

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION
OF JUNE 20, 2012 AS AMERICAN
EAGLE DAY

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of designating June 20, 2012 as American Eagle Day and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States. On June 20, 1782, the eagle was designated as the national emblem of the U.S. by the Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress.

The bald eagle is the central image of the Great Seal of the United States and is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government.

The bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the spirit of freedom and the democracy of the United States. Since the founding of the Nation, the image, meaning and symbolism of the eagle have played a significant role in art, music, history, commerce, literature, architecture and culture of the United States. The bald eagle's habitat only exists in North America.

Over the years, several members of Congress have introduced and passed resolutions in support of the designation of American Eagle Day. My friend and colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER has introduced the same resolution for this year and I support his efforts.

I hope my colleagues will join in celebrating tomorrow, June 20, 2012 as American Eagle Day, which marks the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle.

CONGRATULATING KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY'S BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous accomplishment of Kent State University's advancement to the semifinals of the College World Series. I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations and offer them the best of luck as they continue their extraordinary journey in Omaha, Nebraska.

The 13th nationally ranked Golden Flashes punched their ticket to Omaha after winning an exciting series in the Eugene Super Regional against Oregon. In the bottom of the 9th inning with the series tied at one game apiece, Jimmy Rider became a hero by hitting the game winning RBI and sending KSU to the College World Series. Kent State is the first Ohio team since 1980 to participate in the heralded 8-team double elimination bracket. They are also the first team since Eastern Michigan in 1976 to represent the Mid-American Conference in the College World Series.

Last evening, June 18th, the Golden Flashes advanced to the College World Series

semifinals by defeating the University of Florida. Kent State opened up an early 5 run lead that they never gave up, defeating Florida 5 to 4. The Golden Flashes will go on to play the South Carolina Gamecocks, last year's champions, on June 20th.

It is an incredible honor for them to have made it this far and I am proud to offer my full support to Kent State as their Cinderella story continues in the College World Series.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ROSARY HALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rosary Hall, on the occasion of its 60 year anniversary of providing important services to individuals struggling with the destructive disease of addiction.

Founded by Sister Ignatia in 1952, Rosary Hall has remained at the forefront of effective and innovative behavioral therapy programs, developing shortly after the founding of the first Alcoholics Anonymous in nearby Akron. In affiliation with St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, Rosary Hall works with families, friends, and co-workers of patients in a supportive and compassionate environment. Since the Hall's founding it has helped to save over 50,000 people from the debilitating and deadly grips of addiction.

Rosary Hall's success is facilitated by a process which spans the entire road to recovery: from inpatient detoxification programs in a hospital setting, to outpatient rehabilitation and finally to community-centered support networks. Rosary Hall is staffed by a team of dedicated professionals who constantly seek to develop skills in order to ensure that each patient receives the personalized care and strategies which will leave them equipped to handle this difficult disease. Rosary Hall continues to be a pioneer in the field of addiction treatment research.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, join me in honoring Rosary Hall as it enters its 60th year of saving lives, families, and providing people the freedom to live healthy and happy lives.

EXPRESSING REGRET FOR PAS-
SAGE OF LAWS ADVERSELY AF-
FECTING THE CHINESE IN THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 683. This resolution expresses the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act. These laws

discriminated against people of Chinese descent and blatantly contradicted our belief that all people are created equal.

Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The bill imposed a ten-year moratorium on immigration and naturalization of Chinese settlers. The law was expanded several times to apply to all persons of Chinese descent and each expansion imposed increasingly tougher restrictions on Chinese immigration and naturalization. As the resolution before us today states, the Chinese exclusion laws "enshrined in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the democratic process and the promise of American freedom."

The United States Senate passed a similar resolution in October 2011. I believe passage of H. Res. 683 will be a historic acknowledgment by Congress of the injustice of the Chinese exclusion laws.

I am proud to cosponsor this resolution and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307 I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING NANCY
BARBOUR ON THE OCCASION OF
HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Nancy Barbour on the occasion of her retirement on June 30th after 21 years at Dykema, where she was a founding member of its government relations practice. During her tenure at Dykema, she advocated for many worthy causes, including support for the city of Detroit and the University of Michigan Medical System, where her efforts resulted in the addition of both a new veterans' hospital and a new children's hospital. The Detroit Free Press, Crain's Business Week, and Detroit News have recognized Mrs. Barbour's many endeavors.

Prior to her private sector advocacy, Mrs. Barbour dedicated nearly twenty years to working on Capitol Hill, spanning both chambers. She worked for Senator Phil Hart from Michigan, Congressman Bob Traxler from Michigan, Congressman Jim O'Hara from Michigan, Congressman Herb Harris from Virginia, and Congressman Bill Ford from Michigan, who was Chairman of the Committee on

• 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.

Education and Labor. Mrs. Barbour served for many years as Chairman Ford's Legislative Director. She worked on a host of issues during her congressional tenure, including a humanitarian initiative helping to relocate a number of Soviet Jews facing persecution in the USSR to the United States. Mrs. Barbour's mastery of congressional issues and the federal assisted her success in the private sector.

Having realized personal success in both the public and private sectors, Mrs. Barbour understands the importance of education, and tirelessly gives back to her community. For many years she has tutored adults in Fairfax County, Virginia, helping them earn a high school equivalency degree and further their own career opportunities and realize their personal potential. Despite her retirement, Mrs. Barbour will continue as a pillar of her community and continue to help those striving to help themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Nancy Barbour for her decades of service to Congress and her community, and to congratulate her on her retirement and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GIL NOBLE, PRODUCER AND HOST OF WABC-TV'S "LIKE IT IS"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear longtime friend and Harlem native, Gil Noble, who made his transition on Holy Thursday, April 5, 2012 at the age of eighty. Born to Jamaican immigrants Gilbert and Iris Noble in Harlem on February 22, 1932, Gil Noble was a pioneering anchorman and journalist who spent his career giving voice to Black Power and the African Diasporic experience. For over forty years he was perhaps the nation's most important black journalist, bringing the struggle for civil rights and equality into the homes of millions of Americans in black and white and in color.

Growing up influenced by jazz pianist Erroll Garner, a young Gil Noble took up the piano and decided as a teen to pursue a career in music. He formed the Gil Noble Trio, playing in New York clubs while attending City College. Later in life his love of jazz would later lead him to become a strong supporter of the Jazz Foundation of America and join its board of directors. After graduating, he went on to work for Union Carbide and modeled part time, where he met his wife, Jean, also a model at that time.

Gil Noble began his fifty years career in television and programming, when he got his first break in broadcast media in 1962, as a part-time announcer for Harlem's radio station WLIB. Gil began reporting and reading newscasts as well as servicing the Associated Press teletype machine and tracking interview tapes. In 1967, he joined WABC-TV as a reporter and served as anchor for the station's Saturday and Sunday night newscast in 1968. Gil's career surged when he was named host of WABC-TV's "Like It Is." During his numer-

ous decades hosting his iconic television program, Like It Is, Gil acquainted the country with the story and the culture of Black America.

The show was truly groundbreaking. It engaged black leaders in sports, journalism, film, education, civil rights, politics and business, like Bill Cosby, Harry Belafonte, Lena Horne, Sarah Vaughan, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Erroll Garner, Carmen McRae, Aretha Franklin, Dr. Billy Taylor, Nancy Wilson, Sidney Poitier, Imhotep Gary Byrd, (Dr. Ben) Yosef Ben-Jochannan, Muhammad Ali, Arthur Ashe, Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson and Minister Louis Farrakhan to name a few.

Gil told it like it is and interviewed national and international historic figures like President Nelson Mandela of South Africa and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. He interviewed controversial and uncontroversial with profound discussions of the world's most important issues. I was greatly honored to appear on Like It Is, with Reverend Dr. Calvin A. Butts of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church, where we gather to say farewell to our dear friend and legend.

The program also featured insightful documentaries that delved into the lives of Paul Robeson, Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, Malcolm X, Charlie Parker, Jack Johnson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture), Justice Bruce Wright and countless other prominent figures of the African and Urban Diaspora. Perhaps most importantly, it provided an intelligent and progressive forum for black Americans that changed the way the nation viewed its black citizens. Gil's legacy will continue as a trailblazer for African Americans in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, you would be hard pressed to find anyone in Harlem who does not have memories of gathering with friends and family to watch Gil Noble eloquently discuss the issues of the day. The death of Gil, a son of Harlem, is especially saddening for the Village of Harlem, but also our nation and the world. We will all miss this intellectually passionate man and the inspiration he gave to our nation.

On Thursday, April 12, hundreds of Harlemites, New Yorkers and world visitors convened at Harlem's historic Abyssinian Baptist Church to pay final tribute, respect and honor to a man who was larger than height. May our spirit be filled with light and progress and may the light guide us through the fear and ignorance of our times in remembrance of my dear beloved Gil Noble.

TRIBUTE TO SETH ALEXANDER KLEINWORT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Seth Kleinwort of Madrid, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 per-

cent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Seth's project involved funding and erecting 21 flags on Memorial Day Weekend along Highway 17 to pay tribute to our nation's heroes. Seth completed this project while going above and beyond the required merit badges, earning a staggering total of 50 badges. The work ethic Seth has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

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

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL IN NEW MEXICO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Scottish Rite Masons of New Mexico on the occasion of the Centennial Celebration of the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On this occasion they also celebrate New Mexico's 100th year as a State of the Union.

The celebration at the Scottish Rite Temple includes tours, outdoor activities, a parade, a private reception, a brunch, a public exemplification of a Scottish Rite Degree and a Period Dress Ball in the evening.

Though the exact time of the beginning of Freemasonry is unknown, many of the symbols and language come from the Middle Ages. It has become a worldwide fraternity which focuses on self-improvement and social betterment. Freemasons partake in philanthropy, service, funding of research, and spreading ideals in which they believe.

Currently, there are four million Masons worldwide. Notable Masons throughout time are George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, John Hancock, John Paul Jones and Chief Justice John Marshall to name a few. Notable actions of the Masons include spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment, the formation of the democratic government and supporting the first public schools in both Europe and America.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Scottish Rite and all Freemasons on the joyous occasion of the Centennial Celebration of the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RON NEWTON, MANCHESTER
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the incredible public service of one of my constituents, Ron Newton of Manchester, Maine.

Mr. Newton has been a member of the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department now for 50 years. In that time, he has served as deputy to three different chiefs, and has put thousands of hours into training, fire calls, and meetings.

In Maine, our small towns often depend on volunteers to staff our fire departments. With their radios always close by, they routinely drop what they're doing to report to an emergency, whether they have to leave work or their families to do so. Just like full-time firefighters, they risk their lives for others, are passionate about their work, and are heroes.

Mr. Newton's five decades as a firefighter is an incredible statement of commitment to his community and its residents—he has something to teach us all about public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 308, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012 VIENNA-TYSONS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AND SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the 2012 Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce (VTRCC) Business and Service Awards. Each year, the VTRCC recognizes companies, nonprofits, and individuals in the Vienna-Tysons area who demonstrate exceptional commitment to business and the community.

Since the 1940's, the VTRCC has provided a strategic link between local businesses and the region through participation in community activities, networking opportunities, marketing, support and education. This region has witnessed extraordinary growth, and the VTRCC has been a consistent, guiding voice for business. Fairfax County is considered by many to be one of the best communities in the country in which to live, work and raise a family. A significant factor in that distinction is the thriving partnership between the public and private sectors. Corporations, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions work hand-in-hand with their counterparts in local, State and Federal government agencies. A thriving business community is essential to maintaining a high

quality of life for all residents, just as ensuring strong community institutions and educational opportunities are available for all residents is essential to fostering continued economic growth.

I join the Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce in congratulating the following recipients of the 2012 Business and Service Awards:

Business of the Year (Large Company): Transurban.

Business of the Year (Small Company): Washington Landscapes.

Business Executive of the Year (Large Company): Kevin Reynolds—Cardinal Bank.

Business Executive of the Year (Small Company): Diana Carlin—Damon Galleries, Ltd.

Entrepreneur of the Year: Mark Rogoff—Title One Settlement Group, LLC.

Citizen of the Year: Delegate Mark Keam.

Nonprofit of the Year: Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna.

Educator of the Year: David Reynolds—Vienna Elementary School.

Lifetime Service Award: Richard Irons—First Citizens Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Business and Service Awards and in thanking them for their many contributions not only to our businesses but also our community.

IN HONOR OF DR. LINDA HENKE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Henke, for her years of service to the people of the St. Louis area.

Dr. Henke is retiring as Superintendent of the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District, MRH, where she demonstrated a true passion for excellence during her years of service. When she first joined MRH, the district was one point away from losing its accreditation from the state of Missouri. After a decade under Dr. Henke's guidance, the school district now operates with Missouri's top Annual Performance Report Score; a true testament to Dr. Henke's hard work, dedication, and leadership.

Her personal approach towards the staff and the students has been a hallmark of her tenure. She made a point to know the staff and the students by name, and she attended nearly all sporting events, school plays, and concerts her students took part in. She actively sought to include her students in the development of successful school policies by regularly meeting with an advisory team of middle and high school students to openly discuss problems and possible solutions.

Dr. Henke not only cares about her students' academic success, but also about their health and well-being. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Henke as she has endeavored to provide locally produced, healthy food choices to her students in the cafeteria. She has worked hard to engage students in learning about our food system and teaching them that good eating habits are connected to excellence in education.

Her life has been defined by remarkable service to others. Dr. Henke has an exceptional ability to identify needs and works to fulfill them, as she has demonstrated many times

while leading the MRH school district. A great example of this was when she saw that some students and families had lost their homes and had trouble finding regular meals. She addressed this by developing Joe's Place, where teenage boys can go to find affection, support, a home, and regular meals. In previous years, each of the boys who lived at Joe's Place not only graduated from MRH High School, but also went on to attend college. In many cases, they were the first members of their families to accomplish this feat.

