Jefferson High School National History Bowl teams. Qualifying not just one, but two teams is a prestigious achievement very few schools can hope to accomplish. I wish them all the best of luck.

REVEREND MARK MACKEY SR.,
NEW PASTOR OF MACEDONIA
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the installation of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church's new pastor, Reverend Mark Mackey, Sr. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church is located in Jackson, in the 8th District of Tennessee.

On May 7th, Pastor Mackey became Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church's 10th Pastor. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, for finding the shepherd for its flock, and beginning a new legacy in the community with Pastor Mackey.

TRIBUTE TO HAL JACKSON, PIONEER
NEW YORK CITY RADIO
BROADCASTER

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that there are many persons in the history of the African American community who have broken down important racial barriers, and that one of the most important of these was Harold Baron Jackson—better known as Hal Jackson—who helped to break down such barriers as a popular cross-over New York City radio broadcaster for over 50 years. He remained an active broadcaster on WBLS-FM Radio until just a few weeks before his passing. He died last Wednesday at age 96.

Mr. Jackson's easy manner and multiple interests in music didn't make it any easier for him to break into the radio business in the 1930s—before the 1954 Brown decision when Jim Crow de jure legal segregation was still the law of the land, while hangings of Blacks in the South were still a major concern in Black life and de facto segregation ruled the North.

The New York Times pointed out in its obituary, "At a time when segregation was wide-

spread, he was a familiar voice to black and white listeners alike. At one point in the 1950s, he was hosting three shows—one rhythm-and-blues, one jazz and one pop—on three different New York radio stations.

He was also a significant player, along with Percy Sutton, in the establishment of the African American wholly-owned Inner City Broadcasting Corporation in 1970 where he established an urban contemporary format rooted in African American music but which also appealed to a racially mixed audience. While getting his start in broadcasting in Washington, DC, he moved to New York in 1954 and helped to establish WBLS as the highest rated radio station in New York City. Mr. Jackson dominated the airwaves, eventually expanding his reach across the country.

In 1990 he became the first African American inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, Mr. Speaker, and in 1995 was among the first five inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame.

Hal Jackson's birth, as was true of many southern Blacks then, was not officially recorded but it's believed that he was born on November 3, 1915 in Charleston, SC. He was one of five children. His father, Eugene Baron Jackson, was a tailor, and his mother was the former Laura Rivers. Both of his parents died when he was a child, so he was raised by "relatives in Charleston and New York before settling in Washington, where he graduated from Dunbar High School and attended classes at Howard University." (New York Times)

Mr. Jackson was also an avid sports fan who broadcast Howard University football and Negro league baseball games and organized an all-black basketball team known as the Washington Bears. He also raised money for civil rights causes, established Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International and was one of the first advocates of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. And, as they say, the rest is history.

He was married four times and divorced three. His current wife, the former Debi Bolling, survives him, along with two daughters, Jane and Jewell; his son, Hal Jackson, Jr., a former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF OXFORD HIGH
SCHOOL YELLOW JACKETS BASE-
BALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE
6A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention to pay recognition to the Oxford High School Yellow Jacket baseball team in Oxford, Alabama, who recently won the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 6A State Championship.

This is the first State Championship for the Oxford baseball team after coming in as runners up in 1978, 1989 and 2009. They are led by Head Coach Wes Brooks.

All of us across Calhoun County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these talented young Alabamians. I'd like to congratulate the

team, their coaches and Oxford High School on this outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2012 I was unavoidably delayed due to a mechanical problem during travel causing me to miss rollcall vote 295 on H.R. 4201, the Sevicemember Family Protection Act. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye".

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to H.R. 3541—Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA) of 2012, because it is a backdoor attempt at reversing decades of precedent established by *Roe v. Wade*. I have always believed that a woman's right to choose is a constitutional right. And personal decisions, such as deciding whether or not to have an abortion, should involve a woman, her family and her faith. If an abortion is a personal decision, the government should not interfere.

The passage of the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act presents would put the onerous on health care providers in deterring the intent of the woman seeking an abortion. The legislation would create a civil cause of action for an injunction that could take months to resolve, leaving the woman with limited options. Most egregiously, the legislation would, for the first time in almost forty years, allow the government to legislate this personal decision in the first trimester of pregnancy. It is clear that the ultimate goal of this legislation is an outright ban on abortion services. For these reasons, I oppose this legislation and urge my colleagues to stand with women and against the Republican continuous attacks on their rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. TURNER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 295 I was away from the floor due to a memorial service for first responders at the World Trade Center Memorial in New York. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING WARMINSTER
PRODUCTION TEAM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Warminster based production team responsible for the anti-bullying album "All About Bullies . . . Big and Small." Congratulations to Steve Pullara, Jim Cravero, Gloria Domina, Kevin Mackie and Patrick Robinson for their Grammy award winning production for best children's album. Your album is inspiring to us all, and it paves the way in the fight against bullying amongst our nation's youth.

Today, bullying is a serious problem in our schools, and it has manifested into cyber bullying in our homes. Statistics show that nearly 77 percent of our children have been bullied at some point in their lives, and some of these cases have even led to suicide.

In order to prevent bullying throughout our nation, it is necessary to apply unique and creative methods that resonate with younger generations. Featuring 37 songs, poems and short stories performed by prominent American artists, "All About Bullies . . . Big and Small" sends a powerful anti-bullying message to its listeners.

Thank you once again to the producers of the album for doing their part to make not only Bucks County, but the entire nation, a better, safer place for everyone. I am honored to represent these Grammy winners in Congress, and hope they will continue their efforts.

HONORING TL HANNA HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the TL Hanna High School Girls' Soccer Team for winning the State 4A Championship. These young women had a phenomenal 27–2 season, defeating Wando High School two to nothing to capture the state title for the first time in school history.

Led by their coach, Katelyn Davis, and their trainer Jason Powell, the team had three players named "all state", and five named "all region".

After winning the State Championship in Columbia, South Carolina, on May 18, one of the players was asked about her head coach by a member of the press and stated: "She is the rock of this team. Our big sister. We look up to her so much, and wouldn't be here without her."

Coach Davis did an excellent job leading her team to the state title, keeping them focused on their motto "one team, one goal."

Competitive sports are valuable for teaching important life lessons such as determination, hard work, and being part of a team. I'm confident that these young women will carry their experiences with them out into the world, and use them to boldly succeed in life.

Congratulations to: Tatiana Guarin, Madison Anderson, Madyson Strong, Paige Miller,

Baylee Gillmore, Chelsea Drennan, Catherine Roberts, Madison Cutts, Amber Bowles, Kelly Shaw, Meredith Parker, Jan Wilson, Anna Brannon, Olivia Bair, Kylie Miller, Christina Barrington, Lina Baroni, Margaret McElwee, Fantasia Todd.

You all have many reasons to be proud. I know that you'll never forget your 2012 Championship season, and I hope you'll take the same level of boldness that you brought to the field with you everywhere you go in life.

Congratulations Yellow Jackets, and God Bless.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3541, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA) of 2012. Contrary to its misleading title, H.R. 3541 would do nothing to prevent sex discrimination, but instead, would be a huge step backwards for gender equality, by enacting dangerous restrictions on women's reproductive rights. This legislation would place harsh criminal penalties on doctors, asking them to read minds, profile women, violate doctor-patient confidentiality, and make them fearful of providing legal health care. It is a reckless attempt to restrict women's health care rights simply to score political points, and yet another reprehensible example of politicians practicing medicine without a license. American women can and should be trusted to make morally and intellectually sound decisions about their own health.

HONORING REVEREND RICHARD
CARRUTH'S 35 YEARS OF MIN-
ISTRY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Richard Carruth of Newbern, Tennessee for his 35 years of service to Methodist communities in Mississippi, Kentucky, and West Tennessee.

Even as a retiree, Reverend Carruth has a long history of enriching and supporting the lives of his communities tri-state area. Since then, he has actively served small membership churches in the 8th District of Tennessee after making his retirement home in Dyer County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Carruth on the occasion of his 35th Anniversary as a Methodist Reverend this May. There is no doubt that throughout those 35 years, his ministry has touched thousands of lives.

TRIBUTE TO SECOND LIEUTENANT
THEODORE REMINGTON WOO

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of a hero from the Second Congressional District of West Virginia, Second Lieutenant Theodore Remington Woo; a highly honored West Virginian soldier who served in two wars for his country. He was the first soldier of Chinese descent to die in combat for the state of West Virginia. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Cross Citation, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's badge, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Theodore Remington Woo's accomplishments of his life exceed his collection of medals. I am honored to have requested his name stand forever within the 20-64-53.27wb bridge on Interstate 64 in his home of Kanawha County, West Virginia. The bridge will be located only minutes away from where his high school once stood. Second Lieutenant Woo grew up in a patriotic family with several relatives being named after American presidents. He and his brother George, who went on to become a House Delegate, played along the Kanawha River and helped out in their family restaurant, The Canton.

Second Lieutenant Woo was a student at West Virginia University before he enlisted in the Army. Woo then served with the 93rd Division of the Third Army in France, Germany, and Czechoslovakia where he received the Bronze Star for "Meritorious Achievement in Ground Operations Against the Enemy in European Theater of Operations."

After World War II, he reenrolled in West Virginia University, but was needed during his senior year to train at Fort Knox as an infantry leader until 1951. Second Lieutenant Woo then served in the Korean War as Platoon Leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment in the 1st Cavalry Division. A story of heroism echoed through our nation when he and his men destroyed an enemy bunker while dodging overwhelming mortar and small arms fire. Out distancing his leading elements, he was forced to retreat the hill to regroup. Despite being wounded in the arm, he continued to lead and retake the hill. Upon capturing the hill, Second Lieutenant Woo was tragically killed during counter attack while evacuating the wounded. Woo's courage and devotion will be forever recognized and serve as a symbol of our commitment to peace.

West Virginians are truly honored to count Second Lieutenant Woo, a real American hero, among us.

CELEBRATING THE GARY NAACP'S
47TH ANNUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP
BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to stand before you today to

recognize and commend the members of the Gary, Indiana, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Saturday, June 2, 2012, the Gary NAACP will hold its 47th Annual Life Membership Banquet at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Gary NAACP. The funds generated through this event directly support the organization's many outstanding programs and advocacy efforts. Through its membership and the support of the community, the Gary NAACP is able to serve the people of Northwest Indiana and continue the mission started by the national organization in 1909 by working diligently to combat injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment for all people in today's society. In addition, the banquet serves to update and keep the community aware of the NAACP's activities and formally honor its new life members.

The keynote speaker at this year's event will be Reverend Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. Dr. Dyson is a Georgetown University professor of sociology and a political analyst for MSNBC. Dr. Dyson has been able to positively influence the lives of numerous individuals through his remarkable career and his noteworthy dedication to charitable endeavors. In addition to his outstanding professional career, Dr. Dyson is well-known as a social activist, renowned orator, and prophetic preacher.

This year, the Gary NAACP will honor twelve outstanding individuals from Northwest Indiana who will join the hundreds of other outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders that have previously been recognized as life members. For 2012, the distinguished individuals who will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP are: Indiana Supreme Court Justice Robert Rucker, Dr. Judy Ball, Shontrai Irving, Esq., Gage Brown, Kamden Brown, Shante Brown, Zachery Brown, Stephen Mays, Dr. Linda Peterson, Renee Ceaser-Patterson, Kennedy Winfrey, and Kya Winfrey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the newest life members of the Gary branch of the NAACP, as well as Attorney Karen Pulliam, the current Gary NAACP president, and all members of the organization for their extraordinary efforts and for their tremendous leadership. These outstanding men and women have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and for that they are to be commended.

H.R. 5651, THE FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT
OF 2012

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5651, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Reform Act of 2012. The user fee process at the FDA is a vital element in maintaining operations at the FDA to bring valuable drugs and devices through the approval pathway and to market. I am optimistic that, with the enhanced finan-

cial incentives and resources available to the FDA included in the user fee agreements, we will see shorter approval times and more successful products available to patients. Additionally, there are significant drug and device regulatory improvements that will, I believe, increase transparency, market involvement, and the development of innovative and life-saving drugs and devices.

Consistent throughout this process has been a commitment to bringing the need of the rare disease community to the forefront of this debate, both through medical device legislation as well as a focus on drug development for rare diseases. I am proud to have my bill, the Humanitarian Device Reform Act (H.R. 3211), included as a provision in the device regulatory section. This language will make it easier for device manufacturers to create Humanitarian Use Devices (HUDs) to treat individuals, both children and adults, who suffer from diseases that affect communities of 4,000 or fewer each year. Current law prevents companies who manufacture HUDs from recouping beyond the research and development costs, subsequently restricting entry into this field, particularly for smaller device companies, such as those found in New Hampshire. This provision would lift this outdated profit cap restriction and would do so in a way that maintains incentives for devices developed for both children and adults and keeps in place the necessary product safeguards. It would maintain FDA's current oversight of HUDs but, by allowing manufacturers to generate a profit from the sale of these devices, allow for further development, improvements, and incentives to make it possible for new device developers to enter the marketplace, many of which cannot afford to do so under current statute.

During this debate I have made clear my support for rare diseases and the focus on drug development and expedited approval pathways for drugs to treat rare diseases. With this increased focus on providing incentives to manufacturers to invest in the development of these drugs, it can be an attainable goal for an individual and family affected by rare diseases to not only improve the quality of life but possibly even find a cure. By working together, the FDA and drug developers will be able to maintain the high standards of safety but also fast-track the approval process in order to bring these important drugs to the patient.

While H.R. 5651 makes a number of important reforms, more work needs to be done to strengthen the integrity of the drug supply chain. Congress must maintain its commitment to keeping the American people safe and protect the integrity of drugs, from the manufacturing floor to the medicine cabinet. We need more than the prospect of a patchwork of state regulations that would prove to be costly and ineffective, and more importantly, would fail to get the job done. Instead, we need a common sense national tracking system that will provide a consistent and workable solution for all parties in the supply chain.

At the beginning of May, I joined a bipartisan group of my colleagues in writing a letter to Chairmen UPTON and PITTS and Ranking Members WAXMAN and PALLONE stressing the importance of the pharmaceutical distribution chain and urging the inclusion of legislative language to establish a prescription drug traceability platform. While I had hoped an agreement would have been included in the

bill we are considering today, I am encouraged that a compromise can be reached during a House and Senate conference.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for the work they have done on this user fee agreement and urge its swift passage.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
MARILYN (KK) AUGBURN SHARP

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an icon in her hometown of Muncie, Ind. Following a battle with pancreatic cancer, Marilyn (KK) Augburn Sharp passed away earlier this month.

Marilyn earned a degree in English from DePauw University in 1963 and a master's in journalism from Ball State University in 1974. In between her time at DePauw and Ball State, Marilyn lived in New York, where she served on the editorial staff of *The New Yorker* magazine. She later worked in publicity and advertising and volunteered with a Little League team in Harlem.

After spending time in New York, Marilyn returned to the Hoosier state and married Phil Sharp in 1972. Phil Sharp later served as U.S. Representative for the then-Second District of Indiana from 1974–1994.

Marilyn will be remembered for her incredible work ethic and as a champion of social justice. Her heart for helping people was evident to those who knew her.

She authored three novels, including *Sunflower*, *Masterstroke*, and *Falseface*. Her other interests included painting and reading.

Marilyn is survived by her sons, Jeremy and Justin, her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Pika Sharp, and her husband Phil Sharp.

Her presence and lively spirit will certainly be missed, but her legacy of advocacy and love will live on.

HONORING THE 2012 FREDERICKSBURG,
VIRGINIA AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MILITARY ENLISTEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the seventy-five Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selfless and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the Armed Forces:

Alvarado, Navar Almir; Alvarez, Fernando Isidro; Anderson, Floyd Oneal; Askin, Alexander P; Atherley Bowe, Kevin Kareen; Barbee, Jordan C; Barry, Christopher E;

Bednarski, Lucille Darline; Biaselli, Darien Marvellediquan; Bibbens, Deont'e Odell; Blevins, Kyle Ronald; Brisbin, Ian H; Brosilow, Anthony Joseph; Bowman, Donald Marcus; Bushong, Austin Spencer; Burch, Brannon Matthew; Butler, Joseph Samuel; Carson, Zachary Michael; Chang, Ferris; Chapman, Robert John Joseph; Childress, Brandon Kyle; Cornell, Andrew Scott; Cruz, Thomas Joseph; Dent, Sean M; Drew, William George; Ferguson, Zachary Tyler; Flanagan, Tyler Laveene; Galligan, Patrick Gabriel.

Graves, Robert Andrew; Greene, Kenneth R; Greenhalgh, Matthew Tylerzahabi; Grogan, Matthew L; Gustafson, Adam Davis; Heard, Dymel R; Hubbell, Brian Jacob; Husar, Cornelius G; James, Marquise T; Keane, Eric Carter; Kearney, Kyle Patrick; Kelly, Victoria; King, Wesley Konrad; Lawrence, Robert Dominique; Love, Joshua; Marshall, Adam William; Mateos, Thomas Alexander; Middlebrook, Devyn Taylor; Morey, Jonathan Charles; Motzer, Jacob D; Mullikin, James Richard.

Murphy, John Sylvester; Mussomele, Matthew Hunter; Nash, Michael; Nuckols, Kevin G; Oursler, Daniel S; Peyton, Jacob K; Piazza, James Anthony; Principe, Jesselyn S; Porter, Kyleigh Michelle; Ramirezrincon, Hector Alexander; Roark, Zachary D; Robertson, John David; Ruyts, Zachary A; Ryder, Russell S; Schlenk, Joseph M; Stephens, Perry Allan; Stinson, Joshua Quinn; Taylor, Madison; Thomas, Hunter Austin; Townley, Jennifer Danielle; Villaruel, Jacob Timothy; Wagner, Kyle Daniel; Weakley, David J; White, Stormy A; Williams Washington, Moshiah Sallasie; Witter, Clayton J.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 1st Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Monday, June 4, 2012 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
JETHRO EXUM SUMNER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina wish to honor Revolutionary War Brigadier General Jethro Exum Sumner's recent re-interment at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in Greensboro, North Carolina. Brig. General Sumner received his full Masonic Rites for his great contributions to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, as well as to the state of North Carolina and the United States.

Born in 1733 in Virginia, he was a Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina. He fought during the French and Indian War as a commissioned officer in the Virginia Regiment, and served as Paymaster of the provincial troops of North Carolina. In 1776, he was appointed to the Provincial Congress as Colonel of the 3rd North Carolina Regiment. He earned his way from Colonel and all the way to Brigadier General of the Continental Army

during the American Revolutionary War, fighting at Eutaw Springs and Camden. He recruited soldiers for General Nathanael Greene, before the battle of Guilford Courthouse. If it wasn't for Sumner's recruiting, Gen. Greene would not have been as successful.

He was a member of Blandford-Bute Lodge, which is now Johnston-Caswell Lodge #10 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He was the one who planted the seed to form the Grand Lodge of North Carolina after the American Freemasons split from the Grand Lodge of England. He also was an officer of the lodge. Sumner was active in the creation of the Society of Cincinnati, serving as its first president. After he died in 1785, he was buried in Warren County, North Carolina. In 1891, his remains were moved to Guilford Courthouse by order of the North Carolina General Assembly.

In a public event on May 29, 2012, Brigadier General Jethro Sumner was laid to rest under a newly-restored memorial at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in a Masonic Funeral Ceremony. As a member of the Masonic Society, I was invited to attend the ceremony, but because of my congressional responsibilities, I had to return to Washington and was unable to participate.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to honor Brigadier General Jethro Exum Sumner's re-interment and recognize his service and accomplishments.

COMMENDING JUDITH BURD OF
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Lebanon Township Board of Education in Hunterdon County, New Jersey in honoring Judith Burd. After thirty-nine years of distinguished public service as an educator in Hunterdon County, Mrs. Burd retired in May 2012 as the Superintendent of the Lebanon Township School District.

On June 21, 2012, Mrs. Burd will be honored by the Lebanon Township Board of Education in Hunterdon County, New Jersey during a special retirement dinner to be held in Glen Gardner, New Jersey with her family, friends and respected colleagues in attendance. I fully expect the event will celebrate and honor her many professional accomplishments and educational advancements on behalf of parents, teachers and students in Hunterdon County.

As a lifelong resident of Hunterdon County, I have known Mrs. Burd since we were students together at North Hunterdon Regional High School in the late 1960s. Her uncle, the Honorable James Howard, was a distinguished Member of Congress from January 3, 1965 until his untimely passing on March 25, 1988.

