

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Cod Community College's 50th anniversary.

Our Nation's community colleges provide the dream of achieving a higher education to millions of students each year. They are the Nation's key supplier of workforce development and retraining needs, and—just as importantly—they build lasting partnerships and contribute significantly to the communities they serve. Cape Cod Community College is a leading institution of education, not only for the Cape, but for the entirety of Massachusetts.

Since 1961, Cape Cod Community College has served as a beacon of higher education in West Barnstable County, the second institution to open as part of what is now a 15 community college system in Massachusetts. When Cape Cod Community College's doors opened, there were 166 students enrolled. Two years later, the first evening program found 130 students enrolled in ten different degree-credit courses. By that spring, the first summer session had enrolled 145 students from 50 colleges and universities taking degree-credit courses. Now, 50 years later, that number has increased to nearly 7,000 students with over 80 degrees and certificates being offered.

Cape Cod Community College has a true tradition of excellence thanks to its outstanding leadership, superior faculty and staff and motivated students. They have received national prominence both for their programs as well as their inclusion of Cape Cod residents. Cape Cod Community College has been recognized as much for its sustainability education as its service to the adult Plus 50 learner and military personnel at Otis, the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Cape Cod Community College, its President Kathleen Schatzberg and the entire college community on the celebration of 50 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

JOHN VILLYARD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. John Villyard, CEO of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. Mr. Villyard, who has served in this capacity since 2000, will be retiring at the end of this year.

Mr. Villyard has overseen numerous efforts to improve the Cooperative's effectiveness. An

accountant by trade, he utilized new technology, cost-based accounting practices, and the simplification of electric bills to increase efficiency. Under his leadership, improvements to infrastructure and building projects have reduced power outages and overtime costs by 34%. Furthermore, he has demonstrated environmental stewardship by negotiating the purchase of renewable produced power and developing an avian protection plan.

As a child, Mr. Villyard watched his father, Ray, lead the Cooperative as it expanded from five to 34 employees. John has followed his example and has worked to build strong relationships with the board of directors, his employees, and the community at large, all the while treating the Cooperative as an extended family. In doing so, he has improved the safety program, initiated a lineworker scholarship, and established the SLVREC Energy Foundation.

After graduating from the University of Colorado, John served honorably in the United States Air Force for eleven years. He then returned to the San Luis Valley and worked as an accountant, before being hired as the SLVREC's CFO in 1996. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Jowanda.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. John Villyard. I rise today to thank him for his commitment to serving the energy needs of the San Luis Valley with integrity and innovation.

HONORING ST. LINUS SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of St. Linus School, an exemplary Catholic elementary school in Oak Lawn, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2011 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, The Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. This year there are 19 National Blue Ribbon Schools in the State of Illinois, and I am proud that one of these exceptional schools is located in my district.

The school's namesake, Saint Linus, is perhaps best remembered for his steadfast loyalty to his mentor, St. Peter the Apostle. Linus succeeded Peter as the second Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and dedicated his life to teaching Peter's story.

The mission of St. Linus School is "to educate and inspire each child with Christ-centered values through challenging education and community involvement." Since 1956, the

school has offered a rigorous and engaging curriculum that emphasizes mathematics, social studies, science, technology, language arts, and religion. In the last decade, the school renovated its campus to install a state-of-the-art technology center, as well as an updated gymnasium, science lab, and weather forecast camera. St. Linus School has made a concerted effort to improve student performance, striving to guide every pupil to their full potential. I am delighted that the exemplary work of the teachers, support staff, and priests at St. Linus School, as well as that of the parents and students, has been acknowledged on a national stage.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. Linus School and the other 304 National Blue Ribbon award winners. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can be replicated across the Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER COLIN, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life and selfless sacrifice of Northwest Florida's beloved Private First Class Matthew Christopher Colin of Navarre, Florida.

Private First Class Colin was killed in action by an improvised explosive device on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 while on patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. At the time, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska. His military decorations and honors include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

A resident of Navarre, Florida, Matthew was born in St. Augustine, Florida on January 20, 1989, to Ken and Kathy Colin. Active in the Navarre Youth Sports Association, Matthew played football, basketball, baseball, and soccer. He was recognized as a top competitor in track and field at the age of seven. He graduated from Navarre High School in 2007. Following in the footsteps of his father, also an Army veteran, he answered the call to arms in February 2010. Upon successful completion of basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he reported to Fort Wainwright, Alaska in September 2010.