Without Dr. Henke's passion for her students and determination to provide them with every opportunity for success, MRH would not be the model school district it is today. Educators from across the country visit MRH schools to understand how she has transformed the district, and how they can replicate her successful programs in their own districts.

I congratulate Dr. Linda Henke on her retirement, and I thank her for her service to our community.

IN HONOR OF MR. STUART J.
GREENBERG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Stuart J. Greenberg on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of Environmental Health Watch (EHW).

As an EHW founding board member, staff member for 28 years, and chief executive for 19 years, Stu became a pioneer in the field of healthy housing leaving a rich legacy and a number of accomplishments which have led to healthier children and families both in and around the Cleveland area and across the country. Stu was instrumental in establishing the first national conference on healthy homes and, with a small group of peer experts, literally coined the term "healthy home."

Stu's work with EHW was not limited to the inside of the home. As part of his work with EHW, Stu helped to develop Local Emergency Planning Committees, or LEPCs, which facilitate collaboration and information sharing among partners in emergency response. Stu helped to get provisions for LEPCs in the 1986 "Right-to-Know" amendments to the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, better known as "Superfund." Stu's participation and leadership in Cuyahoga County's LEPC over the last 25 years has contributed to the safety of local communities in Northeast Ohio.

EHW, formerly the Council on Hazardous Materials, was not the first organization which Stu took from concept to reality. Stu was a co-founder and first executive director of Spectrum of Supportive Services, formerly Panta Rhei, Inc., a rehabilitation agency now affiliated with Recovery Resources, Inc., for people re-entering the community following long-term mental health-related hospitalizations.

Stu began his college education at Western Reserve University, where he graduated cum laude in 1966 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology. Then, in 1970, Stu

graduated from the Case Institute of Technology, earning a Master of Science degree in Organizational Behavior.

Stu has served on many councils, committees, and boards and has received numerous awards and distinctions for his expertise, activism, and dedication to social justice, such as the 2005 Howard Metzenbaum Citizen Action Award by Ohio Citizen Action.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Stu Greenberg on his path-forging and inspiring career and service to the Greater Cleveland community.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL
SCOUTS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, When Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low gathered 18 girls together in Savannah, GA, on March 12, 1912, she aimed to offer a hand to the youngsters by helping them to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Since that first meeting of what would become known as the Girl Scouts, millions of girls and young women have grown in courage, confidence, and character and made countless contributions to the world.

The Girl Scout leadership program exists to help girls learn more about themselves, their values, and people. Those who have made extraordinary contributions as Girl Scouts receive the Gold Award for making a difference in their communities.

Through leadership in the scouting tradition, Girls Scouts are changing our country and the world. The organization continues to operate on a strong foundation of volunteers who dedicate themselves to offering their time and talents in the interest of guiding tomorrow's leaders. Thanks to them, over 10,000 girls from kindergarten through grade 12 across 36 counties in western Virginia are enjoying the Girl Scouts program. They are among over 3 million girls and volunteers who are active members along with 50 million women in the United States who are Girl Scouts alumnae.

As the Girl Scouts celebrate their centennial with a special event in Roanoke, VA, on June 30, I applaud the organization for its long history of leadership as the voice for its many devoted members, past and present. Let us all commend the special women whose experience in Girl Scouts is influencing our communities. We look forward to today's Girl Scouts becoming our next generation of leaders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on June 18, 2012. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

S. 684, To provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah—rollcall No. 379: "yea."

S. 404, To modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior—rollcall No. 380: "yea."

HONORING REV. JANE ADAMS
SPAHR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership of the Rev. Jane Adams Spahr, whose work on behalf of justice for the LGBT community is an inspiration in Northern California and across the country.

Rev. Spahr began her ministry as a proud progressive and feminist, and as one of few willing to work publicly for the cause of equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. In 1980, Rev. Spahr served as Minister of Pastoral Care for the Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco's Castro District. And in 1982, Rev. Spahr founded what would become the Spectrum LGBT Center, Mann County's premiere LGBT service provider and advocacy organization.

In 1991, Rev. Spahr was called to serve as co-pastor of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church of Rochester, New York, making her the first openly gay person called to such a position of leadership within the Presbyterian tradition. Unfortunately, Rev. Spahr's pastorship was challenged and ultimately revoked by Church leadership. The Reverend was instead invited to serve the Presbyterian congregation in Tiburon, California, with a focus on working within the denomination to end discrimination and foster inclusiveness and social justice.

More recently, after the Supreme Court of California struck down the State's ban on same-sex marriage, Rev. Spahr became known for officiating at the marriages of several gay and lesbian couples. The Reverend was again challenged for refusing to comply with the anti-gay marriage policies of Church leadership and earlier this year Rev. Spahr received a formal censure for her actions. However, as in the past, the congregation has rallied behind her, and the local presbytery voted overwhelmingly to refuse the censure. Although Rev. Spahr's battle continues, I am proud to support her mission to see the dignity and humanity of every individual respected.

In 2007, I honored Rev. Spahr in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD upon her retirement from Spectrum, emphasizing that her courageous passion for justice and inclusion for LGBT people has left a legacy that is paving the way to a better future. Clearly, she has advanced the cause of same-sex marriage and other rights during this time and will continue to be an inspiration and role model to all of us who care about human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to join me in thanking the Rev. Jane Adams Spahr for her many contributions to a stronger and more inclusive community, and to the ongoing fight for full LGBT equality. We wish her every success, and we look forward to the day—closer now than ever—when the last vestiges of anti-gay discrimination are erased from our laws and from our society.

CONGRATULATING MARTHA
BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to congratulate Martha Brown Middle School for being designated as a New York State and National "School to Watch." It is a pleasure to acknowledge Martha Brown's Principal David Dunn, the Fairport School Board, the administration, teachers, faculty and students upon receiving this award as one of only seven newly designated schools in New York State to be honored with this distinction.

The recognition as a national School to Watch means that Martha Brown excels in each of the seven Essential Elements of Standards—Focused Middle Level Schools and Programs. Those seven Essential Elements are: a philosophy and mission that reflect the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents; an educational program that is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, relevant, and standards-based; an organization and structure that support both academic excellence and personal development; classroom instruction appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers; strong educational leadership and administration that encourage, facilitate, and sustain involvement, participation, and leadership; a network of academic and personal support available for all students; and professional learning and staff development for all staff that are ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaboratively developed.

It is especially meaningful for me to know that a school within New York State's 28th Congressional District and my hometown of Fairport has achieved this prestigious honor. It is a true testament to the hard work of the teachers, administrators, and students. The fact that Martha Brown Middle School has been selected from among many qualified middle schools speaks volumes about the school's character and dedication to academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Martha Brown Middle School of Fairport Central School District on this well-earned honor. As a "School to Watch," Martha Brown serves as a shining example for other middle schools throughout our entire nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 309, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2012 SHELTER HOUSE, INC.
VOLUNTEER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable efforts of Shelter House, Inc., and to congratulate the recipients of the 2012 Volunteer Awards. Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to break the cycle of homelessness by offering support to those most in need in the Northern Virginia community. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, temporary housing, training, counseling, and programs to support self-sufficiency. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of its dedicated volunteers.

Shelter House was founded in 1981 by several ecumenical groups, which came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates three shelters: The Katherine K. Hanley and the Patrick Henry family shelters, which provide temporary housing for local families who become homeless, and Artemis House, Fairfax County's domestic violence shelter. Shelter House also has transitional housing programs, and it provides services for families that have found permanent housing. This assistance is vital to breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Volunteers and community partners are essential to the success of Shelter House, as they provide the tools necessary to combat homelessness. Their time, money, and effort compose the foundation of Shelter House's commendable work. This year, Shelter House has chosen several such individuals and partners to recognize for their outstanding commitment to ending homelessness in our community.

I join Shelter House in commending the following individuals and organizations being honored with 2012 Volunteer Awards:

Community Champion—Cooper Ginsberg Gray, PLLC;

Community Champion—Virginia Tire and Auto;

Community Partner—Reading Connection;
Community Partner—Southview Community Church;

Community Partner—Keller Williams, Fairfax Gateway Office;

Friend of Shelter House—Chantelle Tait;
Friend of Shelter House—Mike Katounis & Homeworks Painting;

Friend of Shelter House—Great Falls Women's Club;

Public Service Award—Captain Willie Bailey & Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department;

Public Service Award—Kathi Sheffel & Homeless Liaison Office Tutors of Fairfax County Public Schools;

Public Service Award—Lorraine McLean & the Fairfax County Health Department;

Building Bridges Building Hope Award—Lord of Life Lutheran Church;

Building Bridges Building Hope Award—Diane Jenkins;

Building Bridges Building Hope Award—The Quilt Patch;

Youth Volunteer Award—Men On a Mission;
Youth Volunteer Award—Russ Soper; and
Youth Volunteer Award—Alec Powell.

The aforementioned individuals and organizations certainly deserve special recognition for their dedication to Shelter House. However, one also must acknowledge the importance of all Shelter House volunteers, who constantly strive to better our community through efforts to provide secure, structured environments, as well as indispensable support, for families in need. These volunteers and partners allow Shelter House to effectively battle homelessness by empowering families to achieve self sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Shelter House and its many volunteers and partners. Their selfless work benefits the entire Northern Virginia community and improves the lives of many of our neighbors.

COMMENDING HOWARD BERMAN
FOR HIS HELP PASSING H. RES.
683

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend HOWARD BERMAN for his help passing H. Res. 683, an expression of regret for the House passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Due to a clerical error, Mr. BERMAN was added as a cosponsor when he should be listed as an original cosponsor.

HOWARD was a key ally in the passage of this legislation. Because of his positive relationships with Members across the aisle, he successfully convinced key Republican lawmakers to support this effort. He was very influential in getting this bill through the House Judiciary Committee, and was with me every step of the way as we pushed to get a vote on the floor. This effort required a great deal of negotiation with the Republican leaders in the House. And who was by my side? HOWARD BERMAN! The community couldn't ask for a better or more dedicated champion to their cause.

Representative BERMAN has been a dedicated supporter since the introduction of the original resolution H. Res. 282, which he also cosponsored. Without HOWARD's support, we would not have made history when the House unanimously passed an expression of regret for the discriminatory Chinese Exclusion Act on June 18, 2012.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOMAS
GREGORY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Thomas "Tommy" Gregory, a man who devoted himself to the well-being of his family, friends, community and nation.

Born on October 1, 1949 in Lubbock, Texas, Mr. Gregory dedicated 35 years of his life to public service with the United States Department of Agriculture. He was Director and Head Statistician of the National Agricultural Statistics Service Mississippi Field Office for 18 years. He developed programs, systems and publications of great use to the agricultural community. One of his priorities was to enlist, encourage, and mentor new employees to secure the future effectiveness of the Agency.

Mr. Gregory was highly respected in the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and was known for making special efforts with colleges in his area to encourage minority students to apply for work there. He recently received recognition for being the first white man in Mississippi to join the Black Employees of NASS Organization.

Additionally, Mr. Gregory was an active and courageous supporter of reforming our nation's broken monetary system. This year the Board of Trustees of the American Monetary Institute bestowed the Courage of Conviction Award to him, in honor and lasting memory of his active support in promoting monetary reform for the benefit of all Americans. He is survived by his wife Lanet, his three children Kelsey, Britny, and Garrett, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Tommy Gregory, a man of unwavering faith and vision who had the courage to live by his convictions and make a difference. He will be remembered for his outstanding and enduring service for the greater good.

RECOGNIZING NATCA'S 25TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank NATCA's 20,000 controllers, engineers and other safety-related professionals for their tireless commitment to keeping America's skies safe. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to New York's NATCA legislative representative and members. The New York Center has over 90% of its members in NATCA, which speaks to the strength and solidarity of the organization.

Every day, the men and women who work at control towers, control centers, TRACON facilities and flight service stations make it possible for 750,000 flyers to travel. Last year, these individuals staffed a staggering 134 million flight operations. Most importantly, they operate under a commitment to their motto, "Safety Above All."

NATCA's unparalleled dedication to its members and the flying public has made the National Airspace System the best air traffic system in the world. Once again, I thank NATCA and congratulate its membership on the group's 25th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. CHARLOTTE LANDRETH-MELVILLE ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Ms. Charlotte Landreth-Melville, a resident of historic Bristol Borough in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania a Happy Birthday as she turns 90 on June 25th.

During her 90 years, Charlotte has seen sixteen U.S. presidents take the oath of office, has honorably served her country in World War II as a member of the Women Marines, has traveled the world, and has started her own small business. Charlotte has enjoyed quite a healthy, exciting life.

Over the course of her life, she has climbed to the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, trekked through the Sahara Desert, lived on a houseboat in India and bicycled all across Europe. One way or another, she still managed to find time to remain active in her local community as a contributor to the Bristol Pilot Newspaper.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak on Charlotte's behalf today, and I wish her the very best on this momentous occasion. Charlotte's free spirit and dedication to her country and community make her a perfect role model in today's society. I wish her many more years of good health, success and happiness.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF RETIRING RED CROSS OFFICIAL ARMOND MASCELLI

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a son of southwestern Pennsylvania and a tremendous public servant.

In 1971, a young man named Armond Mascelli took the advice of his Scranton college professor and went to work for the American Red Cross. Four decades later, after a distinguished career of philanthropic work that has taken him to many different parts of the world, Armond is set to retire from the Red Cross as Vice President for Disaster Operations.

Over the last 41 years, Armond has served on and directed numerous disaster relief operations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Central America and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He has also served on Red Cross assignments in South Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Turkey and Guam.

Over his long career, there have been many significant disasters and Armond remembers them all, particularly the Johnstown, PA, flood of 1977.

Any school child from my district can tell you about the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889 caused by a dam failure which resulted in the release of 20 million tons of water into Johnstown. The flood killed more than 2,200 people and was the first major disaster relief effort handled by the American Red Cross, led by Clara Barton.