I can attest to her dedication and tireless efforts educating young people. Mrs. Burd began her career in education in 1974 as a teacher at Valley View Elementary School, where she taught the third grade from September 1975 to June 1979. From 1979 to

1994, Mrs. Burd served as a special education teacher and taught a resource room class for the perceptually impaired. From 1994 to 1996, Mrs. Burd taught seventh grade language arts and in 1996, Mrs. Burd became Principal of Woodglen Middle School, a position she held until August of 2003. In 2003, Mrs. Burd became the Superintendent of the Lebanon Township School District. For nearly four decades, Mrs. Burd has served the community with great professionalism and dedication.

I am proud to join members of the Lebanon Township Board of Education and many Hunterdon County residents in thanking Judith Burd for her hard work and devotion to the Hunterdon County community. Her lifetime accomplishments and achievements in education will stand as a testament to her dedication to young people.

I am pleased to praise Judith Burd of Hunterdon County, New Jersey and to share her story with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and with the American people.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I don't support abortion for gender selection. I don't know anyone who does. Maybe that's because there is no problem in this country of abortion for gender selection.

What H.R. 3541 does—what it really does—is make doctors fear criminal prosecution for their privileged patient relationships. What this bill really does is attempt to scare doctors out of providing a legal medical procedure. And therefore, what this bill really does is jeopardize women's access to full medical care.

I've been racking my brain about how you would enforce this law. Would the "small government" Republican majority require notarized affidavits from women and their doctors? Would we have independent investigators?

We all know what this is about—so I have an idea—let's get back to the agenda Americans really want us to talk about: jobs and the economy.

A TRIBUTE TO NYEMASTER,
GOODE, P.C.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines-based law firm, Nyemaster Goode, for being named among our nation's Top 30 Employers by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. In earning this recognition, Nyemaster Goode is also nominated to receive the 2012 Freedom Award from the ESGR.

The ESGR is an agency within the Department of Defense that supports employers who facilitate career opportunities for members of the National Guard and Reserve. The Free-

dom Award is the DoD's highest recognition given to employers for "exceptional support" of Guard and Reserve employees. Nyemaster Goode is one of only 30 employers selected to be nominated for this award out of the staggering 3,236 nationwide nominations received this year. In September, up to 15 recipients will be announced and honored in Washington, D.C., at the 17th annual Freedom Award Ceremony. Since its establishment in 1996, only 160 employers have been honored with this prestigious award.

The honor that is bestowed on finalists of the Freedom Award is put best by the ESGR in stating, "Employers named as finalists for the award distinguish themselves not only for adhering to the employment and reemployment rights of Guard and Reserve members, but for actively creating opportunities to assist and support the service of both Guard and Reserve employees and their families." Nyemaster Goode's unwavering support of our citizen warriors has truly placed the firm as a shining example to our nation's most prominent businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment Nyemaster Goode has shown to the members of the Guard and Reserve is a testament to the respect lowans share for our men and women in uniform. It is with great pride that I thank Nyemaster Goode for representing Iowa through their efforts, and I wish them luck in September. I trust my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Nyemaster Goode for their remarkable achievement, as well as thanking all the members of the United States Armed Forces, at home and abroad, for their service and sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF AGUDATH ACHIM

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 9th, I will have the honor of addressing the Congregation and friends of Agudath Achim and Jewish Community House in the City of Taunton, which I have been privileged to represent for these past 10 years. It will not be my first appearance at this temple, which is an important institution in the Greater Taunton Area. But this will be a meeting of particular significance, because it is part of a celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of this congregation.

Mr. Speaker, on May 7th, the Taunton Gazette published an article about Agudath Achim, which is a good summary of the work it does and the role it has played in the community. I can attest to the work that Agudath Achim does, both for the Jewish community, and for the broader society—for example, it was the host for the most recent Martin Luther King Day Interfaith Observation in Taunton.

Mr. Speaker, because this is an example of how an institution serves both the needs of its own people and the society at large, and because the Taunton Gazette did a very good job of describing this, I ask that the article from the Taunton Gazette be printed here, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating this congregation and the work that they do.

(By Marc Larocque—Taunton Gazette Staff Reporter)

TAUNTON—The Congregation Agudath Achim marked 100 years in the city with a rededication ceremony held at the synagogue this weekend, featuring several guest speakers who talked about their years as part of the Jewish community in Greater Taunton.

"We had a chance for people of all ages to participate," Rabbi Anne Heath said. "The rededication was a chance for us to acknowledge all of our ancestors over the past 100 years and rededicate ourselves, as much as rededicating the building to continue to be a home for the Jewish community for the greater Taunton area. There was no champagne bottle broken or major renovations, but we recognized that this has been the religious and cultural home for generations of Jewish people from the area."

Heath said the rededication was a chance to recognize some of the goodwill that has come as a product of the Congregation Agudath Achim throughout the last century.

"The synagogue has been a focal point for Jews to gather, to study, to pray, and to support each other in good times and bad," Heath said. "It's a base of operation or a home so that many of our members are involved in, doing a lot of good works and good deeds throughout the community. It gives us a chance to socialize and celebrate holidays. Like many other organizations, especially religious ones, it helps us sustain ourselves as a community."

Taunton resident Mike Thurman said that the rededication was a chance to realize just how much the synagogue has enriched his family and many others, bringing everyone together, creating a great sense of community.

"It kind of brought back memories of when we first joined," Thurman said. "Some of the people who came have gotten older and have moved away. It was nice to see them again."

Thurman, a Milton native, moved to the Taunton area in 1975. His wife soon discovered the synagogue through word of mouth, bringing the family into the fold.

"The synagogue is very family oriented," Thurman said. "The congregation is small enough that we know everyone. You end up knowing how everyone's children are growing up, having their bar mitzvah parties. My four daughters had their bat mitzvahs there. It's good to have the synagogue in your life. Basically, it's like having an extended family. Everybody knows everybody. It's a generational thing. We're very fortunate."

On June 30, there will be a reunion celebration for Congregation Agudath Achim. It is another event as part of the congregation's centennial celebrations.

Congressman Barney Frank is also scheduled to be a special guest speaker at a June 9 event with services starting at 9 a.m.

While the congregation has grown with the times—at one point it was an Orthodox synagogue in which men were separated from the women, while now it is a more modern and independent organization—the mission remains the same, Rabbi Heath said.

Heath said that she hopes the next century will be one in which the Congregation Agudath Achim will reach further into the community, touching the lives of many using the religious teachings of Judaism.

"I think one of the most important things for our Jewish community, like all other religious communities, is meet people where they are, find out what's going on in their lives, and to find out what we have to offer to support people where they need it," Heath said. "That's part of the rededication and recommitment. Judaism has a strong ethical component. We believe the teachings of Judaism can support that, whether for a young

person, a parent, an empty nester, dealing with all different kinds of issues. Our teachings and availability of community will play a big role. It's part of the path that we really take into the future."

HONORING THE CARROLL SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Student Council of Carroll Senior High School for winning a State medal in the Texas Future Problem Solving Program.

The young people who serve on an effective Student Council are skilled leaders, and nowhere is that more evident than in an exceptional school like Carroll Senior High. In addition to fulfilling their demanding leadership duties, many of the members of the Student Council participate in the Future Problem Solving Program. This international program aims to foster students' skills in creative thinking and working together to solve real and significant problems. They then take these skills and bring them to the world beyond the classroom walls as they grow into tomorrow's leaders.

In Carroll Senior High School, Greg Lang, Courtney Smith, Megan Gill, and Mattie Shirley worked tirelessly on their project, "Dragons Dig Deeper". They looked to their special needs peers right at home in the halls of Carroll and improved methods of including them in the community. As a Community Problem Solving effort, "Dragons Dig Deeper" received a State medal from the Texas Future Problem Solving Program. The compassion exemplified by these students serves as an example to us all and encourages my hope for a better future both in my district and in our Nation. I would also like to recognize the fine work of the Student Council's director, Niki Gilley, and the invaluable assistance of Laura Wood-Smith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Student Council of Carroll Senior High School on their earning a State medal in the Future Problem Solving Program. And I also ask that we thank the members of the council for the service they have lent our community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
RICHARD P. ZAHNER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan rise to congratulate JC Richard P. Zahner, the 43rd Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence) of the United States Army on his monumental and invaluable contributions to our national security from June 1976 until June 2012.

Commissioned into the Regular Army as a Military Intelligence Officer from Cornell University in June 1976, Lieutenant General Zahner consistently distinguished himself in

difficult jobs that required superior leadership and keen innovation.

His distinguished 36 year military career included assignments in peace and war, at the tactical and national levels, in both conventional and Special Operations, and within the Army and at Joint and Combined Commands.

A 1980 plank owner of the Joint Special Operations Command, he was a cornerstone in the foundation that created the culture of excellence and achievement that exists to this day.

A dynamic force for innovation and technology balanced with a keen commitment to soldiers, he consistently challenged himself to be a change agent and transformation catalyst while integrating Army intelligence with wider Intelligence Community initiatives. He demonstrated unwavering resolve to build wartime readiness and provide brilliant and visionary Intelligence leadership.

His success is manifested in Army Intelligence support throughout the globe. His legacy will remain with the Army and in the Intelligence Community for years to come.

We wish him and his family Godspeed and good fortune as they complete their Army service and transition to the next successful chapter of their lives. Our nation is better and safer because of this superb Military Intelligence Soldier.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this flawed and dangerous bill, which attempts to use the very real issue of gender discrimination as a pretext to roll back women's health and basic reproductive rights.

The authors of this legislation claim it is intended to fight discrimination against female children in America. In fact, this is just another thinly veiled attempt by the Majority to enact their ideological preferences into law, put barriers between a woman and her doctor, and take us back to a time when family planning opportunities did not exist for women.

We have now seen a disturbing pattern from this Majority. From endlessly trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act to, earlier this month, blocking the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act reauthorization that passed the Senate, the Majority has continually worked to roll back women's health protections in America.

It is doubly insulting for them to try it again here, while claiming to stand up for women. If the authors of this legislation are seriously concerned with gender discrimination, I strongly urge them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which helps ensure that men and women are paid the same for the same job.

What they should not do is pass another ideological and discriminatory bill that claims to stand up for women while putting their health at risk. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE FEDERAL WAY HIGH
SCHOOL AIR FORCE JROTC TEAM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Federal Way High School Air Force JROTC team for qualifying for the National Academic Bowl in Washington, DC. Advancing to compete in this national event is a tremendous accomplishment and these cadets should be extremely proud.

The Federal Way High School Air Force JROTC Team is comprised of David Yang (Junior, Team Captain), Blaise Pascual (Junior), Roger Arenas (Sophomore), Benjamin Swartz (Sophomore), Varun Sharma (Junior, Alternate), Arishma Prasad (Freshman, Alternate). The team is coached by Randall Long, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.). In addition to participating in the Academic Bowl, these JROTC cadets have learned about citizenship and community service, while developing core values of responsibility, character, and self-discipline through the JROTC program.

Prior to qualifying for the National Academic Bowl, team members competed in two preliminary rounds where they were tested on standard high school curriculum, including math, science, English, and current events. The Federal Way High School Air Force JROTC team placed among the top of 183 teams that competed nationwide. The top 16 Air Force Academic Bowl teams advanced to the finals in Washington, DC and the winner of the Air Force Academic Bowl will advance to the JROTC Tri-Service Academic Championship.

The Academic Bowl helps students prepare for success on ACT and SAT exams, develop interest in college admission, demonstrate the academic strength of the JROTC program, and build team and unit spirit. The Federal Way High School Air Force JROTC team will spend the next few months preparing for the Academic Bowl Championship by developing and studying a SAT tutorial plan.

It is with great honor that I recognize the work of the Federal Way High School Air Force JROTC team and their qualification for the National Academic Bowl. I know that this accomplishment is indicative of the future successes of these dedicated cadets.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA GRAVES

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, everyone is familiar with the saying that behind every good man is a good woman. I rise today to note that there is probably no person who exemplifies that homily more than Barbara Kydd Graves—the wife of Black Enterprise Magazine's founder, chairman, and publisher Earl G. Graves, Sr.—who died this week and will be laid to rest on Saturday, June 2.

Mrs. Graves was not only a good wife and the family matriarch, but she was also a major guiding light of Black Enterprise with her quiet strength, inspiration, and caring personality.

Mrs. Graves died at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC after a three-year battle with gall bladder cancer at the age of 75.

As Black Enterprise itself acknowledges, "she played a vital role in the growth and development of the publication and media company, and its mission of economic empowerment and wealth building for African Americans."

"Since the launching of the Black Enterprise Magazine in 1970, Barbara Graves, an alumna of Brooklyn College and a former elementary school teacher, held every major position, including editorial director, circulation director and chief financial officer, during the 40-plus-year history of this company. Along the way, she is credited with grooming and developing several generations of executive leadership, including sons Earl Jr., Johnny and Michael, all of whom have worked as executives at Black Enterprise. Mrs. Graves also co-founded and guided the Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit, the premier networking event and conference for women executives of color."

Her son, Earl Graves, Jr., president and CEO of Black Enterprise, testified to how special his mother was: "My mother was a steadfast and loving partner and counselor to my father; his quiet source of strength and inspiration. She served as mentor and guide to several generations of employees, managers and professionals. Above all, she genuinely cared for every member of the Black Enterprise family, and held a special passion for children and young people in particular."

Mrs. Graves' funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., to be preceded by a public viewing from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, June 2, at Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, NY.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARKER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama.

Parker Memorial Baptist Church was founded on July 3, 1887, in Anniston, Alabama, and has faithfully shared the love of God with the city of Anniston and Calhoun County.

The beautiful Worship Center that was constructed in 1891 is one of the best known landmarks in downtown Anniston. It stands majestically along one of the busiest streets in the city, proclaiming to both residents and visitors that faith in God is a hallmark of the city.

The beauty of the physical structure serves as a testimony to the love and ministry of the people of Parker Memorial who have given, and continue to give, of their time, talents and resources to touch lives in the Anniston area and across the world.

In three different centuries, the congregation at Parker allowed the teachings and love of their Lord to transform lives and give a message of hope to a needy world.

On July 1, the Parker Memorial Family will gather to commemorate their 125th year of

ministry. Former pastors, leaders and members will join the present Parker Family to express appreciation for the past and to affirm a new vision for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Parker Memorial Baptist Church on this milestone and encourage them to continue their outstanding service to Anniston.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2012, I was unavoidably delayed due to a mechanical problem during travel causing me to miss rollcall vote 294 on H.R. 5651, the Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 3541, the Prenatal Non-Discrimination Act. Had I been present, I want to state for the record that my vote on this bill would have been a resounding no.

This bill is nothing more than a further attack on women and women's health from a majority party that claims to be focusing on job creation and economic growth. Yet, today they present us with the ninth opportunity in this Congress to restrict women's access to reproductive health care.

Passing this bill would mean someone would have to stand in the operating room and judge the motives of a woman seeking a Constitutionally protected medical procedure. A doctor could be sent to prison for five years if it can be shown that sex-selection was a factor in the decision to have an abortion. Of course, the doctor would have to either be a mind reader to know the reasons behind a woman's decision, or subject her to unreasonable scrutiny. If the doctor even suspects that sex-selection was involved, but does not report, she or he can be sent to prison for a year. The idea that threatening to incarcerate an obstetrician is somehow protecting women is ludicrous. It only serves to intimidate doctors and keep them from providing medically necessary and often life-saving services for their patients.

Furthermore, this bill allows for an injunction preventing an abortion to be granted by a court if a woman's husband or her parents allege that sex-selection was a factor in the decision to have an abortion. A simple allegation from a third party can therefore prevent a woman from making a private and legal decision in consultation with her doctor. That is absolutely unacceptable.

Sex-selective abortions are a legitimate concern. But this bill is a false solution to a very

real problem. If the supporters of this bill truly wanted to end gender discrimination, they would be working on policies that address the root causes of inequality that plague women in America. They would be working to truly empower women to make decisions about their health and reproductive care. They would be working with us across the aisle to support federal programs that benefit women and their families, such as the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Instead they are on record voting to defund domestic and international family planning programs, dismantle health care reform, and in favor of proposals like the Ryan Budget that slash support for the most vulnerable women and families in this country.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with my colleagues across the aisle on actual solutions to the problems of gender discrimination and inequality in this country. The Prenatal Non-Discrimination Act simply does not address the real issues facing America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. TURNER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 296 I was away from the floor due to a memorial service for first responders at the World Trade Center Memorial in New York. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to officially congratulate and formally recognize the future leaders of our armed forces—the graduates of the Class of 2016 at the nation's prestigious service academies. Each young adult listed will become a highly trained and exceptionally skilled commissioned officer in the most elite military in the world. As you know, each year I have the privilege of nominating a limited number of people to four of the five service academies. The honor of attending a service academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and a former Prisoner of War in Vietnam for nearly seven years, more than half of that time in solitary confinement, it gives me great joy to help you serve our blessed nation. Best wishes to you as you pursue your goal of attending one of the U.S. Service Academies and serving our country. It is because of selfless people like you that we humbly remain "the land of the free and the home of the brave." The names of the appointees, their hometowns and high schools follow.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Cody Christopher Guerry—Garland, Texas—Naaman Forest High School

Austin Yupyo Kong—Allen, Texas—Allen High School

Shannon Elizabeth Rogers—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

William Benac Allred—Richardson, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

Travis Ross Beach—Garland, Texas—Trinity Christian Academy

Nicholas Gregory Cerf—McKinney, Texas—Liberty High School

Mitchell Martin Larios—Frisco, Texas—Frisco High School

Kamron Alexander Murrell—Allen, Texas—Allen High School

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Allie Nicole Baumgarten—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

Constance Ruth Gabel—Plano, Texas—Canyon Creek Christian Academy

Cameron Kistler—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

Joseph Paul Lamb—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

Melissa Lynn Leonhardt—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

*Adam Ayelle Melaku—Garland, Texas—Garland High School

Andrew Stephen Parks—McKinney, Texas—Austin Tennis Academy College Preparatory School

Adam Joseph Wilkins—McKinney, Texas—McKinney North High School

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Colin Spencer Can—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School

Kinser Dean Newkirk—Plano, Texas—Prince of Peace Christian School

Jack Andrew Westrich—McKinney, Texas—McKinney Boyd High School

*Adam Melaku will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

Congratulations are in order for these 18 appointees and 1 U.S. Air Force Preparatory School student. God bless you, God bless Texas, God bless America, and I salute you.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY FINE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. JIM BRUBAKER OF THE CARLSBAD HI-NOON ROTARY CLUB

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the many outstanding achievements of Jim Brubaker, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Mr. Brubaker's leadership during the 2011–2012 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club, the community of Carlsbad and the mission of Rotary. During his tenure, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club sponsored; RYLA, a youth awareness leadership conference; provided a Christmas party and provided meals and gifts to needy elementary school children; co-sponsored the Oktoberfest fundraiser that benefited the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, Carlsbad Boys and Girls Club and other charitable community organizations; sponsored a golf tournament which funded scholarships for Carlsbad high school students and Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and provided support to other needy military personnel and their families; promoted literacy by providing dictionaries for English and Spanish speaking elementary

school children; conducted a Business and Ethics conference for AVID high school students; provided support to La Posada, a facility for the homeless and sponsored the Four-Way Speech Contest, a program to help develop public speaking skills of our community high school students. We assisted in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to over 400 needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. Under President Brubaker's leadership the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary and its membership completed a number of other projects and provided over 9,400 volunteer hours of community service.

In the international arena, under Mr. Brubaker's leadership, a team of Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarians joined with others to build a house in Mexico for a needy family. Through our support of the Paul Harris Foundation, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary co-sponsored numerous other humanitarian projects all over the world including the effort to eradicate polio worldwide. We partnered with the Golden Triangle Rotary club in a program to build a school for girls in Afghanistan. Foreign exchange students were hosted as part of a program to promote better understanding of other cultures, and participated in developing a source of safe drinking water for Belize and the Ivory Coast. During Mr. Brubaker's tenure we also participated in "Heart to Heart in Africa," a program to provide much needed medical help to children with heart problems in third world countries, and computers were provided for school children at the Los Tambos School in Mexico.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Jim Brubaker. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

HONORING MONSANTO EMPLOYEES

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the employees of Monsanto who have played a major role in great agricultural advancements, and have positively impacted the lives of Americans and people around the world. I rise today to congratulate the employees of Monsanto who have gone above and beyond their normal duties and have been honored by the company's most prestigious award—the Sustainable Yield Pledge Award.

These outstanding workers stand out in the overall mission of the company. Monsanto has risen to the challenge of providing sustenance for an ever-increasing world population and has become a world-leader in advancing sustainable global agriculture. They have a vision to work with farmers to produce more, conserve more and improve lives on a global scale. This is all made possible by researching and advancing biotechnology to help corn, cotton, soybean and other specialty crop farmers overcome challenges and hardship. Monsanto is going the extra mile to produce enough food, fuel and fiber for a booming world population, which is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

The 61 Monsanto employees are prime examples of individuals who combined the vision

and values of their company. These award winners display the integrity, dialogue, transparency, sharing, benefits, and respect—all values promoted by Monsanto—and have paid it forward by acting as owners and creating a high-quality work environment. Through their efforts, lives have been improved in the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, India and Africa.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the following employees receiving a 2012 Monsanto Sustainable Yield Pledge Award for their positive impacts in science, agriculture and their communities.