Matthew's selflessness and sense of community were apparent even before he joined the Army. His former high school teachers describe him as an honorable young man with a strong sense of values and morals. He previously worked as a fitness instructor at the

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

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

YMCA in Navarre, where he was well-liked by staff and patrons.

Matthew was a beloved member of his community. He is survived by his loving family, mother, Kathleen; father, Kenneth; brother, Michael; grandparents, Bob and Margaret Dawson; five aunts; four uncles; and many cousins. He is also survived by his four dogs, Spartacus, Patton, Captain, and Goldie.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Private First Class Matthew Christopher Colin for his selfless service and sacrifice in defense of our Nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

IN MEMORY OF DR. SCOTT
ALEXANDER MARSHALL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader, professor and advisor, Dr. Scott Alexander Marshall. His passing is a great loss to his family and the education community.

Although he isn't a native Kentuckian, Dr. Marshall immediately offered his expertise to enhance the field of education in our rural region of southern and eastern Kentucky. He made a difference in the lives of hundreds of college students and took great pride in their success. In fact, he was a strong advocate and supporter of Phi Theta Kappa, the official national honor society for two-year colleges.

Scott received his M.S., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama. He retired after 33 years of teaching Business and Economics at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama. After moving to Somerset, Kentucky in 2000, he continued as an Adjunct Professor of Economics at Eastern Kentucky University.

He was involved in numerous civic and political activities, serving as a member of the Adanta Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Finance Committee. He also was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Somerset where he served as an Elder and Co-Chair of the Worship Committee.

Dr. Marshall leaves behind a devoted family: his loving wife, Dr. Jo Grimes Marshall; their children, Kristin Marshall Henderson and Dr. Scott Alexander Marshall, Jr., along with four grandsons. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to the Marshall family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a dear friend and champion for community colleges, the late Dr. Scott Alexander Marshall.

HONORING EMPLOYEES OF THE
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven employees of the Idaho Na-

tional Lab who recently received awards from Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, for their assistance to the people of Japan in dealing with the disaster caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami and for their efforts to secure enough special nuclear material to produce almost 800 nuclear weapons.

Eight months ago a devastating disaster struck Japan when a massive earthquake and unprecedented tsunami struck the island nation, killing over 16,000 people and causing a serious reactor accident. Recovery was complicated by a near total destruction of the surrounding transportation infrastructure. At the greatest time of need the Idaho National Laboratory offered its assistance, which was gratefully accepted by the people of Japan. INL employees Doug Burns, Cal Christensen, Betsy Connell, Harold McFarlane, Joy Rempel and Derek Wadsworth assisted by assessing the damage in near real time, providing technical assistance and coordinating the delivery of specialized equipment to assist in controlling the radiological effects.

Eric Howden led a 14 year program to secure ten tons of highly enriched uranium and three tons of plutonium from Kazakhstan. These efforts have resulted in relocating enough fissile material to produce almost 800 nuclear weapons at a time when there was great turmoil in the region and an emerging international terrorist threat.

I am proud to represent the Idaho National Lab, which has through its history been the worldwide leader in advancing the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. As the worldwide demand for energy and environmental concerns increase, the responsible use of nuclear power will continue to grow. As it does, the dedicated employees of the Idaho National Lab will continue their efforts to improve the impressive safety record of nuclear power and promote technologies that prevent future accidents and reduce the threat of nuclear weapons from falling into the wrong hands.

LEMONT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL #1599

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lemont Knights of Columbus Council #1599 for 100 years of civic service.

On December 10, 1911 the Lemont Knights of Columbus Council #1599 was chartered. Although the original charter members have all passed, their vision of Service to God, church, and country is still the primary goal of the Lemont Knights of Columbus. In pursuit of achieving this goal, the Lemont Knights of Columbus have sent its members to both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and other armed conflicts—all while establishing and maintaining numerous civic service programs and projects.

Over the past 100 years, the Lemont Knights have established scholarship programs, food pantry drives, natural disaster relief efforts, and annually participates in the national "Tootsie Roll" day—a fundraiser that generates thousands of dollars each year for the mentally disabled in Lemont.

The Lemont Knights have worked very hard to become a foundation of service in my con-

gressional district. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Lemont Knights of Columbus Council #1599 for 100 years of outstanding service to the community.

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 2, legislation that would have a devastating effect on the U.S. economy, national security and the well-being of millions of Minnesota families and businesses.

A constitutional amendment that requires Congress to balance the federal budget every year—regardless of economic conditions—would severely damage the U.S. economy. Such a requirement would force Congress to cut spending, raise taxes or both, even when the economy is in recession. That is the exact opposite of what economists recommend in order to escape recession and stabilize a weak economy.