But on July 20, 1977, a line of severe thunderstorms moved slowly over Johnstown,

dropping a foot of rain on the city in only 12 hours. Small streams overflowed and several dams failed, causing history to repeat itself. Water tore through highways, homes, factories and stores.

The death toll would eventually reach 85 as a result of the flood. Property damage reached about \$300 million. Hundreds were left homeless. Our town was once again reminded of its tragic history, opening old wounds and inflicting new ones. But not all of the stories from this flood were sad.

The Red Cross and many other non-profit agencies, State and Federal Governments, and private individuals rushed to help with the relief efforts. Armond Mascelli was a young Red Cross disaster worker who had been assigned to the Johnstown relief operation for more than a month when he met a young and attractive Johnstown girl who was volunteering for the Red Cross in the operations. Armond and Kathy Lenzi were married 2 years later.

Armond was also assigned to the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster near Harrisburg, PA, in 1979, and was part of the task force at Indiantown Gap near Lebanon, PA, helping the more than 19,000 refugees brought there during the Cuban Boat Lift in 1980 and 1981.

Armond has been part of the Red Cross response to a number of major national and international disasters over the past four decades, including hurricanes Hugo, Andrew, Mitch and Katrina, the Loma Prieta and North Ridge earthquakes and the 1993 flooding in the Midwest. When the floods from Irene ravaged our State last year, Armond was in the Red Cross Disaster Operations Center coordinating the response.

When asked if it was ever difficult to stay in a field that witnesses so much devastation and sadness, he said the good work the Red Cross does was motivation to stay in the job.

"Disaster is unfair, heartbreaking," he said. "Working for the Red Cross is an opportunity to provide assistance to those in need. I've met a ton of real interesting people—good people—through my years with Red Cross.

"The people I work with really believe in the principles of the Red Cross, the mission," he said. "And our volunteers—they amaze me. It's neighbor helping neighbor. People in this country want to help when something happens, it's part of their makeup.

"Part of being with the Red Cross is to make it better. I'm passing this to someone else for them to make improvements," Mascelli said. "The Red Cross is always looking to the future, to change, to improve. We're an old organization, but we're still relevant. I attribute that to our mission, our volunteers and adapting to meet the changing needs of those we serve."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Armond on his upcoming retirement and salute his great service to our Nation and to the American Red Cross. He and his wife Kathy have my best wishes as they transition into a new phase of their life together.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF "TAPS"

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the writing of

"Taps," a song I have worked tirelessly here in Congress to recognize as the National Song of Remembrance for those who have served our country.

Much like "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever," which were born from the winds of war, "Taps" shares a similar history. In July 1862, following the Seven Days battles, Union General Daniel Butterfield and bugler Oliver Willcox Norton created "Taps" at Berkley Plantation, Virginia, as a way to signal the end of daily military activities. Since that time, "Taps" has become known throughout the United States as part of the military honors accorded at funerals, memorial services, and wreath ceremonies held for members of the uniformed services and veterans who have faithfully served our nation during times of war and peace.

The designation of "Taps" as the National Song of Remembrance is timely because the 150th anniversary of the writing of "Taps" will be observed with events culminating this month, June 2012, with a rededication of the Taps Monument at Berkley Plantation, Virginia. I am proud that the House of Representatives passed this language as a tribute to honor those that have fallen in service of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the following amendments to H.R. 5325 because I was attending an official event in my home state of Minnesota with President Obama.

On rollcall vote 306, I would have voted "no" on the Scalise Amendment.

On rollcall vote 307, I would have voted "no" on the King Amendment.

On rollcall vote 308, I would have voted "yes" on the Moran Amendment.

On rollcall vote 309, I would have voted "no" on the Hultgren Amendment.

On rollcall vote 310, I would have voted "no" on the Chaffetz Amendment.

On rollcall vote 311, I would have voted "no" on the McClintock Amendment.

On rollcall vote 312, I would have voted "yes" on the Kaptur Amendment.

On rollcall vote 313, I would have voted "yes" on the Tonko Amendment.

On rollcall vote 314, I would have voted "yes" on the Hahn Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ADRIAN CITY BAND ON THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Adrian City Band as they celebrate their 175th year of providing musical entertainment to the community of Adrian, Michigan.

The Adrian City Band is one of the oldest continuously organized city bands in the

United States, tracing their roots back to 1838. Under the leadership of director Jim Rice, the band of nearly 80 members recently kicked off their weekly summer concert series, which will feature eight performances with historical themes.

In spite of the down economy and tight city finances, the band members and leadership have continued the tradition without pay, while the community has supported the band through financial donations.

Community bands are an American tradition, and for decades, the Adrian City Band has offered a fine example of this civic pastime. The Adrian City Band will continue to entertain and impress with a series of eight concerts this summer at the Trestle Park bandshell, and they deserve recognition for their dedication and sacrifice in bringing entertainment to Southeast Michigan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2012, I was unable to vote due to a conflicting obligation in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 379, "yea"; on rollcall No. 380, "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION HEALTH GROUP'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Health Group as its employees gather to celebrate its 100th anniversary. VNA Health Group members continue to exemplify outstanding dedication to the promotion and restoration of the health status of community individuals. Their service is truly worthy of this body's recognition.

The Visiting Nurse Association Health Group was established in 1912 in Lincroft, New Jersey. Within its first decade, the organization completed a study of mentally handicapped children in public schools, launched child welfare programs and established a mobile health clinic to assist constituents throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey. The organization adopted the name Monmouth County Organization for Social Services (MCOSS) in 1918 and maintained their focus on improving healthcare needs for women and children. The agency acquired the Visiting Nurses Association in Middlesex County in 1988 and expanded their services to include the constituents of Middlesex County; later that year, the New Jersey hospice care program was certified by Medicaid and served more than 1,500 patients and their families.

In December 1993, the organization adopted the name Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey; the new name allowed for the establishment of a governing board and the ability to raise funds on behalf of the

organization. VNA of Central New Jersey later joined with other organizations, including the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Services and Essex Valley Visiting Nurse Association, and partnered with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital to continue expanding their service area. In 2011, VNA of Central New Jersey affiliates and partners unified under the title Visiting Nurse Association Health Group to better reflect the organization's growth. Today, the organization and its employees continue to personify compassionate, caring and patient-centered services to constituents throughout New Jersey.

VNA Health Group is New Jersey's largest non-profit community health provider of home health, hospice and community services. Today, the VNA remains a volunteer organization that assists over 100,000 individuals throughout New Jersey each year. VNA Health Group is accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program, Inc. and continues to provide outstanding in-home services including certified home health aide services, pediatric care, rehabilitative therapy, palliative care, tele-health monitoring, geriatric care management, companion homemaker services, and nutritional counseling. As a result of their outstanding efforts, VNA Health Group is the proud recipient of the New York Times Tribute to Nurses Award and the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Association Award, among others.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group's 100th Anniversary. The organization has provided exquisite services to constituents throughout Monmouth County and New Jersey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2012, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote 380. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on passage of S. 404.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES PRESTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues Congressmen STEVE COHEN, JIM COOPER, MARSHA BLACKBURN, JERROLD NADLER, HOWARD COBLE, LAMAR SMITH, BARNEY FRANK, and JOHN CONYERS to honor the life and memory of one of the First Ladies of American music, Frances W. Preston, the former president and Chief Executive Officer of Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI).

Frances Preston was a trailblazer who opened up doors of opportunity for a new generation of female executives in the music and entertainment industries. No barriers stopped Frances in advocating for songwriters' rights, and on Capitol Hill, her tireless advocacy was critical in protecting the music industry. Her counsel was indispensable and we sought it often.

The business acumen of Frances Preston was exceeded only by her charisma and charm, and by the respect, affection and admiration her colleagues and peers had for her. She was lauded for her empathy and for the gracious manner in which she treated every person, from the hottest star to the humblest worker. She was an exceptional executive, leader, role model and friend.

With Frances at its head, BMI grew to represent over 300,000 American and foreign songwriters, composers and music publishers in licensing music, and collecting and distributing royalties from play on radio and in television, films, ads and other media. Its artists represent all types of music and its catalog contains 4.5 million works. During her 18 years as president, its revenue grew more than three times to more than \$625 million.

BMI has become an internationally respected leader and a unique success story as the entertainment industry has been transformed by digital technology and globalization. Sensitive to the changing world of music, Frances focused on domestic licensing, foreign performing rights, legislation for fair compensation for writers and publishers, and copyright protection.

Frances joined BMI in 1958 after working in music and broadcasting in Nashville. She opened BMI's regional office there, and led her company to preeminence in the South, signing writers and publishers with roots in both country and other types of music.

In 1964, the year the Nashville BMI building opened on Music Row, Frances became a vice president of BMI—reportedly, the first woman corporate executive in Tennessee.

She has often been called a trailblazer in the music business but Frances was also a trailblazer among women. She was the first woman Rotarian in the State of Tennessee. She was the first woman to work with the National Chamber of Commerce. She was one of the first four women—and the first businesswoman—to be invited to join the Friars Club in New York and the first woman to serve on their board of governors.

Frances was an industry pioneer and a compassionate humanitarian who touched the lives of many people, and she will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 310, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

EXPRESSING REGRET FOR PASSAGE OF LAWS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 683. This

resolution expresses the regret of the House of Representatives for laws that unfairly targeted the Chinese community in the United States, specifically the Chinese Exclusion Act.

I want to thank my good friend from California, Ms. CHU, for her hard work and determination in bringing this important resolution to the floor, and I am proud to join her as the lead cosponsor of this historic effort.

America's strength has always been derived from our commitment to the principles of our founders. And although we do not always succeed in living up to those ideals, we continually strive to do so, and we become stronger in the process.

Today, we have the opportunity to take another important step by recognizing one of the great—yet often overlooked—injustices in our shared history.

One-hundred and thirty years ago, just thirteen years after the last spike was driven into the first transcontinental railroad, the Congress of the United States strayed from the path laid by our founders and implemented the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

This ten-year ban on Chinese immigration and naturalization targeted Chinese immigrants for physical and political exclusion, and its passage was driven by an unfortunate mix of racism, jingoism, and intolerance.

In subsequent years, Congress expanded and hardened these laws, making it impossible for legal Chinese workers to reenter America, apply for citizenship, and reunite with their families. And it wasn't until the U.S.-Chinese alliance of World War Two that Congress finally repealed these laws and restored the rights of Chinese-Americans.

Since that time, this body has passed many reforms. Yet, over 100 years later, this chamber has yet to acknowledge its own misguided actions. Today, we have the opportunity to do just that and reaffirm our shared commitment to equality.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank Linda Yang, the Director of the Xilin [SI-LIN] Asian Community Center in Naperville, Illinois, whose advice and input has helped to drive this resolution to the floor.

It was she who told me about the individuals in our own community whose parents and grandparents were impacted by the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Unfortunately, many of these victims are no longer with us. But for those who remain, it is critical to address this issue now, before the opportunity is lost forever.

With that in mind, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution. Through it, let us acknowledge the past, express our regret, and promote a greater appreciation for the challenges that past generations of Chinese Americans have bravely overcome.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 90th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was built in 1922 as a place for working men and women of Southeast Pennsylvania to gather to pray. Funded by the generosity of the local community and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Fr. Nolan founded this parish to unify the communities of Croydon, Bristol, and Bensalem.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was named after the 13th century Sicilian theologian. A prominent member of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas revolutionized philosophy, modern political theory, and ethical morality. Many consider his most notable work, *Summa Theologica*, to be one of the foundations of the Catholic faith and modern theology. His contributions to intellectual thought have allowed him to become the patron saint of academics and Catholic schools.

Although St. Thomas Aquinas Church has struggled through some setbacks in the past few years, the current pastor, Fr. Mike Davis, has made it his mission to unify the community. By recommitting his church to its original mission, Fr. Mike has rallied his parishioners to persevere through the recent closing of their elementary school, and unveil a major renovation effort to improve their facilities. Completed solely by the parishioners themselves, the new refurbishments not only update the facility's technology, but also display beautiful religious paintings and depictions from history.

As we look back on the past 90 years of commitment and service to the communities of Bristol and Croydon, I only hope that the future continues to bring more prosperity to St. Thomas Aquinas Church. I am proud to stand with Fr. Mike, his parishioners, and the members of my district in celebrating the 90th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church.

HONORING MRS. LUCILE JOHNSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lucile Johnson on her remarkable 100th birthday, June 19, 2012. Lucile has lived in Atlanta for all 100 years of her wonderful life—she was blessed with 65 years of marriage to her late husband Earl Johnson, and she is the proud and loving mother of 6 children, grandmother of 15, great grandmother of 20, and last but certainly not least: great great grandmother of 1.

Lucile has been a driven and caring person her entire life and worked diligently at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta for many years to provide for her family. As a passionate member of her community, Lucile graciously chose to volunteer with her church missionary group in feeding the homeless of Atlanta for decades. Lucile is the matriarch of her ever-growing family and has helped to raise many of her grand children and great grandchildren. The comfort and advice she provides to her family is truly treasured and matchless.

Mr. Speaker, Lucile Johnson is an outstanding member of the community in my District and has served as an exceptional role model for her family and many others. I am delighted to join her family, friends and many

admirers in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday and continued good health and happiness for years to come.

RECOGNITION OF THE D.C. DIVAS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the D.C. Divas Football team for their eleventh season and on returning to the Women's Football Association for the 2012 season. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects people from discrimination based on gender. Passage of Title IX has helped to make it possible for teams like the D.C. Divas to accomplish great success and serve as a role model for young girls.

The D.C. Divas were established in 2000, with the first season beginning in the spring of 2001. They have been a strong team with nine winning seasons and eight division titles. The D.C. Divas are currently celebrating as the 2012 Division Champions. The team won the NWFA Championship in 2006 after completing a perfect season.