Zellipah N. Githui, Nikki F. Davis, Elizabeth A. Vancil, Jeff Woessner, Agnes Adel Bolwell, Anne W. Troupis, Ken Rinckenberger, Jose M. Madero, Jose Jaime Mijares, Nery N. Echeverria, Jorge Christlieb, Gerardo F. Vaqueiro, Angela Maria Bastidas, Enrique Wehlen, Manuel J. Bravo, Andres Felix, Manuel Oyervides, Aurelia Skipwith, Kinyua Mbijjewe, Natalie DiNicola, Glynn Young, Kathleen Manning, Kate Humphrey, Darren Wallis, Raegan Johnson, Mark I. Sutherland, Lisa Bannon-Bergmann, Chris Paton, Juan Ferreira, Kobus Lindeque, Deborah Patterson, B. Yogesh, Hitendra Singh Rana, Shrikant Mallinath Patil, Sandeep Bansal, Datta Ithape, Nilesh Bobade, Rahul Haribhau Kapse, Shrijan Gupta, Nick Lammers, Steve Pike, Wendy Martin, Ron Gardner, Tom Good, Krystal Einspahr, Tanner Oliphant, Julie Edmonds, Steve Schaefer, Greg Erler, Marcia Rhodus, Patrick Siler, Jenny Backhaus, Jennifer Tarr, Debra Vohs, Theresa Fitzsimmons, Scott Middelkamp, Andrew Jeremiah, Jason Huelsing, Jeff Hughes, Greg High, and Oseyi Ikuenobe.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these exceptional Monsanto employees for their extraordinary work and thank them for the impact they have had, and will continue to have, worldwide.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3541, which should be called the Straw Man Act of 2012.

Our first priorities in the House of Representatives must be helping to foster job creation and supporting middle class families.

Instead, the Republicans once again have chosen to continue their radical assault on women's health care in the guise of preventing gender discrimination in abortion.

I am concerned about gender discrimination. That is why I support legislation that will address gender bias like the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the health reform law that will give women access to preventative health care.

Unlike those bills, H.R. 3541 does nothing to address sex discrimination or gender bias in society, but instead would punish health care providers for performing a legal medical procedure.

Offensively, this bill would create a right for a woman's husband or family member to sue to stop her from obtaining abortion care, which is a constitutionally protected right.

Besides being misguided and offensive, H.R. 3541 is dangerous. This bill would give the federal government the right to inspect people's medical records and interfere with a private doctor-patient relationship.

I oppose this anti-choice and anti-woman bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this offensive, misguided and dangerous piece of legislation and would encourage them to support authentic pieces of legislation that address gender discrimination.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON "REPUBLIC DAY"

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 94th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. I am proud extremely that we have established what Secretary Clinton has called "deep, important, and durable bonds between the United States and Azerbaijan."

Although located in a geopolitically dynamic region sandwiched between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular county with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home for over a millennia to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by both the Clinton and George W. Bush Administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region. Exporting around 1 million barrels of oil and gas from the Caspian Sea basin to international markets, Azerbaijan also provides nearly 40 percent of all crude oil supplies to Israel. Additionally, the successful launch and continued exploration of the Shah Deniz project will open up the Southern Gas Corridor delivering alternative gas supplies to Europe, further contributing towards a movement away from dependence on Middle Eastern Oil and energy suppliers.

Azerbaijan has also continued to take steps to ensure the strength and security of its infrastructure in a tumultuous region. The completion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad connection expected in early 2013, expansion of cargo and passenger terminal of the Baku international airport, and construction of the brand new Baku International Sea Trade Port all are key contributors to Azerbaijan's increasing role as a transportation hub in the region linking European and Asian markets.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9–11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important over-flight clearances of U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities providing ground and naval transit for roughly 40 percent of the Coalitions supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 94th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 50 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

TRAGEDY ON THE HIGHWAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because of a terrible tragedy that occurred in my Congressional district nearly 6 years ago.

In 2006, the City of Beaumont was still recovering from Hurricane Rita. The West Brook High School girl's soccer team and their successes were good news that brought joy to a city in need of something to cheer for.

The Bruins were coming off a 14–5–2 record, and they were traveling to Humble, Texas, to take on the Houston Lamar Redskins in the Class 5A playoffs.

The game had already been postponed once and it was raining again, but the game was set to take place at 5 p.m. in Humble.

Unfortunately, the team never made it to the game.

Around 2 p.m., about 28 miles from home in Devers, Texas, the chartered bus carrying the team, swerved to miss debris that had fallen off a truck in front of them.

The bus rolled onto its side into a muddy ditch.

Senior Alicia Bonura and sophomore Ashley Brown lost their lives in this tragedy.

Six other girls were hospitalized in serious condition. Goalie Devin Martindale lost her arm in this accident.

Stephen Forman and Brad Brown, parents of two of the victims of the accident are here today and I would like to thank them for their work on this issue.

Because of this accident, I became involved in the Motorcoach safe issue, and I was happy to work with my colleague Rep. JOHN LEWIS (GA) to push for some common-sense provisions in the Transportation bill to apply to the Motorcoach industry so that another West Brook tragedy can be avoided.

These provisions are:

1. Requiring safety belts to ensure that occupants stay in their seats in a crash.
2. Requiring anti-ejection glazing on windows to help prevent passengers from being easily thrown from the motorcoach.
3. Ensuring that strong, crush-resistant roofs can withstand rollovers.
4. Improving oversight and enforcement requirements for motorcoach companies.

I strongly believe that these long overdue safety improvements can go a long way in making our nations buses safer.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER FELDMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Esther Feldman, President of Community Conservation Solutions, in recognition of her outstanding achievements as one of the most effective conservation leaders in California.

Under her leadership, Community Conservation Solutions, CCS, has worked to solve the complex and challenging problems that emerge wherever people and nature meet. CCS creates innovative and practical solutions to serious environmental problems affecting California's natural and human communities.

Esther Feldman is one of California's most valued conservation leaders. For nearly three decades, she has worked continuously to protect the environment for future generations. Her technical, financial, community and policy expertise combined with her great organizing ability has led to countless victories for conservation. Nearly every park, wilderness area, river, beach or trail in Los Angeles County has benefited from Esther's work. Esther's ability to unite diverse interests for a common goal created new parks and open space, and established over \$3 billion dollars in new public funding sources to further expand conservation in California and throughout the United States.

Since founding CCS in 1998, Esther has built the organization into a leader in conserving natural lands and water resources and in working with communities. Under Esther's visionary leadership, CCS conceived of and spearheaded the two-square mile Baldwin Hills Park Project in the heart of urban Los Angeles, launched wetland restoration efforts in Upper Newport Bay, and has developed new project and funding approaches to creatively solving polluted runoff problems through CCS's Water Quality Improvement and Green Solution Projects as well as working on multiple projects of vital importance across my district in the San Fernando Valley.

Esther is known for being pragmatic and for her proficiency at acquiring funding to guarantee the longevity of the projects she directs. This has translated into a long list of successful outcomes and lasting public and environmental benefits.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Esther Feldman for her invaluable service and dedication to the community and the environment.

IN COMMEMORATION OF MUSIC
LEGEND CHUCK BROWN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this bitter sweet occasion. My heart goes out to Chuck's family and friends, too numerous to mention, and the City of Washington, DC that mourns with you.

I could not let this moment pass without saying a few words about a man who was a great artist, consummate professional and wonderful man. I have been a public servant for 30 years and I truly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. Chuck Brown is the ultimate example of that statement.

Chuck believed in giving back to the community. He inspired young people through his mentoring efforts and positive music. His brand of "Go-Go" inspired generations of musicians. Over the past six years I have gained firsthand knowledge of the versatility and vastness of his works as he has performed for me and my colleagues at events surrounding the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference as well as the historic inauguration of our current president, President Barack Obama. At each program the crowds double in capacity making his performance one of the signature events.

I will tell you a funny story about how I discovered Chuck Brown's music. My long time friend and scheduler Darla Smallwood-Wran suggested I consider a local artist for entertainment during an event I host during an annual conference. She played the music for me over the computer and I liked it. Being from Florida, I had never heard of "Go-Go". I was so excited about what I heard that I began to tell my colleagues and friends I was having Chuck Berry performing at my event! My staff quickly corrected me and we all had a good laugh. Then I went to the event and I was filled with the warmth and love of his music and his character. He was always reliable, always professional and he always turned the party out. The only thing he asked in return was to take care of the "family" and the band that travelled with him.

Chuck Brown was the sound of the people. His music transcended generations weaving the best elements of Black music into a sound that called to our African ancestry. Jazz, funk, soul, blues, Latin and African rhythms—Chuck took that new sound with its familiar notes that called to the soul of our people and he called it "Go-Go". He wrapped it up and gifted it to DC and it has been the sound track of the people of DC for more than 30 years.

He was deeply loved and he will be sorely missed. I know, through my faith, that this is a time to rejoice because he has gone home to be with the Father where there is no more pain and suffering. God Bless you all.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Congresswomen DEGETTE and SLAUGHTER, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus and our colleagues for standing up for women's health today.

As a Member of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus and Health Care Task Force Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3541.

This bill would do nothing more than lead to the further stigmatization of women—especially Asian-Pacific American women—who seek to exercise their constitutional rights to an abortion.

It is clear that Republicans are not serious about addressing the very real issues of gender discrimination that persist in this country.

Supporters of this bill are exploiting serious issues like racism and sexism to forward their goal of making all abortion illegal.

And we already know that attempts to restrict or deny access to safe abortions is harmful to women's health and would ultimately take us back to the days of back alley abortions.

If this bill passes it would forever change the doctor-patient relationship as we know it, by casting suspicion on doctors that serve communities facing the greatest health disparities—many of which are minority communities.

And this is why the bill is opposed by some 100 organizations, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Public Health Association and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

If supporters are serious about advancing the real interests of women, I urge them to vote no on this bill.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Mem-

bers of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories:

MY GRANDMOTHER ARAXI

This story is dedicated to my children so they may always remember their family heritage. It is in memory of my grandfather and grandmother, Garabed and Araxi Kechbouladian. This is my way to honor them and to immortalize my grandmother's legacy.

My "Nana," Araxi, was born in Zeitoun, in 1914, around the time of the Armenian Genocide. My "Dede," Garabed, was born there as well. He died in the 1960's and my Nana lived with us in Germany until the day she died. One of my most vivid memories of her is her singing a particular song. She used to sing this song often. It is called "Yeraz" which means dream. I remember the first verse word for word. It goes like this, "Yes lehsezy me anoush zain, eem zerahzadz mor mod ehr. Paylez neshoul ouraghoutyan. Payz absos vor yeraz ehr." It means, "I heard a sweet voice. It was my mother's. It was a gleam of joy. But, unfortunately, it was just a dream." My grandmother would sing it when she was cooking or doing chores. She would cry every time she sang this song. She had never known her mother and her father. Their names were Neshan and Vartouhy Shanlian.

Nobody knows what really happened to my great grandparents. All my grandmother would tell is that she was about a year old, perhaps a little older, when she was taken to a German orphanage in Lebanon, located somewhere between the cities of Sour and Saida. She thought that it was called Ghazir. She had heard many stories growing up and she believed that her parents were either killed during the massacre, in 1915, or died during the deportation. If the Armenians were not massacred, they were ordered by the Turks to leave their lands and march through the deserts towards Syria. Those marches were called death marches because many perished of dehydration, starvation, and exhaustion. If the march did not kill them, they were going to be killed eventually. This must have been my great grandparents' fate. As for my grandmother, she must have been kept by other Armenians. Eventually, she was given to the Germans who were gathering up orphans at that time.

My great grandparents had seven children. Only four of them survived, my grandmother being the youngest one. Their names were Flora, Maritza, Bedros, Stepan, Hagop, Avedis, and my grandmother Araxi. The siblings surviving the Genocide were Maritza, Avedis, and Hagop. However, my grandmother grew up separated from them in the German-run orphanage. She was found by Badvely Aharonian, a pastor and family friend of the Shanlians. Badvely Aharonian's mission was to seek out and reunite children and family members who were displaced during the deportation. My grandmother was about 11-years-old when the Badvely found her. The only way he recognized my "Nana" was by the name plate that was hung on my then infant grandmother's neck displaying her full name. This was recorded in the orphanage and was the only proof of her family lineage. She was taken to Cypress where she was reunited with her sister Maritza and her brother Avedis. Her brother Hagop had immigrated to France by then and she never got to meet him. It is not known how her brothers, Bedros and Stepan, died. However, the story of her sister, Flora, and the way she died, was well-known and talked about many decades later in the Zeitounzy community.

When my grandmother had her first child, a daughter, her mother-in-law requested that

she be named Flora, after my grandmother's courageous sister. Flora was very beautiful people told my grandmother. She must have been the oldest, or one of the older ones, as she was married to a doctor and had a child by the time of the massacre. Her husband was arrested and most probably killed soon after. The Turks asked her to convert so that she could become a wife to one of them. They would have spared her and her child if she agreed. My great aunt Flora knew that she would be raped, tortured, and killed if she did not accept their offer. However, she chose not to give in. They must have been marching through a mountainous area. She somehow got away and jumped off a cliff into her death. Some said that she jumped with her child. When I was born, my grandmother requested that my parents name me Flora to continue her sister's legacy.

My grandmother was a strong woman. She continued to live in Cypress with her sister, Maritza, up to the age of 19. Then she moved to Syria where she got married and bore eight children, two of whom died in their childhood. She was widowed too soon and worked hard for her family. Eventually, most of her children immigrated to France and Germany. She moved to Germany with my father and mother. She lived with us for many years and died in our house at the age of 81. Now she rests in peace in the land of the people who took her in as an infant.

It was a privilege to grow up with my grandmother. She was amazing. She was able to sing the German Anthem word for word up to the day she died. She had learned it at the orphanage from her "Mutter." She started her day with prayer and ended her day in prayer. She instilled in me great values such as faith and courage. I learned many things from my grandmother, Araxi.

I am grateful to my Nana for naming me after her courageous sister, Flora. I am grateful that she told me all these stories so that I would know about my heritage and never forget. I am grateful for her many prayers and blessings.

Here I am grandma, telling your story to the whole world! I love you, your granddaughter, Flora

TRIBUTE TO BOB MITCHELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my loyal district administrator, Bob Mitchell, in honor of his retirement after dedicating more than 32 years as my right-hand-man, my confidant, political adviser and tireless ambassador for southern and eastern Kentucky.

Bob Mitchell is arguably one of the greatest political advisers in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He understands the power of partnerships, regionalization and communication, yet never underestimates the importance of gratitude and humility.

His father, the late Murrell Mitchell, who served as a member of the Knox County School Board, as well as three terms as a Knox County Magistrate, inspired Bob's political interests and philanthropic heart. It is thus his courage of conviction that has driven his work to transform southern and eastern Kentucky and improve the quality of life in our rural region.

With Bob Mitchell at the helm of all district projects, thousands of families now have ac-

cess to clean drinking water and sanitary waste water systems, are protected by flood-control projects and live without the fear of yearly floods, have better roads to travel on, and have good-paying, stable jobs. He also helped launch and provide guidance to non-profit organizations like the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation for job creation, Forward in the Fifth for education, The Center for Rural Development, TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky to promote tourism, PRIDE for environmental education and clean-ups, as well as Operation UNITE in fighting drug abuse.

Countless organizations and political candidates have coveted Bob Mitchell's impeccable leadership skills. He has served on a litany of boards from financial institutions to non-profit organizations, and assisted with campaigns from county seats to Presidential hopefuls. His legacy will continue to flourish from the seeds of wisdom, hope and inspiration he has planted across our great Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and my partner, Bob Mitchell, on his retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Bob and his wife, Nancy all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEBBI FISHER AND RAINIER THERAPEUTIC RIDING

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Debbi Fisher, founder and Operations Director of Rainier Therapeutic Riding. Her work gives active duty servicemembers at Joint Base Lewis McChord and veterans in our community a facility for therapeutic riding and relief from mental and physical injuries.

Debbi founded Rainier Therapeutic Riding in Yelm, Washington in 2008 after nearly 40 years of riding and horse training experience. As the widow of a Marine Pilot and Air Force Colonel, and the mother of a son in the Marines and daughter in the Air Force, she aspired to use her skills to help those who have served our country. She has described horses and servicemembers and veterans as perfect companions.

Rainier Therapeutic Riding is now the largest provider of equine therapy to military personnel in the country, serving 75 people a year at no cost to the individual or the government. They work with the Warrior Transition Battalion and Air Force Medical Flight at Joint Base Lewis McChord to give those suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, and other injuries a place to rediscover a happiness for life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the work of Debbi Fisher and all of the volunteers at Rainier Therapeutic Riding. By giving back to our servicemembers and veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country, Debbi has helped many to vastly change their outlook and improve their happiness.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairmen UPTON and PITTS and Ranking Members WAXMAN and PALLONE for their work in bringing to the floor a bipartisan bill that provides FDA additional resources to bring new drugs and medical devices to market. These new resources will enable FDA to improve review times for new product applications and provide companies greater clarity about compliance requirements and their responsibilities.

There are many important policy improvements in this bill. They include:

A reauthorization of the user fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, as well as the creation of a new generic user fee program that will help slash current review times for these products.

A reauthorization of two programs that foster the development and safe use of prescription drugs for children.

New incentives for the development of antibiotics, which are needed to increase the number of products in the development pipeline.

Today's bill also includes the reauthorization of legislation I authored in 2007 that has helped spur the development of medical devices for children. The Pediatric Medical Device Safety and Improvement Act, PMDSIA, creates grants that bridge the gap between the people who understand the medical need—doctors and innovators—with the people who can help turn their ideas into devices on the shelves, like manufacturers and federal regulators. Since the grant program's inception, the five Pediatric Device Consortia established as a result of this language have assisted in advancing the development of 135 pediatric medical devices. Currently the consortia are managing 80 active pediatric medical device products.

The FDA Reform Act also extends a provision of PMDSIA that provided profit incentives for companies to develop devices for rare pediatric diseases. The original incentive passed in 2007 solely for pediatric diseases proved immensely successful. Today's bill strikes a compromise to extend this incentive for devices used to treat rare diseases in adults as well, while still retaining the incentive for pediatric devices. I urge Congress does not negatively impact the development of devices for children.

In addition, we will need to ensure that companies using this incentive and making a profit on their device because they got pediatric labeling actually continue to sell their device for use in children and not only for adults. The Pediatric Advisory Committee at the FDA will need to play a vital role in this oversight and in monitoring the number of devices sold for adult use as opposed to the number sold for pediatric use.

PMDSIA also included a requirement that device companies provide FDA with information on the pediatric populations that could benefit from a new device they are looking to sell. This was supposed to help FDA track

what devices are available for children and where gaps remain. FDA put out a proposed rule and a direct to final rule simultaneously to implement the provision, but it withdrew the direct to final rule after industry voiced opposition. The regulation has languished ever since.

The failure to implement this provision of the law has made it difficult for FDA to provide Congress information about the availability of pediatric medical devices and to identify unmet medical device needs, according to a GAO report. I am disappointed that this important tracking provision has gone unimplemented for nearly five years, and I hope that FDA will comply with the timeframe included in the legislation to issue a final rule implementing the law no later than December 31, 2013.

Despite these advances, today's bill is a missed opportunity because it fails to address a glaring patient safety issue that affects patients around the country.

Many Americans would be surprised to learn that ninety percent of medical devices are not required to undergo clinical testing in humans prior to being sold. Instead, most devices, including brain stents and hip implants, need only to show similarity to an earlier product to make their way to market.

Under current law, the FDA is required to clear certain medical devices as long as they demonstrate their similarity to an earlier product. This is true even if the new device is modeled after a defective device that caused serious injury or even death.

If the device is indeed similar to the earlier model, flaw and all, FDA's hands are tied. The agency does not have the legal authority to deny approval.

This makes no sense.

We wouldn't fast-track approval of a new drug that was based on one that had been recalled.

We shouldn't do it here, either, with medical devices.

This legislation was an important opportunity to address this medical device safety loophole, but it doesn't. The loophole remains in place and patients are still at grave risk.

Thousands of patients have already been seriously harmed by this loophole. Four years ago, Jaye Nevarez, a 50 year-old mother of three, was a healthy truck driver who earned a decent living, played in a band, and paid her bills on time. Then her doctor implanted bladder mesh, a device that traces its origins back to an older product that had to be recalled for causing serious injury and even death.