According to new analysis by Macroeconomic Advisers—one of the nation's pre-eminent private economic forecasting firms—a balanced budget amendment would destroy millions of American jobs. Had a balanced budget amendment been in effect today, their analysis concluded that "the effect on the economy would be catastrophic." Assuming the Republicans used spending cuts instead of tax increases to balance the budget this year, the cuts would have totaled approximately \$1.5 trillion. Macroeconomic Advisors determined cuts of this magnitude would throw 15 million more Americans out of work, double the unemployment rate from 9 percent to approximately 18 percent, and cause the economy to shrink by 17 percent instead of growing by an expected 2 percent.

What House Republicans are not telling the American people is that Congress has the opportunity to propose and pass a balanced budget each year. House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN could have proposed a balanced budget this year—fiscal year 2012—but he did not. The budget proposed by House Republicans delivers another tax cut windfall for America's wealthiest individuals by making the Bush-era tax cuts permanent. To make matters worse, their budget preserves expensive tax breaks to oil companies and corporations shipping jobs overseas. Instead of proposing a fiscal year 2012 budget that puts us on a more sustainable fiscal path, House Republicans chose to continue the same reckless tax policies that have added trillions to our national debt.

In times of recession and weak economic growth, Congress needs the ability to assist struggling families with unemployment insurance and to promote economic recovery by sustaining demand through investments in areas such as transportation infrastructure. In a strong U.S. economy, Congress has the responsibility to reduce expenditures and balance the budget as was done in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 under President Clinton.

Instead of spending two days debating this purely political measure, the House should be focused on debating and passing legislation to create American jobs—including President Obama's American Jobs Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me—and 270 national organizations including AARP, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Easter Seals, AFL-CIO, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare—in strongly opposing H.J. Res. 2.

A TRIBUTE TO LYNN BREEDLOVE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Lynn Breedlove, a disability advocate, community activist, leader on disability rights and change agent. After 31 years of service, Mr. Breedlove, Executive Director of Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), formerly Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, has announced his retirement effective at the end of December 2011.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a state-wide resource for individuals, families, service professionals, elected officials, government agencies and others concerned with disability issues and systems change. This private non-profit group is part of the federally mandated national system of disability protection and advocacy agencies across the United States established to ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Lynn Breedlove has been an extraordinary leader of DRW, growing the agency from a staff of five in a small Madison office with a budget of \$160,000 to an agency with a staff of 65 in three offices—Madison, Milwaukee, and Rice Lake—and a budget of over \$5.5 million.

The list of DRW accomplishments during Lynn's tenure is impressive and includes involvement during the inception and implementation of the life changing Community Options Program, COP, Community Integration Program, CIP, and making strong lasting partnerships with agencies serving the disabled, aging and those needing long term services. DRW helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunity through advocacy and legal expertise. Mr. Breedlove and DRW regularly challenged systems and society to create positive change and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Lynn Breedlove has served on a variety of boards at the local, state and national levels including: President of the National Disability Rights Network, Co-Chair of Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, and Member of Wisconsin's Long Term Care Council. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards as a result of his deep passion for disability and other civil rights, and his commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities as full partners in society.

People with disabilities and their families, along with all citizens throughout Wisconsin are deeply indebted to Lynn Breedlove for his years of dedicated service. I am proud to call Lynn my friend and for the privilege of having the opportunity to work with him and the DRW staff on legislation to better the lives of Wis-

consin citizens. I wish Lynn well in retirement and the next stage of his career. We will all miss this "treasure of Wisconsin" and Lynn's strong commitment "to do what is right for the people."

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH M. SANZARI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to all to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American and citizen of New Jersey, Joseph M. Sanzari who will be recognized on Saturday, November 19, 2011, by D.A.R.E. NJ for his many years of service to his community and as a respected individual within the great state of New Jersey.

Joe was born in Hackensack, NJ, on February 28, 1946. He was raised in Carlstadt and began learning the ins-and-outs of the construction industry at the early age of 12. He has brought innovation and expertise to this field, specializing in the construction of heavy highways, roads and bridges.

Joe has been a guiding figure for his family as well as those around him. He has been a member of many distinguished counsels in our community. His philanthropic endeavors have benefitted countless people.

Joseph Sanzari is a proud member of numerous civic and cultural organizations, sharing his unique brand of energy and talents on both a local and state level. Mr. Sanzari is currently Chairman of Hackensack University Medical Center, a member of the Board of Trustees for Hillcrest Health Service System, Inc., and a proud member of the Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation. Joe also serves as Vice Chairman on the board of the Foundation for Free Enterprises. He was a former Chairman of the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation and former commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Parkway.