Not only have they been strong on the field, but they are actively involved within the D.C. and Maryland communities. Members of the team have participated in Recess by the River since the program began, helping educate kids on active living to prevent child obesity with kids from Ward 8. The team has also supported the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the Northern Virginia Ronald McDonald House, and the Special Olympics of Northern Virginia. These are only some of the many organizations in which the D.C. Divas are actively involved.

I congratulate the D.C. Divas for their accomplishments on and off the field over the past twelve years. This is a great team that provides an athletic outlet for the people of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding areas. I wish them the best during the rest of their season and the many seasons to come.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. For the past 28 years, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has selected two people from his or her district who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, nearly 500 individuals have been recognized as a Lord or Lady Fairfax by their representative on the Board of Supervisors. I was pleased to take part in this annual ritual and recognize many outstanding community volunteers during my 14 years on the Board.

Individuals recognized as Lords and Ladies of Fairfax have made significant contributions

in their communities. This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized outstanding individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety providers, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments by the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and should be commended.

The following individuals have been recognized as Lord and Lady Fairfax honorees for 2012. Each of these individuals was selected as a result of his or her outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other special achievements. These individuals have earned our praise and appreciation.

At Large: Lady Kathy Albarado and Lord Delbert Sheads.

Braddock District: Lady Tessie Wilson and Lord Doug Brammer.

Dranesville District: Lady Jacqueline D. Taylor and Lord Robert H. Jackson.

Hunter Mill District: Lady Jenifer Joy Madden and Lord Frank de la Fe.

Lee District: Lady Martha Lloyd and Lord Don Hinman.

Mason District: Lady Sue Hotto and Lord Ben Hester.

Mt. Vernon District: Lady Diana York and Lord James C. Rees.

Providence District: Lady Vivian Morgan-Mendez and Lord Mark D. Meana.

Springfield District: Lady Breeana G. Bomhorst and Lord Robert Scott Brown.

Sully District: Lady Jennifer Campbell and Lord John R. Cleveland.

I also commend the following recipients of two additional awards; the James M. Scott Community Spirit Award and the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival Volunteer of the Year Award. The James M. Scott Community Spirit Award recognizes a sponsor, organization or individual who has exemplified strong advocacy and commitment to Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. and its efforts to develop community through events, and the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival Volunteer of the Year Award selects one volunteer out of 1500 to be recognized for extraordinary efforts to ensure that the festival, which will be held this weekend at the county government center, and affiliated CFI programs are successful.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
OUR BELOVED FREEDOM FIGHTER
AND FREEDOM SISTER DR.
ANNIE B. MARTIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of our National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's life-long freedom fighter and freedom sister, Dr. Annie B. Martin. Dr. Martin served an unprecedented sixteen terms as President of the historic NAACP New York Branch, also known as the Harlem Branch; the first chartered Branch of NAACP's National Association, which celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 2011. Under her leadership, the New York Branch

became the largest NAACP branch in the Eastern region, with more than 6,000 members, and has received annual national awards for program activity.

Affectionately known to many of us as Chief or simply Annie B, Dr. Martin was a devoted and dedicated member of the NAACP National Board of Directors. With her soft, but outspoken voice she led by example and with dignity. Annie B was my very dear friend and ally, and on behalf of my wife Alma, my sister Hazel Dukes and our beloved Village of Harlem, our nation has lost another soldier and angel of the civil rights and labor movement that dedicated her entire life fighting and speaking out against injustices and inequality. Dr. Martin committed her 91 years plus life to making our world an equal playing field for all to inspire and attain, and I will deeply miss my beloved friend and freedom sister.

Annie B. Martin was a native of Eastover, South Carolina and was the seventh of eight children, which were born to Jacob and Queenie Martin. She was a graduate of Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina and earned a Master's Degree in both social work and guidance counseling from New York University. Dr. Martin was an important and dominant voice in the American labor movement, including service as executive board member of the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and first vice president of the Black Trade Unionists Leadership Committee of the New York City Central Labor Council. Dr. Martin served as New York assistant commissioner of labor under former Governors Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, Charles Malcolm Wilson and Hugh Carey.

She also served as senior extension associate of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations; secretary-treasurer of Local 8-138, Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union; and adjunct professor at Columbia, Fordham and New York Universities.

As director of labor participation for the American Red Cross in Greater New York, at the age of 81, Dr. Martin was on duty seven days a week after the terrorist attack on America on September 11, 2001, serving as liaison between labor, the Red Cross and the NYFD and NYPD departments. This remarkable woman coordinated survival and job-placement issues for hundreds of members of organized labor and personally processed 290 claims for American Red Cross Emergency Family Gifts to families' beneficiaries who lost members at "Ground Zero." Dr. Martin, freedom's mother of labor, was always there to serve her community and our great country.

Dr. Annie B. Martin now takes her place in history alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Percy Ellis Sutton and Freedom Sisters Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks, Ella Jo Baker, Dorothy Irene Height, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Charline Jordan, Betty Shabazz, Coretta Scott King and the countless of extraordinary African American Women and Men who have given so much of their entire lives and life-work to preserving freedom and equality for all of us and our nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you today, I ask you to join me and my colleagues in remembering the life of our beloved Freedom Fighter, Dr. Annie B. Martin. Her compassion and dedication to her community serves as a model for all Americans, our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON A. THEISEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brandon Theisen of Granger, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Brandon's project involved a complete reinstallation of a retaining wall at Jester Park, which included removing an existing wall and constructing a new one. The work ethic Brandon has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

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

SANFORD COMMUNITY ADULT
EDUCATION

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate this year's graduates of Sanford Community Adult Education programs in Sanford, Maine. These men and women have worked incredibly hard to earn their GEDs, high school diplomas, and work skills certificates, and I am thrilled to see their efforts come to fruition.

I commend these graduates for having the courage to recommit to their education after months or even years since last stepping in a classroom. Doing so, they have had to deal with a unique set of challenges, including balancing school work with careers and families.

With their education comes opportunity. I am excited about the new doors that will open for these graduates with their diplomas and certificates in hand. I wish them the best of luck as they pursue their goals, whether that is starting a business, getting a promotion, or simply setting a good example for their children.

I also want to thank the teachers and administrators of the program, and all the family members and friends who supported these students. This accomplishment is theirs as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 311, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TO RECOGNIZE JIM HINKLE FOR SERVICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MANTUA CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jim Hinkle and to congratulate him as he completes his tenure as the President of the Mantua Citizens' Association, MCA.

Like other home owners associations, the MCA responds to the needs of its residents, circulates local news, and coordinates volunteer services and community projects. As a former president of the MCA myself, I know firsthand the time and effort Mr. Hinkle has devoted to helping improve our community and maintain its rich quality of life.

During his tenure, Mr. Hinkle has tackled local environmental, safety, and road maintenance challenges. The nearby fuel tanker farm continues to be a perennial concern, particularly given recent spills and accidents. Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated effective leadership, collaborating with local, state and federal authorities, including the Environmental Protection Agency and my office. Thanks to our coordinated efforts, improved safety measures are being implemented.

Whether it's projects large or small, Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated a passion for community service. After the severe winter storms of 2010, he proposed a community service project for a local Boy Scout troop. The Scouts identified deficiencies in the neighborhood roads and made a presentation to the Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT, which organized the necessary repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Hinkle for his tremendous service to the Mantua community. Though his tenure as president has come to a close, I am confident we will continue to benefit from his contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No.: 371, "no;" 372, "no;" 373, "no;" 374, "no;" 375, "no;" 376, "yes;" 377, "yes;" 378, "no." Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated.

HONORING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth Independence Day Celebration. Juneteenth, celebrated on the 19th of June, is a holiday that celebrates the emancipation of African Americans from slavery but has come to signify much more. It is celebrated in June, the month that the last African Americans were informed of their Emancipation.

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, which came into effect on January 1, 1863. Critically, following the conclusion of the Civil War, U.S. Government officials traversed through the South to enforce the Proclamation. It was not until June 19th, 1865, in Galveston, TX, that Union General Gordon Granger declared freedom for the last major vestige of slavery in the United States, marking one of the proudest days in all of African American history.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth Independence Day is a holiday that should not go without note. This date represents a crucial milestone in African American history and demonstrates the evolution of our Nation over the last century and a half. Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. I encourage all of my constituents to take part in the day's festivities and also to reflect on the values of self-improvement, assessment, and future-planning which are consistent with the spirit of Juneteenth.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PLATTSBURGH RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifteenth annual Plattsburgh Relay for Life.

This event has not only strived for years to raise money and awareness in an effort to eradicate cancer, but it serves as a tribute to all those who have bravely fought this tragic disease.

This annual event honors the courageous efforts these individuals have demonstrated in their fight for life and remembers those that have lost the battle. Tonight we especially remember our dear friend, Marie Guay, who lost her brave fight with cancer last year. As the former Relay for Life Survivor Chair, Marie devoted countless hours ensuring that cancer survivors were honored and celebrated. So tonight we remember all of her efforts and together honor her memory.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the work of the entire Relay for Life committee and its participants. I commend each and every one of you for keeping the valiant struggle of these individuals in all our memories and working to ensure that more people survive cancer and are able to celebrate another birthday.

THE HUMAN COST OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness and regret: we have reached 2,000 American troop deaths in the War in Afghanistan—a war we needlessly continue to fight. My sincerest condolences go out to the families, friends, and communities who have lost loved ones to a war I have ardently opposed for the past 11 years.

Americans are not alone in our loss. As of summer 2011, conservative estimates indicate that anywhere between 30,000 and 45,000 Afghan civilians have lost their lives to this war. I will never understand why we continually squander lives and money to achieve tactical or strategic military goals. The cost is simply too great; the ends do not justify the means.

Seventy percent of Americans want a complete and early withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, according to a recent Rasmussen poll. Yet we do not listen, so more lives are lost in this nonsensical war. I hope that someday soon we will finally bring home our troops and help restore peace to the nation of Afghanistan.

CONGRATULATING HUNTER WRIGHT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fresno resident Hunter Wright upon being named a recipient of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) 2012 Bright Minds Scholarship, a prestigious academic scholarship awarded to a small number of California high school students each year.

Miss Wright is one of 8,060 students from PG&E's Northern and Central California service area to apply for the \$30,000 Bright Minds Scholarship this year. The scholarship is renewable for up to four additional years. As one of eight winners, Miss Wright joins a highly select group of students participating in the utility company's largest scholarship program.

Miss Wright was informed of her scholarship award while sitting in her Advanced Placement English class, when Edison High School administrators and representatives from PG&E bearing a banner, balloons, cupcakes, and an oversize check surprised her. Her parents, Doreen and Dave Wright, were also present for the announcement.

Miss Wright graduated from Edison High School on June 12, 2012. In addition to excelling in academics, she actively participated in cross-country, lacrosse, tennis, and regularly volunteered for various community causes. Miss Wright will attend the University of Miami this fall, where she plans to study English. She aspires to be an English professor.

In addition to her academic and career goals, Miss Wright hopes to continue traveling the world to do volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Miss Hunter Wright of Fresno, California, for

her impressive academic accomplishments. I congratulate her upon being named a recipient of PG&E's 2012 Bright Minds Scholarship and wish her the best of success in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 312, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE 2012 HIDDEN POND ENVIROTHON TEAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2012 Hidden Pond Envirothon Team and congratulate them on achieving Second Place in the Virginia State Envirothon Competition.

The Envirothon Competition promotes problem-solving among high school students in the areas of forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and other current environmental issues. What is most unique about the competition is the opportunity to work in the field with access to actual natural resource professionals. The competition aims to foster stewardship, improve management concepts and communication skills, and promote critical thinking, decision making, and team building.

This year's members of the Hidden Pond Envirothon Team are Liam Berigan (Robinson HS), Matt Baker (W. T. Woodson HS), Murjan Hammad (home-schooled), Owan Mulvey-McFerron (W. T. Woodson HS), and Peter MacDonald (West Springfield HS), with Coach Neal MacDonald. The team won first place in the local Fairfax County Envirothon Competition as well as at the Area II Regional Competition. This allowed the team to move on to competition at the state level at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. While competing against the top 15 teams from across Virginia, the Hidden Pond Envirothon Team placed second for the second year in a row. This year's oral presentation focus was titled "Low Impact Development and Nonpoint Source Pollution," for which the team placed first. Hidden Pond also placed first in the wildlife category, second place in the aquatics category, and third place in the forestry category.

I would like to offer special thanks to Mike McCaffrey and Jim Pomeroy. Mr. McCaffrey has coordinated the Envirothon Program at the Hidden Pond Nature Center for many years. His efforts have enabled the team to compete at the state level as Hidden Pond is typically the only team not sponsored by a high school. Mr. Pomeroy has served as Hidden Pond's Site Manager, supporting the Envirothon Team with great enthusiasm. Through their commitment and encouragement to this program, many of the students have gone on to become local volunteers or

work in careers focused on protecting the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2012 Hidden Pond Envirothon Team for their performance in the Virginia State Envirothon Competition.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Air Traffic Controllers Association on the 25th anniversary of the Union's founding.

NATCA represents more than 20,000 air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals who run the safest, most efficient air traffic control system in the world. These men and women are dedicated aviation professionals who come to work every day knowing that they have to perform their jobs with 100 percent accuracy 100 percent of the time. The American people entrust their lives and the lives of their loved ones to NATCA members each and every time they step on an airplane. This is a responsibility that NATCA takes seriously. Since NATCA's founding in 1987, the United States National Airspace System has maintained its record as the safest airspace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, NATCA's 20,000 FAA aviation safety professionals are dedicated federal employees. Our nation's incredible aviation safety record is due in part to the fact that these men and women are federal employees whose number one priority is to ensure the safety of the flying public. I applaud NATCA on this remarkable achievement and congratulate them on their 25th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Deer Park High School Softball Team for becoming the 2012 5A State Champions. Winning the state championship is a great accomplishment that takes an incredible amount of effort, dedication and teamwork from every player. This win is Deer Park High School's first state championship title since 1955. Our entire community is proud of the Deer Park Lady Deer's success and hard work to bring home the state trophy.