Jaye now lives in constant pain. She was forced to quit her job. She can't walk without a cane. She lost her insurance and faces a growing mountain of medical debt. The bank recently began foreclosure proceedings on her home where she lives with her 79 year-old mother.

Jaye isn't the first to be harmed by this loophole. If we fail to fix it, she won't be the last.

As documented in the accompanying report prepared by my staff—"Defective Devices, Destroyed Lives", several medical devices that have been recalled because they severely injured patients continue to be used as models for new devices—many of these are on the market and being implanted in patients today.

I introduced the Sound Devices Act, providing FDA the ability to protect the public from these unsafe devices, but this was not included in the bill.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. When it comes to medical devices we have an insane policy that makes no sense.

Despite repeated testimony from the FDA that the current law restricts their ability to assure the safety of medical devices, Republicans have refused to acknowledge and address this very dangerous loophole.

This bill must not be the last word on medical device safety. I hope my colleagues will join me to close this medical device loophole so that we can keep the American public safe from harm.

Lastly, I remained concerned about the mandatory clinical trials database that was created in the 2007 FDA Amendments. This registry and results database was meant to directly address issues stemming from a lack of transparency of clinical trials. Several high profile examples, including the drugs Paxil and Vioxx, gained national attention when their manufacturers were found to have suppressed clinical trial data that demonstrated safety and efficacy concerns.

Today, the website requires information about certain clinical trials to be publically posted on the database, but loopholes in the underlying law still allow researchers and companies to avoid publishing unfavorable data, putting human subjects of clinical trials at grave risk. To protect the public from potentially dangerous drugs and medical devices these loopholes must be closed to provide equivalent transparency of all clinical trials. I hope I can work with my colleagues to address this serious issue in the very near future.

A TRIBUTE TO KATIE JACOBSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Katie Jacobson of St. Charles, Iowa for being awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest award that a high school-aged Girl Scout can earn. This is an extremely prestigious honor as less than 6 percent of all Girl Scouts will attain the Gold Award's rigorous requirements.

To earn a Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete a minimum of 80 hours towards a community project that is both memorable and lasting. For her project, Katie built habitats for the bats in her community that are losing their roosts to deterioration. The work ethic Katie has shown to earn her Gold Award speaks volumes about her commitment to serving a cause greater than herself and assisting her community.

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

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STROKE MONTH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Stroke Awareness Month. As the daughter of a multiple stroke victim, I personally know how important it is for people across our nation and this world to be informed of the risk factors, warning signs and side effects of strokes.

In 1989, my father Coach Andrew Sewell suffered a series of strokes that left him wheelchair bound and with limited speech. If not for access to quality healthcare, I know my father would not be alive today nor would he have made the significant strides and advancements in his recovery.

With strokes being the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, as well as a leading cause of serious, long-term adult disability, it is critically important that Americans know the warning signs and the importance of early response.

African Americans are disproportionately affected by this disease due to our higher risk for diabetes, high-blood pressure and obesity, which are key triggers to the disease. African Americans have almost twice the risk of stroke compared to Caucasians.

This year alone, approximately 795,000 strokes will occur or one stroke every 40 seconds!

These statistics can diminish if we diligently exercise proper cholesterol management, blood pressure control, maintain a balanced diet and eliminate smoking. We must remain committed to providing quality healthcare for everyone across this nation.

There is no better time to stress the importance of Affordable Care Act and Healthcare Reform. The Affordable Care Act is the first step toward strengthening our health care system and is already helping improve the lives of so many people in my district, the State of Alabama and across this nation—including my dear father.

Due to the multiple strokes that has left my father wheelchair bound, my mother recently had to purchase a new van with an accessible retro wheelchair lift to transport my father. Without affordable quality healthcare this would not have been possible.

This law puts Americans back in charge of their health care and gives millions of American families better access to healthcare benefits and protections, which are so critical to the welfare of our nation.

Public awareness and education is vital to prevention and rehabilitation. To the families affected, like mine, who cherish every day with a stroke victim, let us stand tall to prevent this debilitating disease from affecting more Americans.

I applaud the efforts of organizations like the National Stroke Association and the caregivers of Stroke victims for bringing greater awareness, care and comfort to those affected.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP H.H. BROOKINS—CONCLUDES A LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins—widely known as Bishop H.H. Brookins—went to be with his heavenly father on Tuesday, May 22. He died in Los Angeles at the age of 86.

I first became acquainted with Bishop H.H. Brookins as the Board Chairman of my father's organization, Operation PUSH. He was a great preacher with a commitment to civil rights and economic and political justice on a national and international scale. He served in a variety of AME church districts in the U.S. and Africa throughout his distinguished religious career, and was known as an activist, a visionary and a great church leader committed to justice for all. He was an early supporter and played an important role in mobilizing the religious community in my father's two presidential campaigns.

In 2002 former President Bill Clinton joined a host of religious luminaries, elected officials and celebrities in a tribute to Bishop Brookins, the son of Mississippi sharecroppers who rose to become a Los Angeles and international champion of black political empowerment. The former President praised Brookins for his civil rights legacy and reminisced about the days when the clergyman ministered in a country church in Arkansas while he was the Governor.

Bishop Brookins became active politically in the 1950s when, as a clergyman in Topeka, Kansas he helped to implement the 1954 Brown desegregation decision and plan ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1965 he worked to quell the Watts riots. He was an architect of Tom Bradley's campaigns for Los Angeles mayor and, while working in Africa, was ousted from Rhodesia because of his work on behalf of the Zimbabwe liberation movement. In 1981 Zimbabwe invited him back for its first presidential inauguration.

Bishop Brookins was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio's Wilberforce University and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Payne Seminary. Prior to his election as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Brookins served as the pastor of the First AME Church of Los Angeles, California leading the congregation through the building of a multi-million dollar cathedral at its present location on Harvard Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Bishop Brookins is survived by his wife, the Rev. Rosalynn Kyle Brookins, pastor of the Walker Temple AME Church in Los Angeles and their son, Wellington Hartford Brookins and two stepchildren, Steven Hartford Brookins and the Rev. Francine A. Brookins. His family and numerous friends were at his bedside when he died.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAKS HIGH SCHOOL LADY WILDCATS SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention to pay recognition to the Saks High School Lady Wildcat's softball team in Saks, Alabama, who recently won the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 3A State Championship.

Pitcher Taylor West along with her teammates was able to pull off a perfect game to clinch this year's championship title. This is the first State Championship for the Lady Wildcats. They are lead by Head Coach Mike Tucker.

All of us across Calhoun County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these talented young Alabamians. I'd like to congratulate the team, their coaches and Saks High School on this outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2012 I was unavoidably delayed due to a mechanical problem during travel causing me to miss rollcall vote No. 296 on H.R. 915, the Jamie Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. TURNER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 294, I was away from the floor due to a memorial service for first responders at the World Trade Center Memorial in New York. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN DAVIS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who did not wear a uniform, but did lay down his life on behalf of this great Nation. Kevin Davis, of Houston, Texas lost his life on Christmas Day, 2010 at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan when he was struck by shrapnel from indirect fire. Kevin's chest and abdomen were hit and he later succumbed to his wounds.

Kevin worked as a contracting Warehouse man for DynCorp International, supporting our

troops. He was serving as part of the Army's Logistic Civil Augmentation Program in the southern region of Afghanistan. This civil augmentation program is the Army component of a military effort to engage U.S. companies in providing a broad range of support services for U.S. and allied forces during combat, peacekeeping, humanitarian, and training operations.

These services include supply operations, such as the delivery of food, water, fuel, spare parts, and other items. They provide field operations, such as dining and laundry facilities, housing, sanitation, waste management, postal services, and other operations; including engineering and construction, support to communication networks (IT), transportation and cargo services, and facilities maintenance and repair.

Civilians like Kevin Davis provide critical support for the men and women defending our liberty.

After Kevin graduated from Kashmere High School with honors in 1990, he received a certification in Paint and Auto Repairs from Houston Community College. He worked with the Metropolitan Transit Authority as a bus operator and auto body mechanic for 16 years. After working for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, Kevin worked as a civilian contractor providing support for our Armed Forces.

Kevin was also an active and devoted member of Riverwood Missionary Baptist Church. He is survived by his mother, Francis Murray, his sister, Taniesha Davis, and a daughter, Ashley Milburn. Kevin, like the many civilian contractors who provide support to our military, served an important function in the Global War on Terror and his sacrifice for America will never be forgotten.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this bill is the result of hard work by our committee. I especially want to thank Chairmen UPTON and PITTS and Ranking Members WAXMAN and PALLONE and I am proud that our committee is setting an example for bipartisan compromise and productive governing.

Contained in the FDA Reform Act is the GAIN Act, a bill introduced by Congressman GINGREY and myself, which is aimed at incentivizing the development of new antibiotics that will fight the serious and life threatening infections that mankind will face in the coming years.

The GAIN Act provisions of this bill represent a careful bipartisan balance that appropriately protects patient safety and responsibly offers incentives to innovative drug companies seeking the cures to our world's most deadly bacterial pathogens such as extensively drug resistant tuberculosis, MRSA, and others that we are currently ill-equipped to treat. Currently, we are unable to manage many significant public health threats posed by these pathogens.

While a widespread public health threat is in our future, some people in this country are

dying today as a result of drug resistance and super bugs. We hear a lot about the challenges of South East Asia, but our health professionals are confronting bacterial infections that are resistant to all currently available antibiotics.

Recently, the World Health Organization Director-General said "things as common as strep throat or a child's scratched knee could once again kill. Hip replacements, organ transplants, cancer chemotherapy and care of preterm infants would become far more difficult or even too dangerous to undertake" due to the rising threat of super bugs.

According to providers I've heard from, drug resistance is already a distinct problem in the front lines of our nation's health delivery.

For example, in one instance, a 15 year old girl got her ears pierced. Her earlobes swelled and got red. She went to the emergency room and was admitted for IV antibiotics. The infection was resistant to the usual antibiotics and she became septic and died.

There are many other cases in which minor injuries and simple procedures produce unexpected complications because of the emerging threat of drug resistance.

Because of the nature of this threat, I urge my colleagues as this heads to the floor and hopefully to conference, that no changes are made to the GAIN provisions to further limit incentives or reduce the list of pathogens. The truth is we do not know what the specific public health threat will be and once it is on top of us it is too late. We have to be prepared and part of this preparedness is getting our drug companies to develop drugs that may not be profit blockbusters but are necessary to help protect us from public health crises.

With the help of Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN, we have struck a careful balance. I strongly oppose any changes to the GAIN Act in an eventual conference with the Senate. I am concerned that any changes could create lopsided incentives that lead to unnecessary drugs or, alternatively, remove incentives and result in too few, if any, drugs.

I believe the GAIN Act as included in this bill, as well as the entire bill, are good policy. The FDA Reform Act deserves to be passed by the House and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 250, 251 and 252. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 250, 251 and 252.

RECOGNIZING DR. SHETAL I. SHAH

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shetal I. Shah,

MD, FAAP, who this year celebrates his fifth anniversary serving as Legislative Chairman for the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Shah is a lifelong resident of Long Island after his parents, Dr. Indravadan C. Shah, MD, FACS and Dr. Saroj Shah, MD, FACOG emigrated from India over 40 years ago. Upon earning degrees from Princeton, Cornell, Duke and New York Universities, Dr. Shah returned to Long Island as a pediatrician and neonatologist, focusing his work on caring for vulnerable and critically-ill newborns.

In his capacity as Legislative Chairman, Dr. Shah has provided thorough analyses of health care policy proposals and their impact on the welfare of children on Long Island. He has served as a valuable resource on important topics such as immunization policy, research funding for child health, and children's health insurance coverage.

Dr. Shah's expertise was particularly valuable during the 111th Congress as House and Senate committees worked to draft the Affordable Care Act. Guided by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Shah ably assisted my office in understanding the impact of the various legislative proposals on children's health, providing a local context in which to frame my assessment and support of the final legislation.

In addition to providing intensive care to premature infants at Stony Brook Long Island Children's Hospital, Dr. Shah's immunization research and subsequent advocacy work has resulted in the passage of two New York State laws aimed at protecting newborns from influenza and whooping cough, both of which can be life-threatening to young children. He has been recognized as a "Physician-Leader" by the American Medical Association, is a former Fulbright Scholar, and has been honored by the American Association of Physicians from India.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shah has been an ardent advocate for our nation's children and I thank him for his contributions to the policymaking process. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Dr. Shah on his accomplishments in the field of pediatric and child health and extend best wishes to him and his family on this celebratory occasion.

RECOGNIZING BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S ROBOTICS AND TECHNOLOGY TEAMS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Inspiring Leaders in Technology and Engineering, ILITE, Robotics Team at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia, for its outstanding performance in winning the FIRST Robotics World Championship.

Ninety thousand students from around the world competed in the FIRST Robotics competition. Battlefield's FIRST Tech Challenge team won the world championship title at the world championship in St. Louis, Missouri, this April, while the First Robotics Competition, FRC, team finished as a quarter-finalist. Both teams won awards at the regional and state

level prior to participating in the world championship.

I was pleased to visit Battlefield High School on May 21, and meet with students from the robotics team after their championship victory. Educating American students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, is critical to maintaining U.S. competitiveness, and I commend ILITE Robotics at Battlefield High School on their success.

The ILITE Robotics Team is coached by Professor Gail Drake, and is comprised of: Chris Blaylock, Gaelan Dean, Jon Gallion, Aaron Guo, Logan Hambrick, John Hitt, Jacob Hogan, Natalie Jones, Terri Jones, Joel Kaminski, Colin Kauv, Kent Komine, Jakob Kressel, William Lahann, Jaehoon Lee, Daniel Lopez, Jacob Maltbie, Joseph Melir, Alex Missar, Deanna Moser, Matt Moser, Sara O'Malley, Garrett Ormond, Wonsik (David) Park, David Powell, Rainier Rabena, Cary Reese, Melanie Sattler, Erik Seastead, Joanna Senseng, Clayton Shablom, Donny Shaw, Justin Shaw, Jordan Soriano, Evan Teitelman, Michael Toman, Logan Wilding.

ON THE OCCASION OF SUPERINTENDENT DR. JOANN ANDREES' RETIREMENT FROM THE WEST BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. JoAnn Andrees, as she retires from her position as Superintendent of the West Bloomfield Public School System (WBPS), which she has held since 2008.

Dr. Andrees' tenure in primary and secondary public education exemplifies the passion and commitment of a true public servant. Throughout her time at WBPS, Dr. Andrees has held many different roles in the system from being a special education teacher to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She has also served as a guidance counselor, Assistant Principal at West Bloomfield High School (WBHS) and Principal of Abbott Middle School and WBHS. With a career that spans so many perspectives within public education, Dr. Andrees has developed a dynamic and unique perspective that has given her the insight needed to design and implement many programs that have benefited not only the youth of West Bloomfield but also the broader community.

With her knowledge and leadership, Dr. Andrees has overseen the creation of a number of programs within WBPS. One such program that she created while she was Assistant Superintendent was a strategic plan aligning the curriculum of all schools within the WBPS system. Dr. Andrees also used her background in special education to create the Oakland Opportunity Academy, an adult postsecondary education program for individuals with special needs. With an eye toward providing all WBPS students with the environment to excel, she supported programs which have helped minority students close the education gap. Additionally, through partnerships she helped to forge with Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford Health Systems, the students of

WBPS have been provided greater academic opportunities in the fields of robotics and health sciences.

The results of Dr. Andrees' leadership speak for themselves. At a time of unprecedented uncertainty in our communities, she has guided WBPS to a deficit-free budget while leading the district's 800 employees. Furthermore, she has gone beyond good stewardship of WBPS and directly engaged with the West Bloomfield community to lead in the passage of a bond initiative to enhance WBPS' facilities and technology. During her tenure as Principal of Abbott Middle School, the school was recognized with a National Blue Ribbon of Excellence, the highest honor which can be bestowed for exceptional leadership in education. Dr. Andrees has received many other community awards including the 2012 MASA Winner's Circle Award, the 2012 Michigan Week Dr. Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Award and the 2012 Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Community Excellence Award in Education.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. JoAnn Andrees has not only been a leader for quality public education in West Bloomfield; she has been its staunchest advocate and in doing so, has worked with other area leaders to build a thriving community. I admire her commitment to the virtues of public service and I know that her leadership will be fondly remembered by the thousands of students, families, teachers and staff have benefitted from her work in WBPS and the broader community.

RECOGNIZING DR. FRANK BURKE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Stanislaus County administrator, Dr. Frank Burke, who turns 100 years old on June 19, 2012.

Frank was born June 19, 1912, in Denver, Colorado. He was the first child of Frank and Emma Burke, children of Irish immigrants who had fled Ireland's potato famine of 1846 and settled in Iowa. Frank spent his formative years in Oregon with his brother, Larry, and mother, Emma, who worked as an elementary school teacher in several small schools in the eastern region of Oregon.

Dr. Burke graduated from Gonzaga University in 1932, and after a variety of sales and merchandising jobs, moved to San Francisco. Under the urging of his aunt, a former school teacher, he enrolled in San Francisco State University to seek a teaching credential. In 1940, he married Dorothy Grennan and returned back to school at UC Berkeley, where he graduated with a Doctorate in Education in 1958.

Since 1939, Frank has had an exciting career that took him all over California as an elementary school teacher for Alturas Elementary in Modoc County and Mann Elementary School in Alameda County, to principal to assistant superintendent in Siskiyou, Contra Costa, and Stanislaus Counties.

Frank's final position was in Stanislaus County as the Director of Elementary Edu-

cation, where he was later promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Stanislaus County Office of Education.

Frank retired in 1975, but spent 16 more years supervising student teachers, working for Stanislaus State University as a college instructor, and working for the county office.

Frank was the recipient of Association of California School Administrators Region VII's Retired Administrator of the Year Award and continues to be very active in the Association of California School Administrators, ACSA, the ACSA Retirees' group, and the Exchange Club.

Frank currently resides in Modesto and is quick to jump into a discourse on improving education—providing stimulating opportunities to discuss new ways in which to help students learn and grow. Frank is committed to improving our community and is a frequent writer of letters to the editor of the Modesto Bee.

Frank was married for 63 years to Dorothy, who passed away in 2004. He has six children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Frank Burke for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. Frank serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an issue of great importance to the patient and provider community—the availability of critical diagnostic tests. On June 1, 2011, the Food and Drug Administration issued a draft guidance titled, "Draft Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff—Commercially Distributed In Vitro Diagnostic Products Labeled for Research Use Only or Investigational Use Only: Frequently Asked Questions."

As written, this draft guidance could jeopardize the future of personalized medicine and individualized treatment options for patients. I also want to note that when the FDA sought public comment on this draft guidance, the agency received correspondence from 54 organizations and individuals. Every comment received by the FDA expressed concerns about the draft guidance, and not one endorsed the approach.

For example, the Johns Hopkins University department of pathology surveyed laboratories at the university, and found that dozens of tests could be impacted by the guidance, including diagnostics for viral meningitis, and diagnosis of HIV infection in infants with infected mothers. Mayo Clinic indicated that certain important cancer diagnostics could disappear if this guidance is implemented as currently written. Public health laboratories, including those in my home state of California would lose their ability to identify and provide laboratory-based surveillance for diseases such as measles,

West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis virus, and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

When the academic community expresses such serious reservations, I believe it is important that FDA review and address these concerns. It is important for the Agency to work with all stakeholders, including the patient and provider communities, on a balanced approach before issuing its final guidance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5651, H.R. 4201, and H.R. 915.

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in tribute to the 94th Anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan this week.

Republic Day celebrates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the region's first Muslim democratic secular republic in Central Asia.

While that independence was short lived, from 1918–1920, the young Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan made tremendous strides, granting women the right to vote and laying the foundation for architecture and formal education for future Azeris.

But the new Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was soon occupied by the Soviet Union, losing the hard-won independence, and forced to become a republic in the U.S.S.R.

In 1990, as the U.S.S.R. crumbled, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the Soviets, ending a 70 year nightmare, but the journey to freedom was a bloody one.

In January 1990, referred to as "Black January" by Azeris, the Soviet army crushed peaceful demonstrations in the streets of the capital Baku.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament restored its country's independence for the second time in a century and weeks later adopted their Constitution.

A valuable international ally, Azerbaijan was among the first nations offering unconditional support to the United States in the war against al Qaeda, providing a safe transit route to resupply our troops in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan leads the Central Asian area in regional economic cooperation and is a key player in European energy security matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their friendship and in congratulating Azerbaijanis around the world on the anniversary of Republic Day.

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mount Zion Baptist Church in Charles County, Virginia on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. I would like to highlight some moments from the history of the church.