As the President of Joseph M. Sanzari Inc., Joe has been involved in major construction work on the New Jersey Turnpike and New Jersey Department of Transportation highways, roads and bridges in an ongoing joint venture with J. Fletcher Creamer & Sons also known as Creamer-Sanzari. Among many of their great accomplishments, Creamer-Sanzari was responsible for the reconstruction of the Route 4 and 17 overpasses, the largest highway project in the State of New Jersey. Under Joe's leadership, this project was completed eighteen months ahead of schedule. Creamer-Sanzari was recognized by Engineering News as one of the top 25 contractors in the country.

One of the many organizations Joe is passionate about is Drugs Awareness Resistance and Education or D.A.R.E. The D.A.R.E. program works with local law enforcement and schools to bring fun and educational material about the personal and social consequences of substance abuse and violence. D.A.R.E. NJ has been a pillar in the community for raising awareness and educating our youth in the dangerous perils of drug abuse and violence.

Joe is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His family consists of his wife Donna, son Joseph Jr., daughters Theresa,

JoAnn, and Tina, and six grandchildren. Joseph Sanzari exemplifies the sound fundamental characteristics of an extraordinary individual who is being honored by D.A.R.E. NJ for his enormous contributions to the great State of New Jersey.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated individuals like Joseph M. Sanzari. I am lucky enough to be able to call a man like him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Joe's wife Donna, their family and friends, the members of the D.A.R.E. NJ and me in recognizing Joseph M. Sanzari's outstanding character and service to his community.

IN HONOR OF DR. ANTHONY O. PARKER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding academic, college administrator, education expert, community leader and good friend to me and the community of Albany, Georgia—Dr. Anthony O. Parker. On Monday, November 21, 2011, the administration at Albany Technical College, the institution of higher learning where Dr. Parker currently serves as President, paid tribute to him for his years of dedicated service to the college by having the school's library named in his honor.

Throughout his successful career in the higher education field, Dr. Parker has had a profoundly positive impact on the lives of thousands of college students. One of the reasons he has been able to triumphantly guide the academic careers of so many students, is due in part to the impressive endeavors he was able to accomplish as a young collegiate scholar and graduate student.

Dr. Parker's post-secondary academic career began at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He commenced his graduate studies at Augusta State University where he obtained an Educational Specialist degree in Education Administration. Additionally, he later would go on to receive his Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina.

Over the course of his professional career in academia, Dr. Parker has successfully served in a multitude of roles in which he has progressively advanced the intellectual aptitude and social development skills of collegiate students. As Vice President of Student Services at Aiken Technical College and later at Southeastern Technical College, he was able to proactively develop programs, advise various student organizations and conduct research surveys designed to improve the schools' standards of educational enrichment. Additionally, as an instructor at Augusta Technical College, Dr. Parker played a hands-on role in counseling students, developing curriculum and teaching various classes aimed at improving the prospects of students looking to enter the workforce or acquire new occupational skills.

During his 16 years at Albany Technical College, President Parker has established the school as a premier institution within the Technical College System of Georgia and as a stable workforce development training facility in Southwest Georgia through his vision of excellence and steadfast commitment to increasing enrollment rates and placing Albany Tech graduates in sustainable employment opportunities. By using his positively transformative vision as a guiding post for success, over the last two decades Albany Tech has propelled forward as one of Southwest Georgia's leading technical institutions.

Dr. Parker has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife of 38 years and junior high school prom date, Sandra Parker. Dr. and Mrs. Parker are the proud parents of three children—Dr. Kimberly Parker, a professor at Texas Woman's University; Andrea Parker, a Lt. Commander in the United States Coast Guard; and Richard Parker, an employee at the United Parcel Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Dr. Anthony O. Parker for his life of selfless service to the students, institutions of higher learning and working families in the state of Georgia and throughout our United States of America.

ON THE BIRTH OF CECILIA ANNE
SCHWARTZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Lawrence Schwartz and his wife Allison on the birth of their new baby girl, Cecilia Anne Schwartz, who was born on Monday, November 28, 2011, at 11:26 a.m. in Falls Church, Virginia. Cecilia Anne was 5 pounds, 6 ounces.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Schwartz family and wish them all the best. I want to also congratulate Cecilia Anne's grandparents Debra and Barry Shulman of Fayetteville, New York, and Joanne and Lawrence Schwartz, III, of Anaheim Hills, California, on this wonderful new addition to their family.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,051,673,595,197.90. We've added \$10,250,268,419,903.62 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA TREE
NATIONAL PARK

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague and fellow Californian, Representative JERRY LEWIS, to pay tribute to Joshua Tree National Park.