In addition to winning the state championship, the Deer Park Lady Deer had an impressive season record of 31-8, with a district record of 8-2. In the state semi-final game, the team set a state tournament record for the most runs scored in a single inning by scoring ten runs in the fifth inning of the game.

The talent that exists on this team is exceptional. Out of ten eligible spots, Deer Park

players were selected for seven spots on the state 5A all tournament team. Those players include Kristen Davenport, Jo Rivera, Caitlin Plocheck, Lexi Fryar, Alexis Garcia, Haley Harrison, and Alana Tinker. Kristen Davenport was named the championship's Most Valuable Player, MVP, and also the Houston Chronicle's Girl Athlete of the Week for June 3, 2012. Caitlin Plocheck was also nominated for the Houston Chronicle's Girl Athlete of the Week.

Congratulations to the Lady Deer Softball Team from Deer Park High School for winning the 2012 State Championship in Texas. We are all very proud of your outstanding achievement!

HONORING SGT JOSEPH ANGEL CAPOCCIAMMA

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Joseph Angel Capocciama. Sergeant Capocciama passed away on Sunday, May 20, 2012, from complications of injuries sustained in service to his country in Iraq.

The son of Alan and Maria Capocciama, Joseph Angel Capocciama was born on May 29, 1987, and raised in Grove City, Ohio. He graduated from Grove City High School in 2005. A true patriot, Sergeant Capocciama joined the United States Army on May 23, 2006, just one week before his 19th birthday.

While proudly serving his country in Iraq, Sergeant Capocciama received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Valorous Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. He retired from the Army on April 7, 2010.

It is because of the sacrifices of men like Joseph Capocciama that we continue to enjoy the freedoms that we do today. I am deeply thankful for all that Sergeant Capocciama endured to preserve our freedom and for his heroism. He is survived by his wife, Kayla, and his children, Joseph Angel Capocciama, Jr. and Cheyenne Faith Capocciama, for whom he set an inspiring example of service and patriotism.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District I would like to honor the service and memory of SGT Joseph Angel Capocciama.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. STEVEN LADENHEIM

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Steven Ladenheim. For the past 34 years, Dr. Ladenheim has served the city of Philadelphia with his extensive knowledge of otolaryngology.

A graduate of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, now known as Drexel University College of Medicine, he has won multiple awards

in his field. He is an accomplished surgeon, a clinical assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and an entrepreneur with a highly successful private practice. Dr. Ladenheim recently retired as medical director for Blue Cross, and spent 20 years in practice at Presbyterian Hospital, as well as Nazareth Hospital and Hahnemann Hospital.

Dr. Ladenheim succeeded through hard work and sacrifice. In order to become a doctor he served in the military during the Vietnam War to pay his way through medical school. Throughout his career, he has created programs of outreach to the underserved community of Philadelphia, donating medical services and medicine to families and children who are denied access to health care. Taking the Hippocratic Oath to heart, Dr. Ladenheim is renowned for treating patients regardless of ability to pay, and to help those in need without any thought to his own benefit.

In addition to all of his accomplishments in the field of medicine, he has maintained a strong family life with his wife and three daughters, as well as a notable presence within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. Steven Ladenheim for his contributions to the city of Philadelphia and to the medical community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

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

Today, it is \$15,776,139,241,010.39. We've added \$5,149,262,192,097.31 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

Forty-eight years ago today, the Civil Rights Act was approved. This act provided for a brighter future for all Americans. We must not eclipse the hope included in this legislation with the grim future of debt repayment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 313, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TO COMMEND COLONEL JOHN J.
STRYCUCLA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague, Congressman JAMES

MORAN (VA—8th), to recognize COL John J. Strycula for his service to our Nation and his extraordinary leadership as Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir.

On July 7, 2010, COL Strycula assumed command of Fort Belvoir, which is located in the shadow of the Nation's capital and one of the most diverse and complex installations in the United States. In addition to the monumental responsibilities of providing support, services, and a high level quality of life to service members, their families, and related support providers of more than 200,000 people, he was immediately immersed into the most complicated Base Realignment and Closure mission within the Department of Defense.

COL Strycula assumed personal stewardship of all aspects of realignment under BRAC 2005. To accomplish the many aspects of this mission, he oversaw the activities of 150 mission partners on more than \$4 billion in construction and infrastructure improvement projects needed to accommodate the increase of installation population from 30,000 to 48,000 military and civilian personnel. Belvoir North, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, the Wounded Warrior Complex, the USO Family Support Center, expansion of housing units including state of the art handicapped-accessible housing, child care centers, roads, bridges, fire stations, office buildings, and parking structures are examples of projects completed under the careful watch of COL Strycula.

The "brick and mortar" component of BRAC 2005 tells only part of the story; as impressive as these accomplishments are, the manner in which COL Strycula led the men and women under his command and the mission partners demonstrate the depth of his professionalism and commitment. His open and engaging command climate encouraged initiative and innovation. He has been fully involved in addressing and resolving community issues, both in the neighboring community and in the military community. COL Strycula successfully formed consensus among the various stakeholders on contentious issues, and he established strong relationships of mutual respect with elected and executive leaders in the local, State, and Federal Governments.

The first and most important priority for COL Strycula consistently has been the care and wellbeing of our soldiers and their families. Through his outstanding leadership, vision, and total dedication to soldiers, families, and civilians, he has profoundly impacted and Unproved the quality of life for all at Fort Belvoir. Serving our country in uniform, at home or in harm's way on foreign soil, is the highest of callings, and it is our sacred obligation to ensure that our military and their families receive the support, protections, respect, and services that they have earned.

Prior to his assignment as Commander of Fort Belvoir, he served in numerous capacities including several tours of duty in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. COL Strycula stood up and trained the Army's first Military Intelligence Interrogation Battalion, which he then led in Operation Iraqi Freedom. COL Strycula is a highly decorated officer; his awards include the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service

Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in commending COL John J. Strycula for his exceptional leadership of Fort Belvoir through the BRAC process, and in thanking him for his years of service to our country. COL Strycula's accomplishments and expertise have contributed immeasurably to our national defense and security, and he has rightfully earned the admiration, respect, and gratitude of all. We also extend our sincere appreciation to COL Strycula's wife, Wendy, and their 5 children for their support and sacrifices, which have enabled COL Strycula to serve with such distinction. COL Strycula will soon be deploying to Afghanistan, and our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family for his safe return home.

IN HONOR OF GEDLU METAFERIA

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gedlu Metaferia, for his decades of service to the people of the St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Metaferia started the African Mutual Assistance Association of Missouri, AMAAM, on April 10, 1983 and for nearly 30 years has helped over 30,000 African immigrants and refugees settle into the St. Louis metropolitan area. Today St. Louis is home to almost 6,400 African immigrants and refugees.

As Executive Director, Mr. Metaferia skillfully managed the day-to-day operations of his organization, and he successfully led it toward the fulfillment of its mission to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate social services to African refugees and immigrants. The work of this organization includes: assistance with applications and insurance forms, mediation, education about civic participation, interpretation during medical visits, transportation, and locating housing. Sadly, we are all aware of the plight of refugees and other displaced communities; therefore, I am eternally grateful for the adjustment assistance provided by Mr. Metaferia and his organization.

Mr. Metaferia's efforts have fostered a greater appreciation of diversity, and have advanced ethnic inclusion in the St. Louis community. Moreover, he remains active in the community as a poet, freelance writer, human rights activist, advocate for refugee and immigrant rights, and a member on several non-profit boards. Mr. Metaferia has led by example and demonstrates resilience as a pillar of strength, sound judgment, and compassion.

Mr. Metaferia has dedicated his life to serving and promoting the welfare of others, and he has exemplified extraordinary commitment and selfless dedication. I congratulate Mr. Gedlu Metaferia on his many accomplishments, and I thank him for his continued service to our community.

EXPRESSING REGRET FOR PASSAGE OF LAWS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of H. Res. 683, an overdue and needed resolution that expresses the regret of the House for passing laws that targeted Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act. A previous commitment has prevented me from being present to vote in support of H. Res. 683 today, but had been present, I most certainly would have voted for the Resolution, adding my voice to the Sense of the House of Representatives in expressing regret for the unconscionable Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

That Act stands as an example of the intolerance against which Americans must constantly fight to achieve the ideals on which our nation was founded. We can't ignore our country's history of exclusion and discrimination based on identity and country of origin. But today, the House's expression of regret for the past and apology to Chinese Americans is an important milestone in our nation's ongoing moral journey. This resolution, insufficient to repair the historical harm caused by such laws, does serve to recognize past wrongs and to remind us of our continuing work ensuring inclusion and equality for all.

While I could not be present to add my solemn support to the votes in favor of the resolution, I wish to express my regret for this historical legislation. I join my fellow members of the House of Representatives in recognition of the immense contribution of Chinese-Americans to the success of the United States historically and today, and affirm my commitment to securing the rights of all who call America home.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. Since their establishment in 1987, NATCA's 20,000 air traffic controllers and aviation safety professionals have ensured that our nation has the safest, most efficient air traffic control system in the world. This is a record that makes both the Union and our country proud.

Aviation creates more than 10 million good-paying U.S. jobs and drives more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity. The services that NATCA members provide enable American businesses to connect on a local, regional, national, and global level.

Aviation safety is not a partisan issue. As Members of Congress, we are all frequent users of the National Airspace System and are

reassured to know that when we board a plane, NATCA's membership will safely guide us home.

Again, I want to commend the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and their leadership on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE 147TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE 19TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 147th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 19th annual celebration of the Juneteenth Freedom and Heritage Festival in Memphis, Tennessee. This past weekend, we celebrated Juneteenth, which is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced in the town square that all slaves were free. Although this came nearly 3 years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the newly freed men and women rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations, and thus, the Juneteenth holiday was born. The theme of this year's Memphis Juneteenth festival is "Saluting Black Educators."

Memphis has a long history of excellent black educators. During the Civil Rights Movement Memphis needed a powerful voice to stand up and push for equality in the Memphis City schools. After being denied admission to Memphis State University because of her race, Maxine A. Smith joined the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and soon became an agent for change as she was instrumental in desegregating Memphis schools. In 2003, alongside President Clinton, Maxine Smith received the Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum.

Memphis has had its fair share of outstanding black educators in recent years as well. In 2009, the White House honored Melissa Collins with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Melissa Collins is a second grade teacher in Memphis, and during a time in this country where math and science teachers are scarce, Melissa Collins exhibits the teaching skills necessary to inspire our children to learn. In February of this year, Velma Lois Jones received the Drum Majors for Service Award from the White House. Velma Lois Jones was the first black classroom teacher ever elected as president of the Tennessee Education Association and she was also a board member of the National Education Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the spirit of these great individuals that I ask my colleagues to join me in observing our nation's 147th anniversary of Juneteenth and the celebrations in Memphis. This is a time to celebrate the end of slavery in America and to recognize the many contributions of African-American citizens.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF RICHARD W. LYMAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the rich and accomplished life of Richard W. Lyman, Stanford University's seventh president, who died on May 27, 2012, at his home in Palo Alto at the age of 88.

The eloquent words of Stanford University President John Hennessy bear quoting: "Dick Lyman was a man of great strength, integrity, common sense and good humor. It was a privilege to know him, and I am deeply saddened by his death. His impact on Stanford was profound. He guided the university through some of the most turbulent years in its history, and under his leadership, Stanford not only survived, it flourished. He had an unswerving belief in academic freedom and universities, and he inspired that commitment in others. We are very fortunate—and certainly the better—for having known him and for having his courageous, committed leadership and service to Stanford."

Richard Lyman was born in 1923 in Pennsylvania and was raised in New Haven, Connecticut. His father was an attorney and his mother a French teacher. His education at Swarthmore College was interrupted by three years of service in the Army Air Forces Weather Service, and after college he began graduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in history at Harvard. He spent two years as a Fulbright Fellow at the London School of Economics, and two summers writing for *The Economist*. He also taught history at Washington University in St. Louis from 1954 to 1958.

Richard Lyman came to Stanford in 1958, with the great love of his life, Jing, whom he married in 1947. He became a full professor in 1962, and rose through the ranks, becoming Stanford's president in 1970, a post he held until 1980. He served in some of the most turbulent years in our Nation's history, and in the opinion of many, he saved Stanford from collapse and greatly enhanced its prestige.

After leaving Stanford, he held many important posts, including President of the Rockefeller Foundation and Vice Chair of the National Council on the Humanities. He returned to Stanford in 1988 and developed a forum for interdisciplinary research on key international issues, and retired in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of one of the most distinguished and extraordinarily accomplished leaders of our country, and to extend our deepest condolences to his devoted wife Jing, and his four children Jennifer Lyman, Rev. Holly Antolini, Christopher Lyman, Timothy Lyman, and his four grandchildren.

Richard Lyman's leadership brought great distinction to our community and strengthened our Nation. I am blessed to have known him, and our country was blessed by his high sense of citizenship and patriotism.

COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth, commemorated on June 19 each year, marks the date of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by U.S. Army Major Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas to slaves unaware of the original issuance two years prior.

The date carries significance as the official end of one era in American history that led to the freedom-filled chapter of the next for the millions who were liberated by the Proclamation.

As our Nation evolves toward legally recognizing a more inclusive citizenry of all ethnicities and backgrounds, let us remain ever mindful of the courageous and brave individuals who fought tirelessly, but were not granted freedom and liberty under American law.

Mr. Speaker, we must not take our civil rights for granted, but rather use them to continuously propel our great country forward. History is not meant for mere storytelling, but instead serves as a blueprint from which we learn and expand upon the discoveries we encounter each day.

May we take away from the events of Juneteenth the spirit of resolve and unified commitment of liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Fair. The annual 17-day Alameda County Fair, which takes place in Pleasanton, California, is the largest single event in Alameda County and draws close to one half million patrons each year.