Mount Zion Baptist Church was first established by slaves in 1812. The original church was built on a parcel of land that was purchased for \$20. The church worshipped in this sanctuary until it was destroyed by fire. After the sanctuary's destruction, the church was without a place to worship until a new building was deeded to the Church in 1885 and a sanctuary erected in 1886. Mount Zion continues to worship in this sanctuary to this day.

Over the years, the building has undergone many beneficial additions including the construction of a vestibule, choir stand, choir room, annex, Pastor's Study, Secretary's Office, baptismal pool, central heating, and air cooling system as well as new siding, pews, and carpet.

Over the past two hundred years, Mount Zion has been fortunate to have many dedicated pastors including Revs. Silas Richardson, J.H. Harrison, William Sayles, E.T. Banks, J.H. Williams, James Lee, W.H. Gaines, Gandhi G. Hester, Daniel L. Adams, Sr., and its current Pastor, George Magazine. The Church has also been fortunate to receive the service of numerous deacons, trustees and other officials over the years.

Their leadership helped the church thrive over its 200 year history. Examples of this include the organization of the Tones of Zion Gospel Chorus, the Youth Choir, the Male Chorus, the Nurses' Aides, the Christian Education Department, the Missionary Ministry, and publication of "The Spirit of Zion" newsletter, as well as additional Worship Sundays and the Wednesday night Praise and Prayer Service.

As Mount Zion Baptist Church gathers to celebrate its 200th anniversary, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on the future with great expectations. I would like to congratulate Pastor Magazine and all of the members of Mount Zion on this monumental occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO SHELLY YANOFF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shelly Yanoff. For 25 years, Ms. Yanoff has served as executive director of the Public Citizens for Children and Youth, PCCY, and in the fall will celebrate her retirement after decades of service to her community.

Ms. Yanoff's celebrated career began in the mid-1960's when she crafted the strategy to save the "Get Set" day care program of 5,000 children in Philadelphia. She went on to lead

a rally in Harrisburg of 2,000 Philadelphians who insisted on more State support for neglected children. In 1987, Ms. Yanoff began her career as executive director for PCCY where she has touched thousands of children and their families through her leadership.

During her career, she has played a major role in expanding the scope and quality of services to children and their families in the region. Ms. Yanoff launched a child health watch in neighborhoods around the City of Philadelphia and taught families how to secure health insurance for their children. In addition she has advocated and helped craft the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, and continued to work on securing healthcare for the region's children.

Ms. Yanoff's long and impressive career showcases her commitment and service to her community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Shelly Yanoff for her work and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my additional thoughts on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issue raised by my colleagues Mr. BILBRAY and Mr. TOWNS.

The Research Use Only (RUO) and Investigational Use Only (IUO) products draft guidance issued by the FDA last June could result in serious consequences for the future of health care. Patients and doctors want access to validated tests that will guide and improve their medical care. The development of tests by laboratories and their validation and regulation under the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Act (CLIA) are part of a long-standing regulatory framework. I am concerned that this draft guidance, should it be finalized in its current form, could seriously disrupt this process and the development of new technologies and diagnostics.

Another concern about the FDA draft guidance is that manufacturers could be held accountable for the activities of their customers who purchase these RUO and IUO products. It is quite possible that the draft guidance will cause manufacturers to stop offering important components for diagnostic tests. And what would be the end result? Commercial, academic, and public health laboratories may not be able to continue current tests or develop new tests to help diagnose or prevent the progression of diseases and conditions such as cystic fibrosis, ovarian cancer, organ failure and transplantation, and identifying new infectious organisms.

The FDA must consider the potential impact of this guidance on the practice of medicine and patient access to new and existing diagnostics. The concerns raised by the health care community, including the American Hospital Association and the Association of Public Health Laboratories, should be addressed before finalizing this guidance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 294—"yes"; 295—"yes"; and 296—"yes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAN
DULCHINOS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the retirement of high school baseball coach Dan Dulchinos from Chicopee, Massachusetts. Mr. Dulchinos is retiring after fifty-years of coaching at Chicopee Comp High School. His accomplishments over the course of a career have been remarkable. Mr. Dulchinos helped create the Chicopee Comp basketball program in 1962. Under his leadership, the basketball team won a Western Massachusetts Championship. Mr. Dulchinos went on to coach the high school baseball team, earning over six hundred victories, including four Western Massachusetts Championships.

As a coach, Mr. Dulchinos excelled at teaching high school student athletes the fundamentals of the game. It is not just the decades of coaching that makes his retirement worthy of commemoration, but the impact he had on the lives around him. He has inspired many of his former players to pursue coaching positions, thus passing on the skills he taught to other generations. Mr. Dulchinos taught the importance of teamwork and instilled a strong work ethic in his players. The skills he taught his students over five decades would go on to help them become successful, not only in baseball and basketball, but also in life. Those who live in Western Massachusetts have come to know Mr. Dulchinos as a recognizable face in town, who regularly attends and is a strong supporter of local high school sporting events. While coach Dan Dulchinos may be retiring, his accomplishments and the lessons he taught his players will live on.

For these reasons I wish to recognize Dan Dulchinos for his contributions to his community. Congratulations again to Mr. Dulchinos on the accomplishments of his career.

HONORING THE FEMALE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM
RECIPIENTS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outstanding accomplishments of the women who were presented with the Medal of Freedom yesterday by the President Barack Obama at the White House. These women come from a variety of backgrounds, but they are all leaders, and inspirations for

young women across the country to become strong and powerful, compassionate and wise themselves.

Those honored have helped women's rights evolve over the last century. Starting with Juliette Gordon Low, who in 1912 registered 18 girls to create the first troop of American Girl Guides, who later became the Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scout movement brought girls into the out-of-doors, and helped to develop their self-reliance and resourcefulness. Today it is still going strong, and continues to be an organization that is accepting of people from all backgrounds, with a membership that has grown to 3.7 million girls. Although she passed away in 1927, Ms. Low's efforts are still being felt today, and her memory will continue in the lives of the remarkable Girl Scouts who serve their communities.

Madeline Albright was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in the years right before World War II. Her family was forced to flee with the rise of Hitler, and after a number of years spent in Europe, Ms. Albright found her way to America. While raising a family she was able to earn her Ph.D. and eventually work her way up to the position of U.S. Ambassador of the United Nations.

In 1997 she was sworn in as the first female Secretary of State, and therefore became the highest ranking woman in America's history. Ms. Albright broke into a male dominated world and rose to the top. She has inspired many young women to do the same, and truer words were never spoken when she said, "Only in America can a refugee become the Secretary of State."

Toni Morrison's first novel was *The Bluest Eye*. This controversial book brought about a frank conversation on ideas of beauty in relation to race and class. These kind of issues made people uncomfortable, and it was placed on multiple banned book lists. However, Ms. Morrison understood the necessity of speaking openly about these issues in order move forwards from them. She went on to win the Nobel Prize in Literature and continues to bring important issues to the table through her writings.

Pat Summitt has won more championships than any other coach in NCAA history. Even with a recent diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease she is still coaching, claiming that the players are her "best medicine." Outside of her tremendous athletic accomplishments, every single one of her players has either graduated, or is currently on her way to a degree. She is a true teacher and inspiration to all women and those suffering from dementia alike.

Mr. Speaker, we should all be proud to be fellow citizens of these women. I would also like to recognize the great Delores Huerta, co-founder of the Farm Workers Union who also received the Medal of Freedom. I will describe her contributions and achievements later today.

The significant contributions of these extraordinary women have influenced people across the world. They have shown us that it is okay to be strong and commanding, and that a woman has as much right as a man to hold a position of power. These women have influenced generations of people with their words and actions, and they truly deserve this honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOUNT WASHINGTON CRUISES ON THEIR 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mount Washington Cruises on reaching your 140th Anniversary.

New Hampshire is proud to be home to some of the most beautiful sights in the Northeast. The White Mountains and Lakes Region have attracted tourists from all over the world, and the beauty and grandeur of Lake Winnepesaukee has been shared with thousands of visitors thanks to the M/S *Mount Washington*.

The M/S *Mount Washington* is truly one of New Hampshire's greatest treasures and continues to be one of the state's leading tourist attractions in the Lakes Region and for Weirs Beach. The daily in season tours give visitors the chance to view firsthand the beauty and majesty of Lake Winnepesaukee. With the ability to hold 1250 passengers, the "*Mount*" has also been a popular venue for parties, weddings and various celebrations. Today Mount Washington Cruises is owned and operated by local individuals ensuring that this fine vessel and her operations maintain in New Hampshire and are run by New Hampshire's great citizens.

I congratulate the owners, officers and crew of the Mount Washington Cruises for their continued success and their dedication to maintain the great legacy of the M/S *Mount Washington* here in the Granite State. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

HONORING THE AROOSTOOK MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Aroostook Medical Center in advance of its 100th anniversary. The City of Presque Isle has proclaimed June 9th TAMC Day to commend the medical center's outstanding work on behalf of the community.

The Aroostook Medical Center began as the Presque Isle General Hospital in 1912. Established to meet the healthcare needs of the growing Northern Maine community, the hospital has since expanded to include top services and facilities in many Aroostook communities including Presque Isle, Mars Hill, Fort Fairfield, Caribou, and Ashland. TAMC is one of the area's largest economic drivers, employing over 1000 staff members and 60 physicians. The hospital is also a member of the Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems allowing TAMC to connect its patients with specialty physicians and advanced services.

Providing access to quality health care in rural areas like Maine can be a challenge for many health providers, yet TAMC continues to thrive in Aroostook County. The hospital was recognized nationally last year for the positive feedback it received from patient satisfaction

surveys. After receiving the award, TAMC went back to work on finding new ways to improve patient comfort.

On June 9, 2012, the State of Maine will express its thanks to TAMC for its many years of tremendous service. I am pleased to share in the celebration of TAMC Day and the 100th anniversary of the hospital's establishment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating The Aroostook Medical Center on its outstanding service to the people of Maine.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF CAROLINE OTTEN SHEA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tragically abbreviated life of an extraordinary woman, Caroline Otten Shea, who passed on May 11, 2012, at the age of 63. She was a loving wife, a devoted mother, a doting grandmother, a beloved sister, a teacher, and a community leader. She will be missed by every person who had the good fortune to know her, and I count myself among those so blessed.

Caroline Shea, a fourth generation San Franciscan, was raised on Potrero Hill and attended St. Theresa's Elementary School and Presentation High School. Caroline was a stalwart in her Millbrae community. Her door was always open to the children she loved so much and to so many others who were made to feel that her home was their own. Caroline was named Millbrae's Woman of the Year in 2004; served on the Millbrae School Board since 1993; was President of the Mills Booster Club; and the Mills PTA. She also served on the Board of the Meadows Swim Club where she spent her summers. She loved spending time at the beach with her family. She also served capably as Banquet Manager at Kokkari Estiatorio in San Francisco.

Her family wrote of Caroline "She was our diamond; the strongest and brightest rock in every situation, making sure everything went smoothly for those around her." This captures Caroline, and it is an eloquent statement about the loving, caring, selfless woman she was. Caroline said, "Remember, whether you are a teacher, secretary custodial staff, instructional aide, anyone who works with children—you do make a difference."

Caroline is survived by her loving husband James, her children Tracy Montserrat (Paul), Kevin (Christie), and Brian. Caroline lost her beloved daughter Kelly Gallo 8 years ago, and in her honor established the Kelly Shea Gallo Foundation. Caroline is survived by her adored grandchildren Mia, Chloe, Alyssa, Thomas, Claire and Kiley. She will be sorely missed by her sister Judy (George) and brother Pete. She also leaves nieces Jennifer, Mary Jane, Demetra, and Alexandria and nephews John and Mike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere sympathy to Caroline Shea's entire family and to the many who were part of her large Millbrae community of friends. Caroline Otten Shea's life was one of an exceptional citizen. As she strengthened her community in countless ways, she strengthened our country as well.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE
PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act.

I support this bill because any extension is better than no extension. We really owe our constituents more than a 60 day extension and we must pass a long-term reauthorization the NFIP. Last year, the House completed their work on a reauthorization. I supported that bill and wish it was the one we could consider today.

In our district, in Houston and East Harris County, Texas, the flood insurance program is critically important. Many of our constituents are required to carry flood insurance. The flood plain in our district covers thousands of houses and because of the topography of the land, the flood insurance program is the only way building and living here is practical. Without it, no policies could be written and no one would want to buy or live with such financial risk hanging over their heads.

I also hope that when we revisit flood insurance that we include provisions that provide a five year phase-in of flood insurance premiums for low-income homeowners or renters whose primary residence is placed within a flood plain through an updating of flood insurance program maps. This language, which was in the bill we passed last July, homes can be valued at no more than 75% of the median home value for the state in which the property is located. The Harris County Flood Control District implements new flood control measures by maintaining bayous, building retention basins, and implementing drainage features, but even the best flood control can be overrun by a particularly bad storm. This language should be included in the final bill that is sent to the President.

I look forward to working with my colleagues so that the next time we consider flood insurance we are reauthorizing and not extending it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, I attended a family event and missed rollcall votes Nos. 294, 295, and 296. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes. Specifically, I believe that rollcall vote 294, the Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 is critical to the health and safety of all Americans. It ensures that people have access to crucial medicines and medical devices, improves access to new and innovative medicines and devices, helps prevent and mitigate drug shortages, and reduces drug costs for consumers by speeding the approval of lower-cost generic drugs. Very importantly, the bill includes important provisions to help prevent and mitigate drug shortages

which have become too frequent and with dire consequences. These provisions include:

Require manufacturers of critical or life-saving drugs to notify the agency within six months, or as soon as possible, of an interruption or permanent stop in manufacturing;

Require FDA to expedite the review and approval of manufacturing changes that could help mitigate or prevent a shortage;

Require FDA to maintain a public updated list of drugs experiencing shortages.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DUBLIN'S DESIGNATION AS AN "ALL-AMERICA CITY"

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the city of Dublin for its designation as a 2011 "All-America City" by the National Civic League (NCL).

The NCL established the All-America City Award in 1949. Each year, the NCL presents this award to 10 cities that effectively work to find solutions to local challenges. Dublin was the only city from California to receive this prestigious award in 2011.

Dublin was recognized for its tireless work to address the challenges its residents face. The city improved its educational system by supporting the School of Imagination, which is a non-profit preschool that serves children with special needs. Dublin also focused on establishing new sustainability programs and implementing effective affordable housing policies. I commend Dublin's resourcefulness in finding ways to solve problems in the community.

Dublin serves as an excellent example to the rest of the Nation of what can be accomplished when communities come together to address common issues. It is my privilege to serve the residents of this great city. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dublin for receiving the All-America City Award.

CONGRATULATIONS F.A. "ANDY" LOWREY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, 2012, F.A. "Andy" Lowrey will retire from his position as chief executive officer of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank in Columbia, South Carolina, a wholesale bank and operations center serving nineteen retail lenders in the AgFirst territory. AgFirst Bank holds assets of \$29.5 billion dollars, making it the most well-capitalized bank headquartered in the Columbia area. Due to his outstanding leadership, I would like to recognize Andy for his hard work and dedication over the past fourteen years.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, Andy remains very active within the Columbia and Midlands communities. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Business Partnership Foundation and resides as

Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Education Foundation at the University of South Carolina. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia. Andy is also a recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree and serves as chairman of the Finance Committee for the National 4-H Council.

Andy Lowrey graduated in 1974 from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business in Accounting and received a Master of Business Administration from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina in 1990. He and his wife Jan Cromer have three daughters. I wish Andy and the rest of his family best wishes in the future.

PREPARING FOR WEATHER EMERGENCIES

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the devastating tornadoes that struck my home state of Alabama on April 27, 2011 taught all of us important lessons about emergency preparedness. Countless lives were saved because of the early warnings provided to citizens and the availability of community storm shelters. Our broadcasters performed a great public service by providing early and accurate forecasts about the coming storms. We have been working together to further expand this warning system through the greater use of weather radios and the development of technology to deliver mobile alerts by cell phone. In addition, we are working cooperatively to try to ensure that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can deploy the next generation of enhanced weather satellite technology in a timely manner. In Alabama, as in many other states, there will be tornadoes and severe storms. But with good preparation and emergency planning, lives can be saved and damage minimized when a natural disaster strikes. We cannot afford to be complacent and should never be afraid to ask the question, "What can we do better?"

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE GREAT SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR 150,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of volunteers at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, who are celebrating the milestone of logging 150,000 volunteer service hours in aiding the Refuge since 1982.

The volunteers of the Great Swamp, through their dedicated hard work, have made the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, a vibrant source of pride and activity for the local community. Although the volunteer program was formally founded in 1982, volunteers have been helping preserve the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge since it was

formed by an Act of Congress in 1960. Over the years, volunteers have provided a variety of guest services and assistance with maintaining the 7,768 acres of the Great Swamp.

Upon arriving at the Great Swamp NWR, guests are welcomed by the lush gardens near the visitor center maintained by volunteers. From spring through fall, the volunteers staff the Wildlife Observation Center, where visitors are introduced to the Great Swamp and all of its trails, paths and “must see” locations. Volunteers also provide tours for schools and community organizations, which educate students and the surrounding residents about the Great Swamp and all of the wildlife and plants that make it so unique. As another part of their very important work in preserving the natural beauty of the Refuge, they join the effort in controlling invasive plants, which threaten to disrupt the Great Swamp’s fragile ecosystem.

Outreach to local communities has always been a hallmark of the volunteers of the Great Swamp. They help build and display exhibits at libraries and off-refuge events. Through these displays they are able to educate the community about the Great Swamp and the value the Great Swamp represents to the environment of Morris County and New Jersey. They also spread the news about the Great Swamp by giving presentations to various community organizations. Volunteers assist in raising funds through planning of special events and ceremonies.

The hard work and dedication of the volunteers has provided \$3.2 million in value to the Great Swamp and to the American people. Their work on behalf of the Great Swamp has allowed the Refuge to grow into the one-of-a-kind educational center that it is today. Even though the volunteers come from all walks of life and represent all ages, their love of the Great Swamp and nature has built a close bond between them. Many of the volunteers have even taken another step in their commitment and have joined the independent nonprofit group dedicated to preserving the Great Swamp called the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The volunteers of the Great Swamp are truly the backbone of this New Jersey institution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the volunteers of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for 150,000 hours of service to the great State of New Jersey and the United States.

TO RECOGNIZE THE FIRST
ANNUAL MILITARY TENNIS CAMP

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Tennis Association, San Diego District Tennis Association, Naval Medical Center San Diego, and Balboa Tennis Club for working together to create the First Annual Military Tennis Camp for Ill, Injured and Wounded Service Members and Veterans. This remarkable event took place at Balboa Tennis Club in San Diego, May 16, 2012 through May 19, 2012, and brought over forty military heroes together to play tennis

while working to improve their physical well-being and overall quality of life.

Serving our ill and wounded military service members, veterans, and their families through a variety of tennis programs is a major focus for these outstanding organizations. Tennis therapy clinics are providing exciting benefits to participants, including improved endurance, balance, hand-eye coordination and weight transfer abilities. Additionally, by enabling them to learn a new sport, these organizations are truly improving the lives of wounded service members and veterans. Tennis is an activity that service members can continue to play when they return to their hometowns and will help them reduce stress and anxiety while also improving their physical activity.

Lastly, I would like to thank the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and private donors for providing all airfare, meals, local transportation and hotel costs for each participant. Taken together, these groups raised over \$40,000 to fund this great cause, and this event could not have taken place if it were not for the work and generosity of these great organizations.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing and congratulating the United States Tennis Association, the San Diego District Tennis Association, Naval Medical Center San Diego, the U.S. Olympic Committee and Balboa Tennis Club for the outstanding work they have done, and are continuing to do, for our nation’s heroes and their families.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo the comments of my colleagues, Representative BILBRAY and Representative SPEIER, and share my concerns about the Food and Drug Administration’s draft guidance on Research Use Only and Investigational Use Only products.

This guidance provides no flexibility for tests used infrequently, for example, to identify rare disorders. Rare diseases, such as Gaucher Disease and Fragile X, can be hard to diagnose, but genetic tests developed and validated by laboratories have made them much easier to identify. In some instances, these tests can point the way to successful treatment of the underlying condition.

Emerging public health threats are another key area that could be impacted by this guidance. Three years ago, this country dealt with the H1N1 flu virus, an emerging infectious disease. If another such public health threat became a serious concern, this draft guidance could block the development and deployment of new diagnostics urgently needed during a national crisis.

It is critical that the FDA consider these serious and valid concerns before issuing a final guidance on Research Use Only or Investigational Use Only products.

THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION
TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Earth Day with the slogan: One Billion People—192 Countries. During the celebration, people of different religious faiths in the United States and abroad participated, issuing proclamations on the moral imperative to be good stewards of the Earth and for action on climate change.

Since Senator Gaylord Nelson first introduced the idea of Earth Day in 1969 here in Congress and founded the first Earth Day in 1970, we have come a long way. An estimated 20 million Americans participated in the first Earth Day. Each year since, Earth Day has been observed around the world.

It is fitting that we remember that Senator Nelson’s underlying premise behind creating “a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment” was to heed the call to action. Just like 1970, Earth Day 2012 comes at a time of great challenge for our nation and everyone on this planet.

The climate is changing and will endanger the very future of our children and grandchildren. The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as a result of human activities will lead to extraordinary heat waves, storms and floods will kill many people and harm many others. This increasing toll of death and destruction will not be limited to developing countries. Tropical diseases will increase their range of infection and exact their toll in human lives. Prolonged droughts will threaten the productivity of even our nation’s agricultural lands. Ocean acidification will destroy coral reefs and the chain of sea life they support, endangering a leading food source for up to one-third of humanity.

If coastal ice shelves in the Antarctic continue to disintegrate, sea levels will rise several meters this century. At such a rate, many of the world’s great cities will face chronic floods and many coastal settlements will disappear. Large-scale human migrations in response to rising sea levels, food and water insecurity and other climate-induced stresses will impoverish many people and threaten our national security. An increasingly harsh climate will greatly endanger future generations’ life expectancy and diminish everyone’s quality of life. Mass extinction of species is a distinct possibility, leaving a far more desolate planet for our descendants than the world that we inherited.

This is not just an environmental or ecological issue. It is a national security, food, water, and quality of life issue. Knowing these potentially disastrous outcomes and knowing we can avert many of them makes this a moral and ethical issue. And it is why I am pleased that religious leaders from many faiths are willing to back the resolution I am introducing today that calls on Congress to take immediate action on climate change. This resolution calls for action on the part of the House to ensure that the energy, environmental, agricultural, national security, and foreign policies of the United States reflect appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to climate change, as documented by

credible scientific findings and as evidenced by the extreme weather events of recent years.

Many faith traditions proclaim our moral obligation to be good stewards of the Earth and the imperative to act upon the climate crisis. It is a call to our shared existence and our interdependence upon God's creation that transcends political considerations. By failing to act on climate change, we unjustifiably cause human suffering and death, which many vulnerable peoples are experiencing now, and which may visit our children and future generations.

It is a call to honor our moral obligation for equity and justice, which can be addressed by shifting to a sustainable, energy efficient and renewable energy economy that will create millions of good jobs and support healthy families and communities. Lastly, it is a call to protect the Earth, which is the source of all life. For, to disrupt the climate that is the cornerstone of all life and to squander the extraordinary abundance of life, diversity, and beauty of the planet is a moral failure of the first order.

I applaud these organizations and communities of faiths who have joined together to advance this critically important issue. I also applaud their commitment to be true to their faith by recognizing that we have a moral obligation to be good stewards of the earth and all of its creatures and processes.

I encourage my colleagues, to safeguard the welfare of the people of the United States by enacting policies that—

reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency;

shift the power supply strategy away from oil, coal, and natural gas to wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;

capture and store carbon by planting and greening urban landscapes and improving land and forest management practices;

help people of the United States and abroad prepare for and withstand the significant impacts of climate change that are already occurring and that are likely to accelerate in years ahead; and

support the prompt introduction and passage of legislation to achieve these goals.

Again, I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll-call No. 229, I voted incorrectly. I am recorded as a "no." My intent and purpose was to vote "aye," but I voted mistakenly.

HONORING EDDIE "THE POLKA KING" BLAZONCZYK, SR.

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., who

passed away on May 21, 2012 at the age of 70. Mr. Blazonczyk was a Polish-American icon who spread the beauty and joy of polka music around the world.

Mr. Blazonczyk was born the son of Polish immigrants in Chicago on July 12, 1941. His parents owned Polish music clubs in the city, influencing their son to play the accordion, drums, guitar, and bass guitar, and to sing in classic Polka tradition.

Eddie was so versatile and talented that he was signed to play pop music by Mercury Records, even making an appearance on American Bandstand. However, Eddie returned to his polka roots and founded The Versatones, one of the most popular polka bands in the world. Eddie and his band spread his unique Chicago Style polka around the world, introducing the fun music to people of all backgrounds. Eddie would become known as the "Polka King" as he opened one of the most prestigious polka music recording studios in America, Bel-Aire Recordings, in 1963. He then founded the International Polka Association in 1968 to promote the genre of music throughout the world, and is now enshrined in the Association's Hall of Fame.

Eddie played the music he loved with The Versatones until 2001. During his tenure with The Versatones, the band gained many honors including a Grammy Award for Best Polka Album in 1987 with their hit record, Another Polka Celebration. Mr. Blazonczyk was also awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in 1998 for his work in celebrating the art of polka music.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering condolences to Mr. Blazonczyk's family, and to thank Eddie Blazonczyk for spreading his art, his joy, and his passion to generations of polka fans.

TO APPLAUD THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS TO THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and to thank them for their contributions to the struggle for civil rights. The Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the United States, and its very name serves as an important reminder that we owe our freedom to the hard work and sacrifice of these American heroes. Each recipient is a shining example of quiet courage and unwavering dedication to equality. They have used their own personal talents to advance the rights of the disenfranchised, and for that, our nation stands stronger today.

Delores Huerta has spent her entire career in the fight for farm workers' rights and has fiercely defended marginalized populations. From promoting Spanish-language ballots for voters to securing drinking water free from pesticides, Ms. Huerta has demonstrated the incredible power of community organizing and is a leader in a class of her own. Ms. Huerta has made such a tremendous impact on the state of California and across the nation that I have dedicated a separate statement to her.

John Doar served as Assistant Attorney General during the most pivotal years of the Civil Rights Movement. He used his position to bridge the local struggles he witnessed in the south with the national efforts of the federal government. Mr. Doar is remembered for escorting the first African-American student at the University of Mississippi to classes as well as for diffusing an angry mob following the assassination of Medgar Evers. He also helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He again and again put himself in the line of fire, armed only with a call for nonviolence and justice.

Bob Dylan was the poet laureate of the sixties generation, and his lyrics will forever be ingrained in American history. Through groundbreaking songs like "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Times They Are A-Changing," Mr. Dylan coupled his talents as a songwriter with his visions as an activist. He never caved to outside voices or criticisms, instead remaining steadfast in his quest for truth and justice.

Gordon Hirabayashi was honored posthumously for his actions on behalf of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Mr. Hirabayashi was one of three Americans to defy internment, calling it racial discrimination. He took his case all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against him. Mr. Hirabayashi waited over forty years for the court to overturn that conviction, but he was not embittered by his struggle. Rather, he saw it as part of a greater mission to uphold the integrity of the U.S. Constitution and ensure that its protections are extended to every American.

Mr. Speaker, this year's award recipients are a personal inspiration to me as well as to millions of other Americans. They have all persevered against fierce opposition, not for their own personal gain but in defense of the core values on which this nation was founded. I would like to personally thank them and am pleased to see them honored with great distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE LOUIS AND BEATRICE LAUFER CENTER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Doctors Henry and Marsha Laufer and their family for the many outstanding contributions to scientific research and learning on the occasion of the opening of the new Louis and Beatrice Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology at Stony Brook University in my district.

For more than forty years, the Laufer family has demonstrated an unyielding commitment and tremendous generosity with their time, talents and resources in supporting Stony Brook University. Their influence and many contributions have made an indelible impact on the campus and surrounding community.

Dr. Henry Laufer is a former member of Stony Brook's faculty who won the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship and helped distinguish the Mathematics Department through his breakthrough work on complex variables and algebraic topology. Dr. Marsha Laufer is a

former speech pathologist and research associate professor in the School of Allied Health Professions who directed graduate student research, taught courses in research design and communications disorders, and is a founding member of the Friends of Staller Center Advisory Council.

The culmination of these ongoing efforts is the May 7, 2012 opening of the newly remodeled building to house the Laufer Center on Stony Brook's campus. The Center was established in 2008 in loving memory of Louis and Beatrice Laufer by their children Helen Laufer Kaplan and Howard Kaplan, Jeffrey and Barbara Laufer, and Henry and Marsha Laufer. At that time, Stony Brook University President Shirley Kenny praised the Laufers as "people of remarkable vision and generosity" and recognized the Center's potential to "explore new frontiers in research and education . . . have a profound impact on the future of biomedical research and health care for generations to come."

The Center brings together academic experts and students in math, physics, genetics, biochemistry, engineering, and computer sciences to advance research and innovation that will lead to groundbreaking discoveries in biology and medicine. The Center uses an interdisciplinary approach and involves collaborations among scientists at Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to provide an important interface between the physical and life sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have known the Laufer family for many years and am very proud to call them close friends of mine. They are a great source of inspiration, enthusiasm, and dedication to major advances in research, learning, and a better a way of life. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I congratulate the Laufer family for its generosity and outstanding contributions to Stony Brook University and to our community on this occasion marking the opening of the Louis and Beatrice Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology.

HONORING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
OF CARROLL SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Odyssey of the Mind teams of Carroll Senior High School for their winning the state championship in two categories this year.

Odyssey of the Mind is a widespread program for students that develops team problem-solving and creative thinking. Grouped into teams, students spend many weeks working on solutions to long-term problems which they then present at competitions along with a short-term problem and solution that they are given at the competitions. Odyssey fosters creativity by allowing students to choose from problems that each have multiple possible solutions.

There were 115 teams participating in the Texas state competition this year and Carroll Senior High produced two teams that won

state titles. Ann Dahl, Allison Newman, Braden Anderson, Christie Ballew, Spencer Lankford, Mackenzie Murphy and Jack Veenker earned the state title for Vehicular Problem-Solving and also the award for Most Creative team. The team was led by coaches Megan Anderson, Carl Anderson, and Shauna Newman. A second team, comprised of Jenna Buckley, Nico Scalzo, Emilie Featherston, Nathalie Scherer, Annie Newman, and Lindsey Weiss, won the state title for Technical Problem-Solving. Their coaches were Cindy Featherston and Micki Scalzo. In the course of their accomplishments, these students developed and demonstrated skills in creativity, dialogue, and teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carroll Senior High School Odyssey of the Mind Teams for their respective titles at the Texas state competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 30, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on vote No. 294 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5651, as amended); "yes" on vote No. 295 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4201); and "yes" on vote No. 296 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 915, as amended).

RECOGNIZING THE KEEP PRINCE
WILLIAM BEAUTIFUL VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of Keep Prince William Beautiful.

Keep Prince William's objective is to protect the environment. Through the implementation of six programs, the overall focus is on three areas of environmental stewardship: litter removal, recycling education, and water quality initiatives. The six programs include:

Volunteer Storm Drain Initiative, Adopt-A-Spot Program, Volunteer Speakers Bureau, Fall and Spring Cleanup, Litter Survey, Community Cleanup.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for Keep Prince William Beautiful:

Barbara Bell, Starbucks-Hoadly Road, Tawnia Jeffery, JoAnn Sherrill, Ron Haynes, Meagan Andrews, Vic Doppee, Delores Gee, Tina McCoy, American Red Cross Youth Task Force, Robert Duecaster, Antoinette Chaisson, Stanley Mahdi, Leigh-Anne Vaughn, Thomas Davis, Sam Shankar, Mary Johnson, Frank Simms, Ed Howell, Allyson Avery, David Mercer, Barbara Conrad, Eric VanNortwick, Minister Spann, Connie Moser, Richard Grant,

Linda Gosnell, James Faison, Gwen Bourke, Joel Contrucci, Randy Baum, Joyce Jolly, Ruth Baxter, Heather Abney, Mark Clark, Jim Hollis, Sunset Lions Club, Abdul Hayee, Jay Leach, Robert Mancini, Pete Mason, Sonia Wood, Gar-Field HS Ecology Club, Marie Vayer, Zoe Vitter, Linda Seemen, Marie Alarcon, Andrew Chung, Diane Puckett, New Life Anointed Ministries International, Brenda Jenkins, LaToya Boyd, Joy Weaver, Misty Hayes-Lee, Nicole Brown, Jacqueline Freeman, Kim Silver, LaLinda McMillon Street, Kelly Easterly, Board President, Delain Moyers, Vice President Connie Moser, Kim Sawicki, William Smith, David Brown, Susan Johnson, Anthony King, Donny Gray, Josh Clark, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Peter Lineberry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of Keep Prince William Beautiful and in thanking them for their dedication.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, there are few things that anger me more than when Members of this body claim that a piece of legislation will accomplish something that it simply will not accomplish. That is certainly the case with H.R. 3541—a bill that my friends on the other side of the aisle claim will prevent sex-selection abortions and will ensure that the United States does not become a supposed "safe-haven" for women seeking an abortion based on the sex of the pregnancy.

The issue of sex-selection is a very real issue in different nations around the globe. However, even leading international health experts in this field agree that the solution does not lie in criminalizing the practice, which would only keep it behind closed doors. The solution lies in addressing the social, economic, political and cultural factors that create, sustain and exacerbate sex inequality in the first place; the very inequalities that lead to sex-selection in the first place.

Unfortunately, this bill will not achieve any of the claims from my friends on the other side of the aisle and this will certainly will nothing to reduce sex discrimination and gender inequality.

What this bill will do, however, is to exacerbate the unfortunate impacts of sex discrimination and gender inequality by leading to greater stigmatization of women and especially Asian-American women who exercise their choice and control over their reproductive lives. And, there is nothing about that suggests or reflects any intention or hope of fighting back against gender discrimination. What this bill also will do is to restrict access to legal and safe abortion services, violate the very-important doctor-patient relationship and needlessly threaten healthcare providers with civil and criminal liability unless they report any suspicions they have about a woman's reason for exercising her right as a human being to control her body.

It is evident that this legislation has nothing to do with empowering women here or around

the globe nor does it have anything to do with ensuring that women who are faced with a very, very difficult decision have access to the safest care possible. More evident is that this bill is just another attempt to challenge *Roe v. Wade* and achieve an outright ban on all abortion services.

As a Member of Congress and a physician who has worked tirelessly to eliminate all health disparities those along racial and ethnic, geographic and gender lines I cannot and will not support any policy that I know will not improve the health, wellness and thus life opportunities of those who often are marginalized and on the down side of opportunity, access and privilege. And so, I cannot and will not support any bill that will not improve the lives of women and girls by expanding their reliable access to safe and appropriate comprehensive health care—including reproductive health care and by ensuring gender equality across all facets of their lives, from at work to in the classroom.

And so, I strongly encourage my colleagues not to support H.R. 3541. The issue of sex-selection is a very serious challenge, and serious challenges warrant serious, effective solutions. This bill certainly is not that!

We have a chance to stop in its tracks a bill that could worsen the health disparities that affect women, and that give rise to unsafe, often-lethal back-alley abortions.

Let's stop this bill; let's do so now; and let's go back to the table and develop a thoughtful bill that addresses the root causes the sex discrimination and gender inequalities that leave millions of talented girls and women on the downside of opportunity and hope.

RECOGNIZING THE MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William volunteers of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

MADD's volunteers in Prince William County, Virginia have increased public awareness of the dangers of drunk driving and the assistance families need to survive such tragedies. Volunteers organized a tribute to local victims/survivors at the Walk Like MADD event at Battlefield High School. Volunteers provided literature and displays at National Night Out Against Crime events throughout the county. Monthly volunteer victims spoke of the impact of drunk driving on their lives to court-ordered convicted drunk drivers.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for Mothers Against Drunk Driving:

Darlene Adams
Susan Baldassari
Laura Dawson
Whitney Manning
Debbie Sausville
Ann Taylor
Dorothy Waldron

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William volun-

teers of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community. These volunteers work to prevent families from experiencing the pain of losing a loved one to drunk driving.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Podiatric Medical Association on its 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1912, the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), located in Bethesda, is the nation's leading and recognized professional organization for doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs), and the pre-eminent trade association representing podiatric medicine and surgery. I am very proud that the APMA's national headquarters is in Maryland's Eighth Congressional district.

DPMs, also known as podiatrists, are recognized as physicians and surgeons, qualified by their education, training and experience to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot, ankle, and structures of the leg. The medical education and training of a DPM includes four years of undergraduate education, four years of podiatric medical education at an accredited podiatric medical college, and at least three years of hospital residency training. In short, Mr. Speaker, podiatric medicine is to the foot and ankle what ophthalmology is to the eye, cardiology is to the heart, or otolaryngology is to the ear, nose, and throat.

Podiatric medicine has witnessed a tremendous evolution over the past 100 years, and podiatrists are now the preeminent providers of foot and ankle care. On July 1, 1912, 225 charter members gathered at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago to organize a national association dedicated to the needs of practicing chiropodists. Today, what began as the National Association of Chiropodists is the American Podiatric Medical Association, home to more than 12,000 member podiatrists. APMA has 53 component organizations across the United States and its territories, and all practicing APMA members are licensed by the state in which they practice podiatric medicine.

It seems at times that many Americans may not think about podiatrists until they experience foot or ankle problems. But we should be thankful that we have the expertise of thousands of podiatric physicians throughout the country as focused and dedicated medical professionals, medical professionals who really do help keep America walking.

Within the field of podiatric medicine and surgery, podiatrists can focus on specialty areas such as surgery, sports medicine, biomechanics, geriatrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, or primary care. Podiatric physicians routinely perform comprehensive medical history and physical examinations; prescribe drugs and order and perform physical therapy; perform

basic and complex reconstructive surgery; repair fractures and treat sports-related injuries; prescribe and fit orthotics, insoles, and custom-made shoes; and perform and interpret X-rays and other imaging studies.

Mr. Speaker, an individual's feet often reveal indicators of that individual's overall health. The feet are affected by chronic diseases leading to decreased mobility and disability for individuals already in poor health. Arthritis, diabetes, and neurologic and circulatory disorders can all have an effect on our feet. Therefore, we must ensure that all individuals receive the expert foot care they need regardless of their disability status or expected longevity, and at all stages in their lives.

In a 2010 survey by APMA, 50 percent of Americans indicated that they experience foot pain and discomfort. The same survey found that those who had foot pain were much more likely to experience problems in other areas of the body. Specifically, 65 percent of Americans who were overweight experienced regular foot pain, 32 percent with foot pain also had circulatory problems, and 20 percent of Americans with foot pain suffered from heart problems. The connection between chronic diseases and foot pain is not coincidental. Foot pain, regardless of its cause, can limit the mobility of individuals and contribute to a more sedentary lifestyle and the onset of numerous chronic conditions.

Medically necessary care provided by podiatrists can reduce the risk of and prevent complications from diabetes as well as other diseases, while at the same time offer savings to our heavily burdened health care system. A recent study conducted by Thomson Reuters indicates that foot and ankle care furnished by podiatric physicians improves patient health and has a positive return on investment. According to the study, patients with diabetes presenting with foot ulcers who see podiatrists are less likely to suffer hospitalization or amputation than patients who had not received care from a podiatrist. Moreover, the study found that each dollar invested in care furnished by podiatric physicians offers the payer up to \$51 in savings.

In its first century, APMA has served the nation through two world wars and other conflicts; helped standardize and enhance educational standards; promoted the profession to patients and the public; and built lasting relationships with other medical specialties. The association regularly hosts medical and scientific meetings dedicated to highlighting and disseminating research findings and clinical advances in the prevention, detection, treatment, and the cure of foot, ankle and related conditions. And it continues to meet its clinical and scientific mission through its publication of academic journals and clinical statements on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of foot and ankle disorders; through providing continuing medical education in foot and ankle care; and through consumer education on foot and ankle health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the American Podiatric Medical Association on its 100th anniversary, and in recognizing its members' significant service and contributions to our country's health-care delivery system.

RECOGNIZING THE PROJECT
MEND-A-HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of Project Mend-A-House.

Project Mend-A-House volunteers are committed to improving the living conditions for low-income, seniors and/or disabled persons in Prince William, Manassas City, and Manassas Park by offering free home repairs and home modifications. Thanks to the dedication of its volunteers, residents can remain safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for Project Mend-A-House:

Ed Trotman, Brian Henkel, Linda Pulley, Bill Okuly, Kevin Tamai, Dean Quick, Robin Bayles, Ray Stuckey, Howard Horner, Bill Hoehn, Pat Wesley, Linda Wesley, Jon Ulm, Tom Smith, Scott Sells, Rich Beamer, Frederick Parish, Ernestine Jenkins, Janice Ross-Carr, Joseph Swetnam, M.A. Sargo, Richard Baucom, Jo-Ellen Benson, David Carr, Maxine Coleman, Kevin English, Lillian Garland, Beja Harper, Candi Johnson, Linda Leiker, Gloria Rouse, Andrea Savitch, Kathy Strauss, Michael Turch, Andrea Saccoccia, Karen Garvin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of Project Mend-A-House for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

LEADING THE WAY FORWARD FOR
THE NEXT 20 YEARS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance, a national consortium of renowned institutions of higher education that seeks to mold underrepresented students into academic, business, and public service leaders. The Alliance aims to prime young scholars from underserved populations for graduate training and professional apprenticeships through a comprehensive program of research, networking, and mentorship at critical transition points along their academic path.

In the twenty years since its inception, the Leadership Alliance has mentored over 2000 undergraduates who participated in a summer identification program. Over 53 percent of students enroll into a graduate level program—a number that is greater than the national average.

New York City's Columbia University has helped lead the charge in reaching out to these future leaders to help prepare them for professional life. In mentoring a significant number of participants in their Leadership Alliance summer program, Columbia prepared young students to enter a range of fields. I would now like to highlight some examples of the success of this program: Marcel Agueros, a 1992 summer program participant, went on

to become an Astronomy professor at Columbia; Amber Spry, now a first year Ph.D. student in political science, was a graduate of the summer program that received award funding from the American Political Science Association; and George Aumoithe, a 2010 Leadership summer program alumnus, currently researches the prevalence of HIV and the means to fight it.

These individuals are only a few of the outstanding cases produced by this model program. I am pleased to recognize them today as a testament to the importance of sustaining efforts to invest in programs that identify, train, and mentor talented underrepresented and underserved students. I am happy to proclaim the past twenty years work from Columbia University and the Leadership Alliance a resounding victory in this regard. I can only hope that the next twenty years will be just as if not more successful at reaching those students who have been historically underserved in the academic arena.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM
FOREST PARK VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers for Prince William Forest Park.

The volunteers at Prince William Forest Park give their time and talents to assist in many facets of park operations. Volunteers come from all over the country and from the local community to help with visitor services, camp hosting, park maintenance, trail work and much more. They greet visitors with a smile, whether they are there for a day hike or a week's stay in one of the cabin camps. They are the eyes and ears of the park, making sure that visitors have a safe and enjoyable stay. And most of all, they exemplify the mission of the National Park Service and play an integral role to spreading that mission, creating stewards for the future.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for the Prince William Forest Park:

Mac Kelly

Mary Ann Kelly

Mac Kelly Jr.

Rhonda Farmer

Jim Hurdle

Gloria Hurdle

Ferd Westermeyer

Betty Westermeyer

Ann Todd

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers at the Prince William Forest Park for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CANCER
RESEARCH MONTH AND ARKAN-
SAS'S CANCER INSTITUTES

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Cancer Research Month. In 2012, an estimated 570,000 Americans will lose their life to cancer, including more than 6,500 Arkansans. Sadly, in my home state of Arkansas more than 16,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed this year, and Arkansas has the fifth highest cancer death rate in the nation. That's why cancer research is so critical and why scientists and doctors work tirelessly not only to treat cancer, but to prevent it.

Arkansas's Second Congressional District is home to the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, a first class treatment and research facility at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, UAMS, in Little Rock. I am proud to represent the Cancer Institute, which provides care to cancer patients from every Arkansas county and many others from around the country and the world. UAMS researchers are on the cutting edge of treatments for breast cancer, radiological and nuclear emergency situations as well as identifying ways to stop the spread of tumors.

The effects of cancer research reach us all, regardless of whether or not we are the ones directly affected by this devastating illness. I commend the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and UAMS on their dedication to vital research and improving the lives of Arkansans and Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE SIX WEEKS TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE VOLUN-
TEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Six Weeks to Make a Difference Volunteers.

These dedicated families helped seven conservation projects from March 17 through April 28 at local natural areas. Many of the families helped at several projects. Through the projects, they improved trails, disposed of tons of debris, tires and invasive plants, planted over 1000 trees and bushes, corrected erosion problems, and left our community better than the way they found it.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for the Six Weeks to Make a Difference Program:

Adams Family, Aleman Family, Anwar Family, Babar Family, Bassett Family, Broadhurst-Bibbee Family, Butkus Family, Chiodo Family, Couture-Morales Family, Crespo-Galliver Family, Cronin Family, Darcy Family, Dinga Family, Donovan Family, Ehtasham Family, Glass Family, Goodwine Family, Gough Family, Gross Family, Hopkins Family, Huang Family, Hunter Family, Hylton Family, James Family, Jampole Family, Kaps Family, Kay Family, Kristy Family, Kromer Family, Kronthal Family,

Kulakowski Family, Makoge Family, McGeehan Family, McKinnon Family, McPike Family, Melusen Family, Menon Family, Mockenhaupt Family, Morris Family, Mory Family, Moser Family, Nielsen Family, Nieves Family, Norman Family, Ogawa Family, Phillippi Family, Protacio Family, Reedy Family, Rodriguez Family, Rosario Family, Saul Family, Seagle Family, Simmons Family, Simons Family, Thompson Family, Thompson Family, Thompson Family, Tilden Family, Verosko Family, Walker Family, Yoon Family

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these families for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH
MONTH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor May as National Cancer Research Month.

This month recognizes those clinicians, scientists and advocates who have dedicated untold time and energy to cancer research. It is imperative that we reaffirm our commitment to this vital research so that we can help the one and a half million Americans who will face diagnosis and more than 500,000 who will die from cancer this year.

Research toward understanding the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer has made remarkable gains over the past 50 years. Often through government funding, researchers at the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have conducted the innovative work that has been central to countless scientific breakthroughs and saved millions of lives.

So many major health breakthroughs for cancer or other chronic diseases would not have happened without federal support.

These necessary investments are at the core of why mortality from cancer and other chronic diseases has declined in recent years. A cancer diagnosis is no longer the death sentence it used to be, and the statistics are only getting better.

As one of the 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in our country today, a living statistic, this is deeply personal to me. I intimately understand the importance of strong and successful medical research, and I am so grateful for the hundreds of thousands of people working tirelessly to end this deadly disease once and for all.

As we work toward these cures, it is critically important that Americans have every possible cancer-fighting tool at their disposal.

Over the past 30 years our nation has been a leader in discovering innovative methods for the detection and treatment of cancer.

In the mid-1990s, it was a team of researchers at the National Institutes of Health who discovered the link between the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes and the risk of breast cancer. Now, women have more access to knowledge about their risks of disease and options for appropriate treatment.

The fight against cervical cancer is another success story. Research at the National Can-

cer Institute was pivotal in the development of the human Papillomavirus vaccine which protects against this disease. By June 2011, more than 35 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed in the United States.

We know that progress in research and treatment has led to increased survival and that early detection has the power to save lives. That is one reason that the Affordable Care Act has placed such a high premium on cancer research and care—from establishing the independent Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to support high-quality, cost-effective research initiatives, to the Cures Acceleration Network, which will speed up the translation of research from bench to bedside.

Continuing our support of cancer research will expand the toolkit available to clinicians to improve both individual health outcomes and also the health of our nation. Our funding for cancer research is a significant factor in reducing long-term health care costs and increasing economic growth.

On average, each dollar of NIH funding generated more than twice as much in state economic output in 2007. In 2010, federal investment in NIH research led to the creation of 487,900 jobs and generated \$68 billion in new economic activity across the country.

We must continue to stand behind the more than 31,000 members of the American Association of Cancer Research by continuing to appropriately fund their research into finding a cure based on developing the best strategies for prevention and treatment of this disease. Supporting National Cancer Research Month reaffirms our commitment to attracting and retaining the highest caliber scientists to fight this disease and spur future breakthroughs.

For all the progress we've made over the last 50 years, we must work together to ensure that we beat this disease for good over the next 50 years.

Cancer incidence is projected to nearly double by 2020, particularly among the aging baby boomer population. It has never been more vital that we continue to develop the tools to increase early detection and effective treatments, and ultimately, cures.

Today, millions of individuals around the world still lose the battle against cancer.

We cannot forget their struggles, and we must continue our mission and support cancer research in honor of their memory.

Working together we must keep up our dedication and vigilance to help men and women know their risks, discover cancer early, access the best treatment possible, and work toward eliminating this disease.

Let us commemorate National Cancer Research Month with a renewed dedication to support the scientists, clinicians and advocates to eradicate cancer once and for all!

RECOGNIZING THE UN-TRIM-A-
TREE HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM
VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Gift Program Volunteers.

Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Gift Program volunteers were able to pack the gift bags for over

1,000 children in one week before Christmas. These volunteers utilized the Santa Shop toys and donated gift cards to fill the individual wishes of all these children. To this end, the Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Gift Program was able to serve 6,019 children.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for the Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Gift Program:

Karen Raniford
Barbara Breyfogle
Kathy Wortman
Mary Hull
John Hull
Kathy Simmons
Peggy Jones
Stephanie Vogel
Susan Campbell
Peggy Shaffer
Karen Storie
Teresa Cosman

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of the Un-Trim-A-Tree Holiday Gift Program for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

THE FY13 NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I will not be able to support this National Defense Authorization Act. I hope that will change when it returns from the Senate.

This is only the second time I have voted against the NDAA. The first was last year. That bill contained a number of serious flaws including an overly broad provision that allowed the Executive wide latitude to commit U.S. forces to military action without congressional approval. Similarly, this bill contains provisions that I cannot support in their current form. It is unfortunate that the Republican majority has chosen to depart from the long-standing tradition of trying to shape bipartisan defense authorization bills.

The recently departed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mullen, said that "Our national debt is our biggest national security threat." He also made clear, ". . . with the increasing defense budget, which is almost double, it hasn't forced us to make the hard trades. It hasn't forced us to prioritize. It hasn't forced us to do the analysis."

In accordance with that advice, the top civilian and military leaders developed a strategy to meet our national security needs more efficiently. Recognizing that the Defense Department still has not passed a Government Accountability Office audit, they identified important savings without compromising our national security. That plan was incorporated into the Budget Control Act enacted last August.

In developing its plan, the Defense Department conducted a comprehensive review of force needs, capabilities and obligations. Difficult choices were made about which programs to keep and which to cut in order to maintain a fiscally responsible mission ready capability. In his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in February, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General

Dempsey, said of the Defense budget, "This budget will maintain our military's decisive edge and help sustain America's global leadership. It will preserve our ability to protect our vital national interests and to execute our most important missions."

Unfortunately, the Republican Budget and the NDAA violate the bipartisan agreement reached just 9 months ago by adding billions of dollars of unwanted and unnecessary expenditures to the Pentagon. At a time when we need to be putting our fiscal house in order, this excessive spending cannot be justified.

These are some of my specific objections to the bill:

I oppose the provisions that put limits on the end-strength reductions put in place by the Administration. According to DoD, the limitations set by the bill would limit the Defense Department's ability to reduce the end strength of the Army and Marine Corps as troops return home from Afghanistan. Since the Administration has set these reductions in light of declining commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan and in order to implement a new defense strategy which emphasizes a smaller and leaner force, maintaining excessively high troop levels will unnecessarily drive up costs.

The bill contains provisions that block the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft including C-27J, C-23, C-130 and other aircraft and the RQ-4 Global Hawk without including necessary funding for the manning, repair, maintenance and modernization of these aircraft. Additionally, I oppose the bill's insistence on maintaining a minimum of 12 ballistic missile submarines in the fleet because it limits the Navy's ability to manage the strategic force.

The bill authorizes the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the DoD says threatens funding for the maintenance and construction of other more urgent elements of the country's missile defense.

I also oppose the bill's provisions that limit the reduction of nuclear forces that the Administration says are necessary to implement the New Start Treaty requirements and to set the country's nuclear policy.

And finally, I oppose sections 1035-1043 of the bill which would constrain the flexibility needed by the Nation's armed forces to deal with evolving counterterrorism threats. These provisions pertain to the treatment by the military of terror suspects captured on American soil and elsewhere.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP) VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

RSVP is a federally funded program with over 750 chapters nationwide, with approximately half a million senior volunteers giving more than 81 million hours annually to their communities. Retired and Senior Volunteer

Program Volunteers work on many different jobs. RSVP is the nation's largest network for volunteers 55 and over. The volunteers tutor at eight elementary schools, provide literacy skills to adults, help with cultural events, are Red Cross volunteers, work with the Sheriff's office, and the Hospital Auxiliary, just to name a few.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for the Prince William County RSVP:

Marjorie Adams, Thelma Allen, Joann Amidon, Martha Andrews, Lynn Ashe, George R. Ashley, Louis Balboni, Marie Balboni, Joann Barron, Ruby Bellingier, Bertram Benson, Margaret Binning, Arline Blanke, Doris Bodwin, Misako Bonner, Carol Brauzer, Ann L. Bullock, Chester A. Burke, Jr., Kathryn Burns, Suzanne Burns, Linda Callin, Doris Caporale, Keating Carrier, Glenda Chambers, Nancy Chen Tsou, Noma C. Chittenden, Roger Chittenden, Cynthia Colborn, Phyllis Coleman, Gwendolyn Coles, Lillian Coney, Katherine Cooke, Diane Cooley, Iris M. Cooper, Ignatius D'Souza, Severina D'Souza, Marlys Daack, Ronald Daack, Anna May Davis, Annette Davis, Gretchen Day, Bobbie Dean-Henderson, Dorothy DiMartino, Betty Dow, Ardena Eanes, Lawrence Earl, Betty Edenhart, Mary Jane Ellis, Gillian Emery, George Fahmy, Bob Finch, Marian Fink, Claire Flaherty, Suzanne Fletequal, David Forcier, David Ford, Glorious Ford, Jayne Frelin, Joan Galvin, Lillie Garrett, Lenore George, Susan Gillion, Sidney Goldsby, Louise Goode, Ethel Gorham, Helen Graves, Beulah Green, Dona Green, Thelma Green, Alane Greyson, Ronald Grief, Sieglinde Hall, Joan Haneklau, Marion Harpine, Barbara Harris, George Harris, Patricia Harris, Carol Henderson, Iris Hodges, Margaret Hoeffel, Nancy Holland, Norma Holmgren, Patricia Hoyle, Elizabeth Hudson, John F. Hull, Elizabeth Irvin, Larry Jackson, Marina Jackson, Ellen Jaeger, Debbie Jarrell, Harold Jenkinson, Michael Johnson, Janet Jones, Charlene Joseph, Marie Kelleher, Margaret L. Kirby, Robert L. Kirby, Adenia Kitt, Frederick M. Knox, Theresa Koger, Martin Kruger, Martin Kruger, Wayne Kurtz, Terence Kuszewski, Miguelina Landrau, Therese Lang, Ron Lawray, Jane Lehman, Rene Lehman, Susan Levin, Patricia Lozinak, Lawrence L. Lum, II, Irma M. Machado, Donald Macintosh, II, Carolyn Maghan, George Maghan, Annie Mason, Mary McCabe, Dianne Metzler, Sadhna Minter, Mary Anne Money, James Moore, Leo Moore, Constance Mosakowsky, Sue Murphy, Ruth Natale, Ellen Newdorf, Martin Newdurf, Julie Nieves, Carol Ann Nolan, Clifford Nolan, Phyllis Norling, Carol Norsworthy, Susie O'Neal, Clancy Olson, Jr., Al Osborne, Nancy S. Osborne, Margaret Palomares, John Parker, Enola Peebles, Edith Peel, Dianne Peyton, Margaret Phillips, Joseph Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Joyce Pieritz, Kathleen Plutz, Jacqueline Potter, Velma C. Pridemore, Patricia Prochnow, Eileen Pugh, Linda Pulley, Wanda Pulliam, Anita Rasmusson, Sanae Richardson, Sandra Richmond, Charles Rigby, Mary Jo Rigby, James Riley, Valerie Ritter, William Ritter, Stephen Rodkey, Edward Roman, Mitzi Roman, Nannette Ross, Suzanne Rucker, Lianetta Ruettgers, Bertha Russ, Gwen Ryfinski, Anna Ryman, Mohinder Saini, E.L. Schneider, Andrea Schu, Joseph Schu, Violet Shannon, Raj Singla, Diane Skerrett, Trudy Slater, Sam Slowinski, Sal Smeraglio, Cheryl Smith, Ellen

Smith, Sandra Smith, Michael Somma, Penny Spatzer, Cyme Spicer, Sharon Steff, Anita Steidel, Ruth Storaker, Dyanne Street, Ralph Sutherland, Mary Sweesy, Helen Tang, Louise Taylor, Michael J. Timko, Lana Tobey, Alan Turner, Marilyn Turner, Ronald Turner, Wilma Turner, James Van Ess, Shirley Temple Van Ess, Patricia Van Hintum, Patricia Venti, Sally Vincent, Sherry Wagenbach, Claudette Warner, William H. Warner, Brenda Warren, Anna Mae Washington, Bea Wells, Helen Wells, David Whitman, Patricia Whitman, Eugene Whitt, Juanita Whitt, Pearl Wilson, Theresa Winiesdorffer, Sherri Wussow, Susan Young.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these dedicated volunteers. I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the men and women who participate in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. We all owe a debt of gratitude to these selfless community activists.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR
HENRY M. JACKSON

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, today would mark the 100th Birthday of Henry Martin Jackson, who served for six terms in the House of Representatives prior to a long and successful career in the United States Senate.

Since the day I came to Washington as a young legislative aide to Washington's other legendary Senator, Warren G. Magnuson, I admired Senator Jackson's dedication to the job as well as the personal connection he made to generations of our state's citizens. He set a high standard for all of us charged with representing the views of our constituents because he knew so many of them personally.

Senator Jackson, known to all as "Scoop," is remembered as a "strong-on-defense" Democrat, and he clearly was that: the consummate Cold War Liberal in the Truman/Kennedy tradition.

What many observers may not realize is that Scoop was also the longest serving chairman in the history of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee—from 1963 until 1981. As chair of that committee, later renamed the "Energy and Natural Resources Committee," Scoop Jackson sponsored or co-sponsored the 1964 National Wilderness Act, the 1965 Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Redwoods National Park Act of 1968, the North Cascades National Park Act of 1968, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968—and that was in just the first few years of his chairmanship.

His signature achievement—the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969—has been emulated by more than 80 countries. With the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, both Canada and Australia have embraced it as an example. The list goes on—from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Act of 1976 to ANILCA—the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act of 1980. During the Scoop Jackson era, there was more wilderness and more national parks preserved for future generations than at any other time in American history.

Looking back on history, it is clear that Scoop Jackson's greatest achievements

revolve around preserving and enhancing our natural heritage. These were achievements that flowed from his formative years in the Pacific Northwest and his understanding of our commitment as lawmakers to future generations.

Scoop also demonstrated that while politicians measure their lives in getting re-elected, statesmen measure their lives in getting things done. He stood then as he stands now as a profile of the virtues of taking risks and of putting service before self.

So on the occasion of Scoop Jackson's 100th Birthday I would like to submit a very meaningful and poignant remembrance of Senator Jackson written this week by his son, Peter. It was published in the Herald newspaper in Everett, Washington—the same paper that young Scoop Jackson delivered around the town in the 1920s.

[From the Herald, May 27, 2012]

SCOOP JACKSON NEVER FORGOT HIS ROOTS

(By Peter Jackson)

My father. When he was a boy, Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, who later became a U.S. senator and Democratic presidential candidate, watched a Fourth of July parade as an actor dressed like an American doughboy pitchforked a caricature of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Scoop was someone who survived smallpox. He was someone who first learned to navigate Everett's washboard roads in a Ford Model T. (He even got to see Roald Amundsen, the famed polar explorer and pride of Norway.)

It's ancient history, yes, but history just a lifetime removed.

On May 31, he would have turned 100. His example, work, and legacy rest with the city he loved.

In the 1920s, Scoop spent his teen and pre-teen years delivering the Everett Herald to speakeasies and brothels. He made friends that lasted generations, memorizing their addresses only to rattle off street names to their incredulous descendants decades later. All the while, Everett was a town, poet Gary Snyder wrote, "where shingle weavers lost their fingers in the tricky feed and take of double saws."

Today we recognize a certain gravity to place, especially in the American West. It shapes our values, cuts our attitudes, and defines our politics. Life in Everett in the 1920s and '30s was hardscrabble, but it was also anchored in a spirit of community. The city of smokestacks became Scoop's version of Norman Maclean's Missoula. To paraphrase Maclean, the world is full of bastards, the number increasing the further one gets from Everett, Washington.

Writer Tony Hiss calls the transmission of ideas and experiences through generations "the great span." The span has a telescoping effect, a reminder that the post-colonial American West is still very young.

Everett was Scoop's touchstone, the city of his birth and his death, the city with dirt under its nails. Scoop never boomed Everett's dishwasher skies or the throat-sting from the pulp mills. Everett and the Pacific Northwest were always, for him, a radiant place.