In 1912, the first Alameda County Fair was held at a local racetrack in the Hamlet of Alisal, which is now Pleasanton. The owner of the track, Rodney MacKenzie, organized a group of local business leaders to form a non-profit organization and pledge their personal assets as collateral to fund the Annual Fair & Race Meet.

This new organization, The Alameda Fair Association, was formed on June 29, 1912 and consisted of fifteen businessmen, agriculturalists and livestock raisers from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Hayward, San Ramon and Irvington. The first fair opened in 1912 on Wednesday, October 23 and ran through Sunday, October 27.

In 1941 the non-profit Fair Association purchased the first 100 acres of what is now the 268-acre Fairgrounds. The 10-day Fair & Race Meet of 1941 was touted by the Oaldand Tribune as "Northern California's Largest County Fair."

The Fair Association subsequently donated the property to the people of Alameda County

to guarantee that the residents of this region would have a County Fair & Race Track. Alameda County still contracts with the nonprofit Fair Association to manage and improve the Fairgrounds. The Fair Association continues to provide a significant public benefit without receiving any tax support. The Association has an annual operating budget of roughly \$19 million.

On the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Fair, the Fair Association will dedicate an Alameda County Historical Monument, on the Fairgrounds, that represents a slice of the rich history of Alameda County. The Historical Monument represents the many people, businesses and leaders that settled, developed and call Alameda County home.

I join the community in applauding the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Fair. I also pay tribute to the Fair Association for creating and dedicating a Historical Monument on the Fairgrounds to honor the rich history of Alameda County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 314 I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no."

TO RECOGNIZE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2012 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards.

For more than 85 years, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce has provided a strategic link between local businesses and the region through participation in community activities, networking opportunities, marketing, support and education. Fairfax County has witnessed extraordinary growth, and the Chamber of Commerce has been a consistent, guiding voice for business. Fairfax County is considered by many to be one of the best communities in the country in which to live, work and raise a family. A significant factor in that distinction is the thriving partnership between the public and private sectors. Corporations, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions work hand-in-hand with their counterparts in local, state and federal government agencies. A thriving business community is essential to maintaining a high quality of life for all residents, just as ensuring strong community institutions and educational opportunities for all residents are essential to fostering continued economic growth.

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals and busi-

nesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and have excelled in their efforts to better our community through social responsibility. More than 65 nominees were considered for the 2012 awards, and each is deserving of recognition and appreciation. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the following recipients of the 2012 Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards:

Emerging Influential of the Year: Amanda Andere, Executive Director, FACETS.

Non-Profit of the Year: Good Shepherd Housing and Family Service.

Executive of the Year: Michael Cardaci, CEO, Global Network Services, Inc.

Woman Owned Business of the Year: Halfaker and Associates LLC.

Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year—Large Business: Deloitte LLP.

Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year—Mid Size Company: Apple Federal Credit Union.

Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year—Small Company: Karin's Florist.

In addition to the Corporate Citizenship Awards, the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce also bestows awards in three unique categories; the Chairman's Awards which recognize extraordinary leadership by companies and individuals within the Fairfax Chamber, the James M. Rees Awards which recognize lifelong leadership and service to the Northern Virginia business community, and the NOVAForward Award which is presented to an individual for extraordinary efforts to move Virginia forward. This year's honorees are:

Chairman's Awards: Julie Simmons, Human Capital Strategic Consulting, Jorge Scientific Corporation, and Northrup Grumman.

James M. Rees Award: Sidney O. Dewberry, Chairman Emeritus, Dewberry, and John Toups, Former CEO, PRC.

NOVAForward Award: Terrence D. Jones, President and CEO, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards and in thanking them for their many contributions that have supported not only our high quality of life but also the robust business community we have in Fairfax County.

H.R. 5855, THE DHS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5855, the FY13 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I regret that this bill, especially during the amendment process on the floor of the House, became a political football. I hope that when the final bill emerges from negotiations with the Senate and the White House, it will reflect the will and priorities of the American people.

Funding appropriated by H.R. 5855 is intended to support and address the vital needs of our men and women working to ensure the country's homeland security. The bill appropriates a total of \$46 billion for the Department

in FY 2013—including \$39.1 billion in discretionary spending, \$1.4 billion in mandatory spending, and \$5.5 billion for emergency disaster relief. The measure significantly increases funding for FEMA state and local grants and for Homeland cyber-security activities.

Despite these benefits, I have concerns about how the bill disregards the mandates of the Budget Control Act, how it treats civilian employees at DHS and how the bill delves into unprecedented territory regarding the reproductive rights of women.

The spending caps set by the bi-partisan Budget Control Act ensured that prioritized programs could be funded adequately even as discretionary reductions were achieved. The harmful discretionary top-line set by the House Republican budget, and facilitated by this bill, threatens funding for other equally vital programs, threatens American jobs, and threatens the services relied upon by our seniors and our veterans.

Further, I am concerned that the bill does not fund the .5 percent cost of living adjustment provided as part of the president's FY13 budget request. Federal employees have already sacrificed \$60 billion of salary over ten years as part of the two-year pay freeze. Starting in January 2013, new federal employees will contribute more to their pensions to offset the \$15 billion cost of Unemployment Insurance Extension legislation. And with this bill, federal employees are asked to give up what was already a small .5% partial COLA. This provision essentially extends for another year the 2-year pay freeze currently covering DHS employees.

Finally, I am disappointed by the passage and inclusion in the bill of an amendment offered by STEVE KING of Iowa, which I opposed and which prohibits the use of the funds in the bill from being used to implement the so called "Morton Memos." The memos, written by ICE Director Morton, provide a plan to deploy ICE resources in the most cost effective manner. Specifically, they provide guidance to ensure that limited enforcement resources are focused primarily on criminals or other individuals who pose a threat to national security or public safety. The King amendment will prohibit the department from exercising this common sense prosecutorial discretion. It would force the Department to treat young people who were brought to the United States as kids and who have graduated from American schools the same as individuals who knowingly broke immigration laws and who have committed crimes in the United States. That makes no sense.

Bringing a bill to the floor that cuts the resources available to the men and women responsible for protecting the homeland security of the Nation and then tying their hands with unnecessary and ill-informed amendments is counterproductive and undercuts the bill's intended purpose.

CONGRATULATING THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

This foundation, established in 1992 by Dave Thomas, has continuously strived to help every child in foster care find a loving, permanent family. It has dramatically increased the number of adoptions, including finding families for 3,000 children in the United States foster care system, and for that I commend them.

The Foundation shows its commitment to the foster care system by awarding grants to public and private adoption agencies all across the country. As a founding member of National Adoption Day, it has helped brighten the lives of countless children.

Last year's awarded grants totaled more than \$8 million and focused on supporting adoption professionals who assist the longest-waiting children from foster care into adoptive families. This genuine program, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, has increased children's likelihood of being adopted by up to three times.

As an accredited charity of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, Standards for Excellence certified, the Foundation has received the highest possible rating on Charity Navigator, an exceptional honor.

For these reasons, I am proud to applaud the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption for representing Central Ohio through its extraordinary contributions to the United States foster care system.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE HMONG PILOTS OF THE SECRET WAR IN LAOS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, during the Vietnam War another "secret war" was taking place in Laos with thousands of Hmong fighters assisting the U.S. The Hmong who risked their lives for the freedom of their country and in the aid of the U.S. suffered tremendously as they served with great courage.

This weekend in Maplewood, Minnesota, a little known group of Hmong pilot veterans of the secret war gathered and were recognized by the U.S. Air Force in appreciation of their heroism. Supported by the U.S., some 38 Hmong pilots were trained to fly counterinsurgency missions between 1967 and 1975. Seventeen of those pilots are alive today and were honored, along with posthumous awards for 21 deceased colleagues, by Air Force Chief of Staff, General Norton Schwartz.

I, too, would like to recognize and honor those brave Hmong pilots who are living examples of courage, along with the pilots who

sacrificed their lives. The secret war was a difficult and painful time for the Hmong people. Today, decades later, Minnesota is the home to many who lived through those years of war and suffering. As Hmong Americans of all generations contribute to making Minnesota and the U.S. a stronger and more prosperous land, we must never forget the service, sacrifice, and courage of the Hmong warriors who fought on land and in the sky for freedom during the secret war.

Again, I join in the recognition and remembrance of 38 Hmong pilots who risked their lives for freedom.

RECOGNIZING ROCKWELL MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rockwell Museum of Western Art as the 29th District of New York's most recently accredited museum. The Rockwell Museum was just awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums, the highest national recognition a museum can receive for their commitment to public service and excellence in education.

The American Association of Museums states that there are over 17,500 museums in the United States and less than 800 are accredited. These numbers would place the Rockwell Museum of Western Art in a very elite category and I am proud to represent this museum.

The Rockwell Museum of Western Art inspires and educates people of all ages. Its vision inspires the staff to strive towards making the museum a resource for study, knowledge, and entertainment by local and national audiences. I encourage everyone to stop in and visit the Rockwell Museum next time you are in Corning, New York.

CONGRATULATING JAMES FARR

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. James Farr of Rochester, New York for his three-year appointment to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission. The Commission was established by P.L. 106-554 to assist in the preservation, maintenance and interpretation of the historical, natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources of the Erie Canalway in ways that reflect its national significance. I nominated Jim for the Corridor's Commission on August 25, 2011, and am delighted to have a dedicated member of the Rochester community represented on the Commission.

As an employee of the City of Rochester for over 34 years, Jim's passion for improving this great area of New York will serve as an integral asset to the Commission. He has represented the city as a committee member on both of the World Canal Conferences held in Rochester and has also assisted with and attended a number of the Canal Society of New

York Conferences and events. Currently serving as Assistant Director for Recreation, Jim is responsible for the City's environmental and horticultural education programs and parks stewardship, as well as the oversight of the Rochester Public Market. Jim truly embodies the spirit of this region.

An example of Jim's creativity and dedication to the area is his close work with Parks and Trails New York to coordinate the annual "Cycle the Erie" bike tour, which showcases the Canalway's heritage. In addition, Jim is currently a Board member of the Genesee WaterWays Center. He is the former President and a current Foundation member of Monroe County Cooperative Extension. Jim serves as a member of many other related boards and organizations, including the Monroe County Parks Advisory Committee, the Ontario Beach Park Program Committee, the Farmers Market Federation of New York, and the National Association of Produce Market Managers. He is also the secretary and one of the founding board members of the Tony Jordan Youth Sports Foundation, which provides supplemental funding to enhance the quality and integrity of youth sports in the City of Rochester.

The Erie Canalway Corridor is a symbol of American ingenuity and perseverance, and I am grateful for Jim Farr's continued commitment to promoting its national significance by serving on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Jim Farr for his long record of public service.

HONORING EDDIE WONG

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eddie Wong, a man who has played a significant role in the ongoing restoration and development of the Angel Island Immigration Station in Marin County, CA. On June 30, 2012, Mr. Wong is retiring after four productive years as Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF).

Located off the coast of Tiburon, California, in Angel Island State Park, the Immigration Station is the site of the detention of 175,000 Chinese immigrants from 1910 to 1940. Because of the Chinese Exclusion Act, many of them were held for weeks, months or years in a prison-like barracks where life was difficult and humiliating.

The restoration of this Station and related educational projects recognize the struggle of these immigrants and our nation's challenge to honor our history of immigration. AIISF, with the hard work of its many supporters and partners, including the California State Parks and the National Park Service, has led these rehabilitation efforts. During Mr. Wong's tenure, the Immigration Station Museum opened, the Immigrant Heritage Wall was created, and the hospital at the site was stabilized.

The Angel Island Immigration Station now hosts more than 50,000 visitors, including 30,000 schoolchildren, every year. I have had the privilege of participating in this effort by

securing federal funding, and I share Eddie Wong's belief that with the partnership we have, we can complete the remaining work on this important testament to our rich and complex history.

Mr. Wong came to the Executive Director position with a strong background in the cultural social issues at stake. He graduated from UCLA with a BA and MFA from School of Fine Arts Motion Picture and Television Program. Before joining AIISF, he co-founded Visual Communications, the nation's first Asian American film production company, served as the Strategy and Investment Principal for Media and the Advisor on Social Justice for the Democracy Alliance, and was Executive Director of the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (now known as the Center for Asian American Media).

Understanding that the Angel Island Immigration Station site resonates personally with many immigrants, Mr. Wong says, "I think that my father, who was deported from Angel Island as a 15-year old and came back a year later determined to better his life, would be proud that a place of shame has now become a site of conscience."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Eddie Wong and in wishing him well in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 600

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teamsters Local Union No. 600, in celebration of their 100th anniversary and service to the members of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

Teamsters Local Union No. 600 is deserving of special public recognition for its many accomplishments. It has distinguished record of service to working men and women, as well as to their families. Its immeasurable contributions to the advancement of the union labor movement in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area have made our community a better place.

Teamsters Local Union No. 600 has worked to improve the working conditions, benefits, and wages for the men and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. In addition, their influence was appreciated and felt by those who drove freight trucks, worked in warehouses, made milk deliveries, and worked at the Anheuser Busch beer distributorships.

But there work has not only been limited to St. Louis. As a Member of the US House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Teamsters Local Union No. 600 advice and counsel has been invaluable to me when working on local, regional, and national transportation issues.

Teamsters Local Union No. 600 has also lead the way in providing employers in the transportation industry with the best trained employees, making it possible for the goods and services that millions of Americans rely on to be delivered safely, on time and in good condition. This kind of commitment by the

Teamsters makes our US economy work, grow, and prosper for all us.

Again, I congratulate Teamsters Local Union No. 600 on their 100th Anniversary, and wish them more success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL SOTO PRINCIPAL OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PUBLIC SCHOOL 57

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dear friend and great force in the education of our children, Israel Soto, principal of James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy Public School 57, who is retiring after a long career in public education service. Israel, a Puerto Rican immigrant, began his career in education in my congressional district as a school bilingual coordinator and as an assistant director of bilingual education in Washington Heights.