I still picture him in the flat light of an Everett winter, legs braced like a gunslinger, chatting up every millwright, legionnaire and housewife strolling down Colby. He'd gesture in the sky with an imaginary pen or rattle off the street address of someone's uncle or aunt, a number memorized during his paperboy days.

As a U.S. senator, he emphasized constituent services to such a degree that for

years after his death in 1983, Everett-ites would knock on my mom's door, asking for help with a Social Security check or a military-academy appointment. Mom would invite them in, serve them coffee, and gently explain that Rep. Al Swift's office would be delighted to help.

My mom, Helen Hardin, was the linchpin to Scoop's success. She was as animated and funny as he sometimes was not. She demanded that he smile and wear clean shirts. She breathed life into his unfinished work when, less than a year into his sixth term, he suddenly died.

My mom saw, as we all did, that Scoop's often complex political vision was rooted in a kind of Lutheran realism, a belief in the permanence of human nature and the impermanence of politics. For Scoop this translated into a uniquely consistent vision: Harranguing oil executives (liberals made happy, conservatives irked) while bashing the Soviets and the Fidel Castros of the world (conservatives made happy, liberals irked).

Implicit with tackling the big ideas was the notion of a long, twilight struggle. Political dividends don't yield returns for years, or decades even. Scoop shared President Kennedy's belief, borrowed from Dante, that "the hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who, in a time of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality."

Scoop was a believer in the primacy of ideas—big ideas. Over his 43 years in Congress, as faith in government whipsawed from New Deal optimism to Reagan-era mistrust, Scoop never yielded on government's progressive mission.

This meant big dams as well as big parks. In the process, he would embrace causes that upset or delighted a variety of interests, but he didn't weathervane or rely on a swarm of consultants to navigate his way.

Over time, Scoop became a politician and a statesman. Politicians measure their lives in getting re-elected. Statesmen measure their lives in getting things done. He managed both.

When Scoop, a nickname given him by his sister in honor of a Tom Sawyer-ish cartoon-strip character, was born in Everett in 1912, Everett was barely 20 years old. Both of his parents had emigrated from Norway. Pieter Gresseth, who changed his name at Ellis Island, was born three years after the U.S. Civil War. Scoop's mom, Marine Anderson, was slightly older.

For a time, along with Swedes and Germans, Norwegians were the vanguard of Washington's post-colonial settlers. The Norse were weaned and influenced by the Jante Law, a sense not that everyone is equal per se, just that no one is better than anyone else. Suck it up. Don't be a braggart and accept life on life's terms.

My paternal grandparents were part of the great Norwegian diaspora which, unlike other ethnic dispersals, never quite made sense. There was no political or economic disaster to flee. My grandparents received the promotional brochures brandishing the American West, and they bit. They discovered a near-identical climate and a land that blended nature with labor. After a time, they happened upon Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett and the stolid Rev. Karl Norgaard, who conducted his sermons in Norwegian. For them, the Pacific Northwest was Norway, only more so.

As a kid, I remember watching as my dad waved at ghost buildings downtown and conjured what stood before. He pointed to the pavement at Colby and Hewitt avenues and said that is where his father, a newly minted Everett cop still trying to master English, picked up drunks by the scruff of their work shirts and pitched them onto the back of a horse-drawn police wagon.

Many of us play the ghost-building game today. We point to the veined marble that hems Union Bank and say, "that's the old Friedlander's Jewelers." We point to the corner of Broadway and Hewitt and long for Sam's Western Wear.

From the time he was a Herald paperboy to his 30 years in the U.S. Senate, Scoop demonstrated that in life each of us can enlarge or diminish our roles. But to diminish the public sphere is to commit an injustice, a sin of omission.

Scoop was also a human being, and he'd laugh at any mattress-sale heroizing. Imagine an ordinary man who accomplished extraordinary things because of hard work, the vagaries of life, a supportive community, identifying good mentors, and marrying well.

Of course, there were things that as a son I never told him. I never told him that I was proud that he put the kibosh on Norman Vincent Peale's anti-Catholic bigotry in 1960. I never told him that I was grateful for his sponsorship of the North Cascades and Redwoods National Park Acts. Like many of his elbow-throwing constituents, I was skilled at highlighting his real or perceived missteps.

Decades from now, kids who stare vaguely (or end up pitching snowballs) at the newly unveiled Scoop bust at Grand Avenue Park don't need to know his name. Memories cloud and history falls away. All they need to know is here was a local kid, a child of immigrants, who worked hard, stayed true to his principles, and did his best to make his community and his country a better place.

They can do the same.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER PRINCE
WILLIAM VOLUNTEERS AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the stand-by volunteers and Board of Directors of Volunteer Prince William.

In the event of an emergency, these trained and capable members of the stand-by team step-up for everything from administrative work to caring for household pets and shoveling snow. The volunteers are at the ready and Volunteer Prince William could not function without them. They give selflessly of their time and energy whenever they are called. The volunteers are the unsung heroes, quietly working behind the scenes. Their contributions to the community and to our organization make all of us safer, stronger and more resilient.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for Volunteer Prince William:

Ralph Neeper, Nancy Neeper, Francis Daily, Jennifer Dailey, Debby Bruce, David Bruce, Denise Dubie, Julia Drake, Karen Bakken, Karen Lyle, Karen Wilkens, Margaret Flores, Nancy Bireley, Judson Bireley, Nancy Carney, Terry Richey, Trisha Fravel, The Fuller Center for Housing Northern Virginia, Vicki Smith, Pam Pandolfi, Debbie Page-Maples, Jack Maples, Connie Moser, Kim Kirkwood, Patricia DeSaliva, Dick Lee, Dick Abt, David Lane, Rodger Blinn

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of Board of Directors for Volunteer Prince William:

Mike Higgins, President
Gina Post, Vice President
Gary Hale
Dr. Mark Mason
Sarah Harrover
Nora Jewell
Eileen Pugh
Stephanie Ney

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers and Board of Directors of Volunteer Prince William for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

CHARLES D. LEMMOND, JR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart on the passing of former Pennsylvania State Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr., who represented the people of the 20th District in Northeastern Pennsylvania for more than two decades.

A native son of Hazleton, born on the anniversary of Ben Franklin's birthday to Charles D. and Ruth Zierdt Lemmond, Charlie grew up in Forty Fort, Luzerne County. He graduated as the president of his senior class. Charlie served in the United States Army in occupied Italy.

Using the GI Bill, Charlie majored in Government at Harvard College. While there, he excelled as the principal trumpet player in the Harvard Band. He graduated from Harvard in 1952, then went to the University of Pennsylvania's School of Law. He practiced law for a quarter of a century, serving as the solicitor for several Northeastern Pennsylvania municipalities and as first assistant district attorney of Luzerne County. In 1980, he was appointed as a Judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas by former Governor Dick Thornburgh. Presiding over Orphans' Court, Charlie used his knowledge of the law and an even hand to affect the lives of those who came before him.

In 1985, Charlie was elected as the senator representing Pennsylvania's 20th District, and he began a quest that would consume his 20-plus years in office—improving the quality of state government and of the judicial system. As chairman of the State Senate Government Committee and as vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Charlie focused on election reform, governmental ethics, and the penal system. As a member of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Reapportionment Task Force of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Charlie pursued good government and an improved judicial system. Charlie worked to secure the rights of abused children, to modify the workmen's compensation laws to make Pennsylvania more business-friendly, and to protect the tax-exempt status of charitable organizations. There was virtually no area of life that Charlie did not touch, from finance and budgets, to military and veterans' affairs, to education.

From 1985 until 2006, Charlie served the people of the 20th District—and of the Com-

monwealth of Pennsylvania—with integrity, honor, and dignity. Charlie served his constituents equally, without regard for their political affiliation. For his first few terms, Charlie had no opposition in either the primary or general elections, something that speaks to his character and his abilities.

Charlie was often referred to by his colleagues as "The Gentleman of the Senate." Indeed, in early 2000, when Charlie received an honorary doctorate degree from Wilkes University, Charlie was described as "a man of unblemished integrity and broad popularity, a political leader with virtually no antagonists."

But Charlie's selfless service extended far beyond the chambers of the Pennsylvania Senate. He served on numerous committees and boards of directors for community and charitable organizations. He was a life member of Wyoming Seminary's Board of Trustees, and an advisory board member of both the Salvation Army and the Penn State University Wilkes-Barre Campus. He was a lay leader of the First United Methodist Church of Wilkes-Barre, and over a period of years served in many leadership roles in the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church.

For more than 30 years, Charlie's family and the Naylor-Murphy family hosted a special annual tradition in Northeastern Pennsylvania—the Naylor/Lemmond Memorial Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Volunteers—including members of Charlie's family who had returned home—helped serve that free dinner, which brought holiday warmth and cheer to thousands of area residents who needed it.

Family was extremely important to Charlie Lemmond. He met his wife, Barbara, shortly after he finished law school. Together, they raised four children: Charles, John, Judith, and David. Today, they survive him and mourn his passing, as do his brother, George; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Charles Darwin Lemmond, Jr., represented the highest standard of public service. He stands as an example of professionalism, commitment, dedication, integrity, and honor to other elected officials at all levels of government. He leaves behind a proud legacy, and his impact on Northeastern Pennsylvania and the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be felt for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING BETTE COOK AND
HER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
USAID

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bette Cook on the occasion of her second attempt at retiring after 47 years of dedicated public service. Bette served for 42 years in both the Foreign Service and the Civil Service, working with USAID and its predecessor, the International Cooperation Administration, the Department of Defense, and SSA. Despite the fact that she "officially" retired in 2004, Bette has continued to serve the public at USAID as a consultant in the office of Legislative and Public Affairs and as a congressional liaison officer.

Bette began her career in development in 1961 when she was hired as Foreign Service staff at the United States Operations Mission in the newly independent Tunisia. Working as the American Secretary, she helped to manage a successful economic and technical assistance program that ultimately led to the nation's graduation from USAID funding in 1994. Leaving for Saigon in 1963, Bette was confronted with the rising threat of the Viet Cong as the conflict in Vietnam escalated, and she braved many attacks and bombings to carry out USAID's mission.

When she returned to the United States in 1965, Bette continued to devote herself to the many humanitarian and development challenges that Vietnam faced by joining the newly-established Vietnam Bureau. As a member of the Congressional Affairs and Public Relations Division, she devoted the next four years to explaining USAID's Vietnam programs to Congress and the public. She served as an on-air spokesperson, publicizing USAID's recruiting visits across the country to enlist people in what she called "The other war: The war against hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and disease." Her work was instrumental in emphasizing the promotion of development in any effective foreign policy.

Throughout her years of service, Bette has played a pivotal role in ensuring that USAID continues to deliver on its mission. She's known for her 15 years of skillfully managing the Congressional Budget Justification preparation and submission and for her efforts on the Hill to continually share information about the Agency's humanitarian assistance efforts. Additionally, her work has securely positioned development as vital to maintaining national security. I have fond memories of working closely with Bette during my days on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and I developed a profound respect for her abilities and commitment. Her dedication to bettering the lives of people around the world was always clear.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bette Cook and thanking her for her years of service and for her dedication to improving the awareness of issues that developing nations face. Her distinguished service has greatly contributed to the advancement and emphasis on development as an effective foreign policy strategy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FAMILY
PANTRY OF CAPE COD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Family Pantry of Cape Cod and its dedicated staff and volunteers.

The Family Pantry of Cape Cod has consistently provided such essentials as food and clothing to those in need for nearly 23 years. The organization serves an average of 900 families each month, making it the largest food pantry on Cape Cod, and has more than doubled the supply of food and services to those in need over the past five years. They do this not with a large budget, but with a very dedicated set of volunteers, embodying the spirit

of community and reminding us all what it truly means to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Family Pantry of Cape Cod as it continues to fight against hunger in Massachusetts today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 295, H.R. 4201, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL
LUSSIER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Lussier, President and CEO of Webster First Federal Credit Union, as he completes his tenure as Chairman of the Board at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Elected to the NAFCU Board in 2005, Mike has been a devoted and effective leader in the credit union industry.

Given the challenges the country faces in recovering from the financial crisis, Mike's responsibilities as chair have been particularly strenuous. Nonetheless, he has done a masterful job balancing his time as Chairman of the NAFCU Board and his responsibilities at Webster First Federal Credit Union where he first became President/CEO in 1990 at the age of 29. Originally founded as a Polish-ethnic credit union in the 1920's, Webster First currently serves over 47,000 member-owners in Massachusetts' Worcester, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk counties.

Throughout his tenure as Chairman of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Mike has been a tireless advocate for credit unions and the members they proudly serve. He has testified before both chambers of Congress on regulatory relief issues for credit unions ranging from member business lending to those stemming from the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation signed into law in 2010. Mike is also currently a board member of Mass Share Insurance Corp (MSIC) and on the board of Pentegra Retirement Services. Over the years, he has been a trustee of Becker College, on the boards of the Better Business Bureau, Rotary Club, local hospitals, and the American Red Cross. Mike is also a licensed General Aviation Pilot.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Michael Lussier as he reaches the end of his tenure as the NAFCU Board Chairman. It is my understanding that Mike will remain on the NAFCU Board in another capacity and I am sure his experience in credit union management will continue to be an asset to the NAFCU and the larger credit union community.

CONGRATULATING THE SALISBURY UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM ON WINNING THEIR 10TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 2012 NCAA TOURNAMENT FINAL ON MAY 27TH, 2011

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salisbury University Men's Lacrosse team on winning the 2012 division three lacrosse national championship with a 14 to 10 victory in the 2012 NCAA tournament final over Cortland University, on May 27th, 2011.

The Salisbury Sea Gulls join an elite group of Division III programs in NCAA history in collecting at least 10 national championships.

They became the seventh squad under head coach Jim Berkman to complete a perfect season with 23 wins and no losses. Also, senior midfielder Sam Bradman was named the Most Outstanding Player in the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season.

Salisbury University is located in the heart of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and is a Maryland University of National Distinction. I am honored and proud to represent them in Maryland's 1st Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUPUS
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, to recognize and honor Lupus Awareness Week. As Members of Congress, we need to do all that we can to get the word out about this little understood, yet life-threatening autoimmune disease.

Lupus affects 1.5 million Americans, of which 90% are female, yet no one patient experiences the same pattern of symptoms. In fact, a wide variety of medications must be used to treat the disease since the manifestations of Lupus vary dramatically from one person to another.

Unfortunately, many more people suffer in silence as they have yet to be diagnosed with Lupus. Many symptoms of Lupus mimic those of other illnesses, and symptoms can come and go over time, which makes diagnosis difficult. Consequently, an accurate diagnosis of Lupus can take as long as four years and usually comes after visits to more than three physicians.

But, through Lupus awareness month and other grassroots efforts to raise awareness, more and more people with Lupus are leading healthier lives and living longer than at any time in history.

Furthermore, researchers are working to better understand the complexity of lupus and

are making great strides in the quest for more effective treatments. Today, there are more than two dozen potential drugs for Lupus in the development pipeline.

Lupus is still complex and unpredictable, but with each day that passes, we are coming closer to greater relief from this disease. For this reason, I will continue to raise awareness and do what I can to secure the resources needed to build upon the steady strides already achieved in Lupus research and development.

THANKING OUR LOCAL BROADCASTERS FOR KEEPING US SAFE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the official start of the 2012 hurricane season. As we prepare for the potential disasters that could strike our city, I want to recognize and thank the men and women who put their lives at risk and work 24/7 to provide lifesaving information to our local communities: America's broadcasters.

Local broadcasters are the most important source of vital emergency information for all Americans and serve as the backbone of the public warning system.

Everyone remembers Hurricane Irene from late last August. Although it had been downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it made landfall in New York, the city and my district narrowly escaped serious damages. The day after Irene hit, there was no service on the Metro-North Railroad and flooding along the Harlem Line. New York City Transit employees had to pump water out of the 148th Street/Lenox Subway Yard. In fact, my district office is only half a block from a Zone B evacuation area. Thankfully, the damage to New York City and my district from Irene was minimal, but next time we might not be so lucky. In any such event, the invaluable contribution of our local broadcasters will be critical to our safety.

Disasters like these remind us of the essential role that broadcasters play in our communities. Local radio and television stations provide our local communities with important news and other critical information, such as emergency and severe weather warnings and Amber alerts.

Broadcasters' commitment to public service is never more apparent than during times of crisis. During an emergency, no other service can match the ability of full power broadcasting to deliver comprehensive, up-to-date warnings and information to affected citizens. Television broadcasters reach millions of households across the country, while radio reaches more than 241 million Americans each week.

As the 2012 hurricane season gets underway and local communities continue to face erratic weather conditions, I feel safer knowing local broadcasters are dedicated and committed to saving lives by providing critical news and information to our local communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vital contributions that independent, not-for-profit standards development organizations (SDOs) make to our nation's economy and Americans' quality of life.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), headquartered in my district in Quincy, Massachusetts, is a leading SDO. I am familiar with the work of the NFPA and other, similar non-profit SDOs through my service on the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Safety, where model fire codes and sprinkler standards developed and updated by SDOs were integral to the Joint Committee's state-wide effort to promote fire safety.

SDOs and the voluntary consensus standards that they develop are crucial to preserving the quality of life that we, as Americans' enjoy. From the safety of industrial machinery to standard interfaces for audio equipment, SDOs such as, the NFPA, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and ASTM International, have been safeguarding our health, safety and prosperity for over a century. Additionally, standardization is essential to the health of our economy. Uniform methods, specifications, and interfaces improve efficiency and reduce uncertainties in the marketplace.

The Federal government has repeatedly affirmed the benefits of SDOs. In his first term, President Ronald Reagan directed all Federal agencies to turn to private-sector voluntary consensus standards whenever appropriate, rather than developing separate government standards. In 1995, Congress codified this policy with the passage of the National Technology Transfer Advancement Act. This legislation recognizes the expertise of private-sector specialists, and their ability to react to emerging challenges more nimbly than their government counterparts. It also recognizes the value of a stakeholder-driven process oriented towards achieving consensus.

NFPA recently demonstrated this responsiveness in the wake of the tragic explosion that occurred during the final stages of construction at Kleen Energy Plant. Six workers

died and nearly 50 others were injured in the explosion. An investigation by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) revealed that the explosion was caused by the use of natural gas to remove construction debris from the plant's piping. After its investigation and subsequent safety recommendations, the CSB turned to the NFPA to develop a new safety standard to prevent such explosions in the future. After seeking input from numerous interested parties, the NFPA Standards Council voted in October 2010 to establish a consensus technical committee to develop new standards for gas process safety. Just 18 months after the accident, the NFPA committee issued a new industry standard to prevent future fires and explosions during gas pipe cleaning and purging. I applaud the NFPA for its prompt response to this tragedy. This is just one example of the benefits that standard development organizations provide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the important work that not-for-profit standards development organizations contribute to developing health, safety and environmental standards that serve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3541, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act of 2012. This is a cynical bill under the guise of preventing sex selection which would undermine a woman's right to choose.

Clearly, sex-selective abortions are offensive and unacceptable. But this bill will only interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. Are doctors supposed to interrogate women to determine their motivation for seeking an abortion? What other means must doctors take to ensure that they are not imprisoned as a result of this bill? These threats will only impede open, honest communication between women and their providers and undermine the doctor-patient relationship. Some providers will be discouraged from offering any reproductive

tests and services and as a result, women's access to access safe, legal health care will be jeopardized.

Mr. Speaker, if House Republicans truly wanted to protect women, then they would have allowed a vote on legislation to ensure the right of women to receive equal pay for equal work. Unfortunately they did not. It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3541.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOURNE'S
HIGH WATER MARK SIGN**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of the high water mark sign in Bourne, Massachusetts, commemorating the hurricane that struck the northeastern United States on September 21, 1938. This storm was among the most powerful tropical cyclones ever recorded in the region.

Striking with virtually no warning, the hurricane devastated the unprepared Northeast and resulted in over 500 deaths and over 1,700 injuries. In the upper Buzzards Bay region, the hurricane produced a storm surge of 11 to 13 feet across. This resulted in significant financial damages, including the total destruction of 2,600 boats and almost 9,000 homes, as well as severe damage to businesses, roads, and railroads. In addition to record-setting gusts and devastating floods, the hurricane severed power lines in Connecticut, sparking catastrophic fires.

The 1938 hurricane serves as a sobering reminder of the raw power of nature, and of the constant need to safeguard our coasts against these deadly storms. We must never forget the contributions and sacrifices that public safety officials make daily to protect us from disaster, and we must never forget the need to support their critical endeavors. Preparedness is every bit as necessary now as it was in 1938, and we neglect the danger posed by tropical storms at our own peril.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the lives lost on September 21, 1938, as well as reaffirming our commitment to protecting our nation from the ever-present threat of natural disasters.