In 1999, Israel ascended to principal of James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy Public School 57, a pre-K-8 school in East Harlem/El Barrio, which is also a part of my district. Mr. Soto's expertise in bilingual education and the fact that his second language was English, like many of the school's students, made him an ideal choice for principal. His talents extend to all facets of education, and under his leadership, James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy has gone from a near-failing school to one that received a grade of "A" in its latest Progress Report and is ranked in the 93rd percentile of all New York City K-8 schools.

Principal Soto has deservedly received numerous awards during his tenure. In 2001, he was named "Principal of the Month" in his school district and in 2004 was recognized as the "Educator of the Week" by Univision 41 Nueva York. Israel has also been inducted into the "Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals" at Columbia University as well as being honored by Children 4 Children, the YMCA of New York, the New York Post, and El Diario La Prensa.

Principal Soto's work at James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy serves as a model for current and future educators. He has built strong partnerships with teachers, parents, community organizations, and the private sector while keeping his focus internal, on his students. This outreach has significantly increased the academic resources available to his students and demonstrates the supreme importance of an active and charismatic principal and leader.

On Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the elegant Marina del Rey, the Soto Retirement Committee joined the East Harlem/El Barrio community of leaders, children, parents, families, friends, and education advocates to pay tribute to our Dream Maker Principal Israel Soto.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring a great man and an impassioned educator who, first and foremost, believes in all of our extraordinary children.

OGUNQUIT PLAYHOUSE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Ogunquit Playhouse—America's Foremost Summer Theatre in Ogunquit, Maine—as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary Season.

Since 1933, the Ogunquit Playhouse has given generations of theatergoers the opportunity to enjoy the finest plays and brightest stars and professional actors, bringing Broadway to the Beach. Their acclaim has continued over the decades. Most recently, they were recently recognized with prestigious Moss Hart Awards for Best Professional Production and Outstanding Achievement as a Theater Company. In addition, the New England Theatre Conference has recognized the Ogunquit Playhouse with their Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Theatre, acknowledging the Playhouse as one of the most important cultural landmarks in New England.

I am proud of the Playhouse's commitment to developing and expanding theater activity in New England on the educational, community and professional levels. They have created an extensive school performance and outreach program as well as partnerships with dozens of social service agencies throughout the region to bring underserved children and families to the Playhouse to enjoy live theater.

They believe—and I believe—that the arts are essential to the quality of life for everyone. As Maine's creative economy grows and receives national attention, America's Foremost Summer Theatre serves as a shining example of success.

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY DAVID
BENJAMIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zachary Benjamin of Fort Dodge, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Zachary's project involved creating a rock and rain garden at Kennedy Park in Webster County. Zachary completed this project while going above and beyond the required merit badges. The work ethic Zachary has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

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

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID SHELBORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Mr. David Shelborne.

Mr. Shelborne's passion for electronics led him to become a technician for the Savin Corporation in Manhattan. His many awards during his tenure there led to his recruitment to Alco Standards Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, in a Senior Specialist position. There he was responsible for managing the entire New York and New Jersey Regions of the company.

Mr. Shelborne has been a dedicated member of the African American Benevolent Society since 1990, has held many esteemed positions in the organization, and now serves as its president.

Mr. Shelborne currently works for the Department of Sanitation where he is currently assigned to the Supervised Sick Leave Unit—Medical Division, having been a dedicated member of the department since 1990.

Mr. Shelborne is a child of God and an active member of the St. John Baptist Church, in Averter, NY. He currently resides in Far Rockaway, New York with his wife, Lisa. Together, they have five children.

Mr. Shelbourne is currently looking forward to being a volunteer for the United States Civil Air Patrol (Parent in Partnership) with his youngest son, Tahj.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize David Shelborne for his loyalty and dedication to civic duty in his professional and private life.

IN RECOGNITION OF LESBIAN,
GAY, BISEXUAL, AND
TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I rise today to recognize the significance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. The purpose of this honorable month is to recognize the vast influence lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender men and women have had not only on our nation's history, but on local and international levels as well.

Today, we regard LGBT Pride Month as an opportunity to pay tribute to the 1969 Stonewall riots, a major tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the U.S. Over 40 years ago a group of New Yorkers took a stand against a discriminatory police raid at

The Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Manhattan.

The spontaneous demonstrations that composed the Stonewall riots are commonly referred to as the first instance in American history when people of the LGBT community fought back against a government system of persecution which targeted sexual minorities. It united the gay community in New York in the fight against discrimination.

Six months after the riots, three newspapers dedicated to promoting LGBT rights were formed: Gay, Gay Power and Come Out! Additionally, two gay activist organizations were founded right here in New York—the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. Within a few years, gay rights organizations were founded in several cities across the nation and the world. June 28, 1970 marked the first Gay Pride marches in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, established to commemorate the anniversary of the riots.

In honor of Stonewall, many gay pride events and celebrations are now held annually during the month of June throughout the world, including New York City's Gay Pride Week. These celebrations include pride parades, picnics, concerts and parties; and attract millions of global participants. Memorials for those LGBT members who have lost their lives to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS are also held during this month.

While the fight for justice regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity continues to be a crucial one, we have indeed made significant strides. Let this month remind us of the society we all strive for, one in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people enjoy the constitutional rights of equality, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression. No LGBT person should experience discrimination in housing, employment, or public spaces. We need to continue fighting until everyone has the equal opportunity to participate fully in civil society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in commemorating the anniversary of the Stonewall riots, supporting the ongoing fight for gay liberation, and celebrating the legacy of LGBT community members whose place in our Nation's history cannot be overlooked. LGBT Americans have strengthened our country, helped create awareness and garner support for equality.

A TRIBUTE TO TREMAINE
ANTOINE PRICE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Tremaine Antoine Price, an artist, minister, and man of community. Tremaine Price is currently a Community Relations Coordinator at Success Academy Charter Schools serving the Harlem community in several ways including Family Academic Events, tutoring for scholars, parent counseling, and fundraising initiatives.

Tremaine Price, born and raised in Brooklyn, was a burgeoning young artist, performing in plays, music groups, glee clubs, choirs, and praise groups. He received The Brooklyn Old Timers, the Brooklyn Links, the Congressional

Black Caucus, and the Posse Foundation Merit Leadership scholarships to pave the way for his collegiate studies at Vanderbilt University. There he participated in and led several student organizations and honed his theatrical skills, highlighted by directing a student version of Ntozake Shange's play, "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf" and founding The Black Arts Series at Vanderbilt University.

Tremaine Price is a drama minister and playwright, his original play is titled "For Christian Girls" and it debuted in August 2011. He strives to incorporate performance art into worship, which not only means acting out skits, but also revealing the truths of our triumphs, fears, suffering, and joys through the Christian faith. He is a member of the Young Adult Ministry (Praise Team), the Berean Brotherhood, and the servant leader for the Spiritual Expressions Drama Ministry. He intends on pursuing higher education degrees in Theatre Education and hopes to one day grace the Broadway stage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Tremaine Antoine Price for his leadership in the religious word and in his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday for votes in the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 379 and 380.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW OKEBIYI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Matthew Okebiyi. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Matthew Okebiyi spent most of his youth and formal schooling being shuttled between various parts of Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. It was during those formative years that he witnessed firsthand the effects of poverty, hunger, homelessness, and human rights violations. Those incidents would later have a profound impact upon his life.

Mr. Okebiyi immigrated to the United States in the early 1980s and settled in Brooklyn, New York, where he attended college on a full-time basis while working two jobs. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, pursued advanced studies and earned two Master's degrees: one in Urban Planning and the other in Political Science. He completed his Mental Health training at Hunter College School of Social Work in New York City.

Mr. Okebiyi is the founder of the African American Planning Commission, a New York City-based not-for-profit organization and currently serves as the Executive Director. He also worked to build the Serenity House Family Residence, a 40 unit, \$5.5 million transitional homeless shelter for survivors of domes-

tic violence. The mission of Serenity House is to offer survivors and their minor children, who have exceeded their maximum length of stay in an emergency shelter, a safe but temporary refuge from domestic violence.

Mr. Okebiyi, in addition to his accomplishments, has volunteered with Food Bank and Children's Literacy programs. He maintains a volunteer teaching schedule; tutoring several undergraduate and post-graduate students in his free time, one hundred percent of whom have gone on to receive their Bachelor's and/or Master's degrees.

Mr. Okebiyi has been the recipient of many awards for public service. Most recently was in 2011, when he was the recipient of the prestigious "Man of the Year" award presented by the Brooklyn Branch of Key Women of America, Inc. at its annual gala.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Matthew Okebiyi for his drive to succeed and dedication to social justice. His unceasing commitment to the welfare of others is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ABCD AND ITS FOUNDER, BOB COARD

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2012, ABCD will celebrate and honor its late founder, Bob Coard, by renaming its Boston headquarters in honor of this titan in the effort to enable upward mobility and a higher quality of life for all people, regardless of income or situation in life. I rise today to commemorate and congratulate this incredible community action program the nation's leading anti-poverty organization, and to salute my great friend, the late, Bob Coard. From Beacon Hill to Capitol Hill, Bob was a consistent, persistent and insistent force, working tirelessly to direct critical resources toward the fight to eradicate poverty.

Bob was an early, highly-effective general in the War on Poverty. He began his unmatched service even before President Johnson urged communities to organize around the vision of a creating a Great Society free of poverty and abundant in opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, creed or income. And Bob was still on the job when an extraordinary community organizer, President Obama, was sworn in as our 44th president. For all those years, "ABCD" didn't just stand for "Action for Boston Community Development." It also stood for "Anything Bob Coard Desired."

When Bob called, it was because he needed action for Boston's most vulnerable residents—more money for home heating assistance, help with Medicaid funding, support for Head Start.

And we knew Bob was right because Bob recognized that our great challenge here in the United States is to bestow the world's blessings on all of God's children—to ensure, as President Kennedy said in his Inaugural address, that "God's work on earth must truly be our own."

The son of a civil servant from Grenada, Bob Coard immigrated to this country to pursue the American Dream. Once here, he dedicated his own life to helping others pursue that same dream.

When Bob started work at ABCD in 1964, the organization was only two years old and it had a tiny staff. Today, it has 1,000 employees and carries out a wide array of programs focused on meeting the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in the City of Boston.

Recognizing that education provides the best way for young people to, in his words, "make it in this world," Bob started two high schools for at-risk youth at ABCD, in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools.

ABCD has been called the unsung hero of Boston. For 50 years ABCD has saved lives and made dreams come true, and while ABCD is at the heart of Boston's communities, it was the heart of Bob Coard that pushed ABCD to the national model it is today, and John Drew's amazing leadership that keeps that heart beating strong.

From providing heating assistance for those in need during New England's long, cold winters to delivering job training to those who need work, ABCD is the bridge from poverty to self-sufficiency. The opportunities ABCD provides for low-income Boston residents to get back on their feet, live with dignity and achieve their full potential are building blocks for the continued success of these communities.

Today, ABCD's assistance to people and communities has grown to all sectors of poverty relief.

ABCD organizes Head Start programs for over 2,400 low-income children and families every year.

ABCD supplies fuel assistance to more than 22,000 families a year.

ABCD provides services for thousands of at-risk youth through SummerWorks, career development and two alternative high schools, and health services and family planning for more than 30,000 people every year through its Health Services Department.

From the ABCD Foster Grandparents bringing love and security to disadvantaged children, to programs that offer assistance in asset development, tax assistance and financial education, ABCD offers stability, a sense of community and economic security to low-income families.

In President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's second inaugural address, he famously declared that "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

That was Bob Coard's definition of progress, that is John Drew's definition of progress, that is ABCD's mission everyday.

It is with great pride that I congratulate ABCD for its 50 years of vital service to the community, and that I commemorate my friend Bob Coard as ABCD dedicates its Tremont Street headquarters in his honor this Thursday on Boston Common.

It is fitting that Bob Coard's building gazes out on the Common, a lush landscape where Americans from every walk of life enjoy the same open space, on equal footing. And just as the Common is part of the Emerald Necklace of parks and parkways that extend out to Franklin Park in Roxbury, Bob Coard and ABCD stitched together an array of programs that, taken together, provide a safety net for lifting Bay State residents out of poverty and into a new life of self-sufficiency.

Bob Coard and ABCD are American icons, and I congratulate Bob's wife Donna, John

Drew and the entire ABCD team for the incredible work that makes such a difference in the lives of so many Massachusetts residents.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. HEROLD SIMON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Dr. Herold Simon.

Dr. Herold Simon is the Medical Director of the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center (ENYDTC). His responsibilities include policy-making, facility-wide planning, staff supervision and quality management; however, he sees his most important role as a clinician and an advocate for the medically-underserved and the financially-challenged communities he serves.

In 2002, Dr. Simon was instrumental in the creation of a kidney clinic at Kings County Hospital Center, where, initially, he was the sole attendant, providing patient care and education to nephrologists in training. Dr. Simon holds an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine at SUNY/University of Brooklyn at Downstate. In addition to his post as Vice President for Downstate Enterprises, Inc. Dr. Simon has steadily maintained a private practice in the Flatbush community since 1996, providing care in Nephrology and Internal Medicine.

Dr. Simon had also served as a member of the ADAP Clinical Subcommittee of the Advisory Council for the AIDS Institute and advisor to the Collegiate Science and Technology Program for the Borough of Manhattan Community College. In spite of his busy schedule, Dr. Simon continues to lecture on the molecular basis of hypertension and kidney disease as well as the promises and dilemmas of preventive health care.

In 2008, Dr. Simon was able to pilot the current New York City Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC) Diabetes Guidelines and revealed that a treatment algorithm coupled with nurse care-management can rapidly improve diabetes care. As a result the HHC leadership mandated the use of the guidelines by all HHC facilities. Dr. Simon was a leading figure in the implementation of Managed Care and Rapid HIV Testing within HHC.

Following the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, he traveled there to provide medical care to the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince. He continues to be very active in planning for the immediate and long-term medical needs of Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Simon for his extraordinary contributions to our Brooklyn community.

IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF YOLANDA SANCHEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of Yolanda Sanchez, a fierce

advocate for Puerto Rican youth and women in my district. It is with a heavy heart that I stand here today to memorialize her.

Ms. Sanchez was a pioneer in El Barrio and I am honored to have partnered with her over the years to improve the lives of Puerto Rican youth and women. She dedicated herself for over 50 years to the community, a community she was born and raised in. Ms. Sanchez began her career as a community organizer and advocate in 1962, when she was asked to join the staff of *Aspira*; a non-profit organization focused on educational advancement and further development of Puerto Rican and Hispanic youth. Ms. Sanchez never stopped working for children, women and the Puerto Rican community; she never took a day off from her goals.

A graduate of City College and the Columbia University School of Social Work, Ms. Sanchez continually sought out and worked in positions that maximized her positive impact on the community. These positions ranged from Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, to founding member and later president of the National Latina Caucus, to president of the East Harlem Council for Human Services, to Director of CUNY's office of Puerto Rican programs.

Ms. Sanchez was successful in playing a key role in the creation of three critical institutions for the underserved in El Barrio. The Taino Towers (section 8 housing), Boriken Health Center (primary care) and Casabe Houses (elderly housing) owe their existence partially to the tireless efforts of Ms. Sanchez.

This year Ms. Sanchez received the first Social Work Trailblazer Award from the Silberman School of Social Work in honor and recognition of her invaluable and tireless efforts made in the community. This award is an acknowledgment of a true heroine, feminist and champion of the downtrodden.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in celebrating and remembering the life of a fierce advocate for children, women and the disadvantaged. In her life, she truly made our community and thus the world a better place than how she found it. She will be missed by her loved ones, she will be missed by the community, but her spirit will carry on through philanthropy and in the spirit of others just like her.

A TRIBUTE TO SWAMY NAIDU SUNKARA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara.

Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara served as a surgeon, and then trained as an anesthesiologist in Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. He completed a post graduate diploma in anesthesiology from the University of West Indies. He served as a Social Worker at St. James Infirmary in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 1979 to 1981. He also served at the Prince Elizabeth Hospital for destitute children in Port of Spain, Trinidad from 1981 to 1987. He gave free anesthesia for surgeries to children with cleft palates and club-feet, and other congenital ab-

normalities. He has worked as a volunteer physician at Trinidad and Tobago Sports Medicine. Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara received letters of commendation in Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara migrated to the United States in 1988. He successfully completed the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Health, and a Master's in Public Health with double majors in International Health and Emergency Medicine. He served as a published Researcher, and volunteer in the Children's Cancer Study Group in New York Medical College, and Westchester Medical Center at Valhalla, New York. He worked as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician in the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He received the Best Volunteer Award from Westchester County Executive and Best Volunteer Award from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of Newark, New Jersey in 1989.

He has also faithfully served as one of the Uncles for Foster Children of the Richard Allen Center on Life in New York City.

As a young student leader, he volunteered in various natural disasters including one in Divi Andhra Pradesh for several weeks directly under Mother Theresa. She always had kind words about him when she visited that area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara for his extraordinary contributions to New York City's medical community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2012, I was not present for the evening vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 379—"yes"—S. 684, A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah.

On rollcall No. 380—"yes"—S. 404, A bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. MISBA ABDIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Misba Abdin.

A second-generation Bangladeshi-American, Misba Abdin came to the United States in 1982. He was born in 1969 in Beani Bazar of the Sylhet District in Bangladesh. His family led the way for others who migrated to the United States of America very early from the Sylhet region. Currently a businessman by profession, he is the product of the New York City Public School system where he went from P.S. 214K to M.S./I.S. 171 and graduated from Frank K. Lane High School. He went on to study Business Management at Hunter College of the City University of New York. He is well read and can tell you the history of almost

any book that has been on the best seller list over the last 20 years.

In 1984, Mr. Abdin, along with his three brothers and five cousins, and the support of the people of the neighborhood, started the first soccer tournament in Ozone Park, Queens, for Bangladeshi youth. The tournament became very popular as it was the first in the Bengali community and, was an example followed by Bangladeshi youth living in the other cities. In the early 1990s Mr. Abdin spearheaded the formation of the Bangladesh Football Federation, mainly with the view to provide the Bengali Community in New York with an opportunity to gather and celebrate through soccer games. Following the success of this organization, many Bangladeshi-American socio-cultural organizations were later formed by others. The Bangladesh Football Federation was renamed as Bangladesh Sports Council in 2001. And, in 2005, Mr. Abdin was appointed General Secretary of the Sports Council, a position he still holds today.

As a Pioneer Community Activist in the Bengali Community, Mr. Abdin's main focus is developing Bangladeshi youth and sports through his organizing skills and vibrant youth programs. As President and CEO of the Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Sports, BACDYS, his main objective is to focus exclusively on low income housing, education, youth programs and family entertainment. He is a Board member of the Highland Park Local Development Corp., the 75th Precinct Community Council and a member of the program committee of the North Brooklyn YMCA, to name a few.

Mr. Abdin is a product of a retail family. His father was a successful retail businessman and growing up he worked in his father's store after school and on weekends. After spending a couple of years in Bangladesh he returned to the United States to manage the family Key Food Supermarket, which to this day, he still manages.

Mr. Abdin is married to Farida Yeasmin, and they are blessed with two daughters and two sons. He attends the Al-Aman Mosque that was founded by his father, Abdul Sattar, on Forbell Street in Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleges to join me in recognizing the important achievements and dedication to community of Mr. Misba Abdin.

A TRIBUTE TO TOMMY
MERRIWEATHER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Tommy Merriweather. Mr. Merriweather is a public servant that has dedicated his life to protecting the community.

Tommy enlisted in the U.S Army after high school where from 1982 to 1988 he served in the Infantry division. During his eight year military career he traveled the world and he earned many awards.

On July 5, 1989, he joined the New York City Police Department. He was a committed employee and enjoyed working for the NYPD for twenty years. In December 1992, Officer Merriweather was promoted to the rank of Detective.

Detective Merriweather was a dedicated and effective undercover detective, performing dangerous work on a daily basis. On numerous occasions, Detective Merriweather cancelled scheduled vacation days so that he could make undercover buys crucial to the progress of ongoing cases. Detective Merriweather's life and safety have been placed in jeopardy on numerous occasions by the unpredictability of the undercover work he did. On July 9, 2009, he completed 20 years with the NYPD and retired as a Detective 1st grade.

Tommy has worked with the Boy Scouts since 2009 and is the first African-American Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 43 and of the Sagitokos District. He enjoys volunteering his time to work with the Scouts and helping them advance to become Eagle Scouts or be a part of the Order of Arrow. His troop enjoys outdoor camping. Tommy is always preparing for upcoming events and makes sure that everyone he talks to knows the good work being done by the Troop and Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Tommy Merriweather for his extraordinary contributions to the Brooklyn community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on June 18, 2012 because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 379 and No. 380.

A TRIBUTE TO LEO A. MORRIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Leo A. Morris for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Leo Morris was born in Colon, Panama to Louise and Irving Morris and is now a resident of Brooklyn. He is the only son in his family and has four sisters. He migrated to the United States in 1959. Leo was educated at Eastern District High School, Staten Island Community College (AA, 1975), and Barnard College (BBA, 1978). He began his career in the housing sector with the United States Trust Company after completing his studies. He went on to serve the City of New York's Department of Housing Preservation and Development in various offices within the agency for 30 years. During his tenure, he was a Real Property Manager in the Tenant Interim Lease Program, a Community Coordinator/Unit Chief in the Division of Relocation, and Deputy Director for Field Operations in the Emergency Housing Services Bureau. Leo was recognized as a dedicated and loyal employee, retiring in 2010.

Leo is a dedicated volunteer and finds time to enjoy life. He is Vice Chair of Tashia's

L.I.F.E., Inc., a charitable organization founded with the purpose of aiding, educating and assisting individuals citywide, who are experiencing difficulties while living with Lupus. Leo enjoys travelling, jazz, and trying out the diverse cuisines available all over Brooklyn. He is married to Leora Marie Morris, and is the proud father of three children, Michelle, Leah, and Natasha and a proud grandfather to Raphael, Damiere, Morgan, and Ryann.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Leo A. Morris for his successful career and continued work in community service.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RAMANATHAN
RAJU

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ramanathan (Ram) Raju, MD, MBA, FACS, FACHE. He is the Chief Executive Officer for the Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS) in Chicago, Illinois. CCHHS is the 3rd largest public health system in the country which oversees a comprehensive, integrated system with several parts; an acute care hospital with a Level 1 Trauma Center and a Community Hospital; a Regional Outpatient Center; a Correctional Healthcare Facility; an Outpatient Infectious Disease Center specializing in the treatment of HIV/AIDS; 16 community clinics and a public health department.

Prior to accepting the role of CEO of Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS), Dr. Raju served as the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation's (HHC) Executive Vice President, Corporate Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical Officer since 2006. During his tenure in health care spanning over 30 years, Dr. Raju served in various leadership positions in not for profit and public hospital systems in New York. He served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical officer at Coney Island Hospital and Senior Vice President and Director of Medical Education at Lutheran Health System.

Dr. Raju began his professional career in India. He attended Madras Medical College to earn his medical diploma and subsequently did a residency in Surgery culminating in a Master of Surgery degree. He underwent further training in England and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He served in various capacities in England and subsequently underwent surgical training in the United States. Dr. Raju also did a fellowship in Vascular Surgery. He is Board Certified in Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has held the position of Clinical Professor in multiple Medical Schools. He has been actively involved in teaching residents and medical students for many years, and won the Best Teacher award many times throughout his career. He is an avid researcher and has published many articles in peer review journals. Dr. Raju is also a physician executive, having obtained an MBA from the University of Tennessee and CPE from the American College of Physician Executives. He currently serves as an adjunct professor in Business Management at the University of Tennessee. He has held many positions in Healthcare Organizations, including

Director of Surgery, Director of Trauma, Director of Surgical Research, and Director of Medical Education. He has also served on various local and state wide committees including the American Hospital Association Region 2 Governance Board and on the President's Forum: The Acute Post Acute Hospital Continuum, a Member of the National Quality Forum steering Committee "National Voluntary Consensus Standards for emergency Care—Phase II Hospital based Emergency and Research Committee. Dr. Raju's professional society memberships include the American College of Physician Executives and the American College of Surgeons. He was recently selected as one of the top 25 minority health care executives in the country by Modern Health care Magazine.

Dr. Raju married a fellow resident he met at Madras Medical College, urologist Samantha Raju. They have a son and a daughter. Dr. Raju lives in Chicago's South Loop.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Raju for his successful career and his dedication to community health.

HONORING THE 125TH UNITED WAY
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of United Way as they proudly celebrate their 125th anniversary serving our communities both here at home and abroad.

In 1887, three visionaries saw the need to help their community and to address the welfare issues their city faced. Thus, the first United Way campaign was born, collecting over \$21,700 for local charitable organizations. Today, United Way exists in 1,800 communities and 41 countries, raising nearly \$5 billion every year to increase opportunities for a better life worldwide.

Forty million Americans are working in low-income jobs with little or no health benefits. In

2008, United Way began a 10-year initiative to cut these staggering statistics in half. United Way continues to look into the future, searching diligently for solutions that will benefit these families in the long-term.

United Way has impacted our community in New York's 15th congressional district in profound ways. For as long as I can remember, its New York City chapter has been dedicated to helping low-income families in terms of their health, education, and financial stability. From restoring child care and after-school funding, to helping over 3 million people make healthier choices by making fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable and available. United Way sees no issue as unimportant and continues to display altruism at the highest level.

In these tough economic times, when many people are facing daily struggles that push them to the brink of pure exhaustion, the work United Way does serves as a beacon of hope for those in need. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing and crucial organization within our community. I would like to personally praise the leadership of United Way Worldwide President & CEO Brian Gallagher, New York's United Way CEO Gordon Campbell, and every staffer and volunteer who diligently works behind the scenes. Their work does not go unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to congratulate United Way on their 125th anniversary and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MONICA THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Monica Thomas, a model servant of the needs of the public, a person dedicated to the importance of family, and native New Yorker. She is Division Director of Homeless Services at Volunteers of America and currently enrolled at Bernard Ba-

ruch College to obtain her second Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Monica Thomas was called to action. After realizing the devastating impacts of drug addiction she sought a career in Addiction Counseling. In her first job she counseled homeless men, who also suffered from addiction problems and mental illness, and eventually rising to Assistant Program Director. She sought to learn more about the populations she served and received a "JFK Jr. Fellowship" scholarship to pursue undergraduate studies at Empire State College in 1996 where she focused in Social Administration and Addiction Studies and received New York State Certification in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment.

In 1999, Monica Thomas attended Hunter College School of Social Work for a Master's in Social Work with a Specialty in Aging Health. She developed and implemented a substance abuse treatment model specifically for the elderly population and was promoted to Program Director of the Elder Care Unit at Odyssey House. Additionally, she was nominated and received the New York State CASAC of the Year Award, the highest award bestowed upon individuals who hold a New York State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Certification. Monica received her New York State Social Work Certification immediately completing her graduate studies in 2003.

Monica then worked in an executive management position overseeing residential services for an agency that focused on assisting pregnant women recover from addiction, and subsequently was appointed Vice President of Clinical Operations for a drug treatment organization in Fairfield, Connecticut. In her various roles, she designed and developed systems and policies that met the growing needs of the population while simultaneously engaging with the community to gain support for the programs under her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Monica Thomas for her efforts advocating for the well-being of our disenfranchised fellow citizens.