Joshua Tree National Park has been a special and unique place of recreation and refuge in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties for the last 75 years. The park was first conferred National Monument status on August 10, 1936 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Today, 1.3 million visitors a year from throughout the world enjoy this biologically diverse gem encompassing almost 800,000 acres.

Located just outside some of the most densely populated parts of our Nation, the park provides numerous recreational opportunities for American families and international visitors. Campgrounds, scenic drives, and hundreds of trails comprise just a few of the multitude of ways to enjoy the spectacular desert landscape.

Thriving gateway communities in the Coachella Valley and Morongo Basin have prospered in large part from the tourism opportunities created by the park. It is estimated that as an economic engine the park generates over 32 million private-sector dollars and supports over 500 jobs. The park has also created a shared regional identity and provided a common link of interest. A testament to the devotion and passion instilled in the park's supporters, last year alone 1,059 individuals volunteered at the park donating 35,000 hours of work.

Joshua Tree National Park is a crown jewel of the National Park Service. It deserves all the support it has received to preserve its ecological, historical and cultural integrity. Congratulations to everyone who has supported the park over the years and here's to ensuring the park continues to flourish and improve for another 75 years.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE NICKOLAS GEEKER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Nickolas Geeker upon his retirement from Florida's First Judicial Circuit Court in Escambia County. Judge Geeker spent his career serving the Northwest Florida community, including more than 25 years presiding as a judge in the First Judicial Circuit, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Geeker and his family are deeply rooted in Northwest Florida. The Geeker family settled in Escambia County in the early 1900's and has been a fixture in the Northwest Florida community for more than 100 years.

Following his graduation from Louisiana Tech University, Judge Geeker attended law school at Florida State University where he

was part of the College of Law's charter class of graduates. After serving as a law clerk in the office of U.S. District Judge D. L. Middlebrooks, Judge Geeker returned to Escambia County. He served as an Assistant State Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorney and as a U.S. Attorney for the Northern District. In 1984, Judge Geeker was elected to Florida's First Judicial Circuit Court, where he has remained since being invested as Circuit Judge in January 1985.

Throughout his 40-year career, Judge Geeker has served with honor and distinction, and his unwavering commitment to upholding the law in an unbiased manner is a prime example of our legal system working at its best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Judge Nickolas Geeker for his service to Northwest Florida and to the United States of America. My wife Vicki and I wish him and his wife Jan all the best.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA CORNETT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Barbara Cornett, who is retiring from her work as a member of the Monterey County Board of Education, a role she has filled with great integrity since December 2003.

Mrs. Cornett's career in California public education spans six decades. She has served as a classroom teacher, school nurse, director of special education and assistant superintendent with Salinas Union High School District before retiring in 1992.

A clinical nurse as well as an educator, Mrs. Cornett is respected by both the medical and educational communities for her understanding of the needs of the special education students.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Vanderbilt University, and Master of Arts, School Administration, at San Jose State University. As a member of the Monterey County Board of Education, Mrs. Cornett served as its liaison to the Special Education Local Plan Area and the Monterey County Schools Insurance Group.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the Monterey and Salinas school systems will continue to thrive because of her longstanding work. Barbara deserves our deepest gratitude and our most heartfelt wishes for a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF PFC THEODORE B. RUSHING

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 11, 2011 a central Florida Soldier, PFC Theodore B. Rushing, lost his life in service to our nation from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an I.E.D. in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan while assigned to 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment; 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.

PFC Rushing joined the U.S. Army in March of this year. Upon completion of his training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, PFC Rushing reported to Fort Drum, New York. In August he deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

PFC Rushing's impressive list of awards and decorations include the Purple Heart; Army Achievement Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; NATO Medal; National Defense Service Medal; the Combat Action Badge; and a Bronze Star awarded posthumously.

PFC Rushing was a former student at Altamonte Christian School in Altamonte Springs where he had a reputation of being fearless, an attribute that he carried into battle. Upon completion of high school, PFC Rushing attended Seminole State College where he earned his associates degree. PFC Rushing had planned on following in his father's footsteps as a police officer once he had completed his military service.

We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice PFC Rushing has given for his country. His actions will serve as an everlasting reminder of the dedication and sacrifice the members of our nation's Armed Services make every day.

To his family, we extend our very deepest sympathy and condolences. PFC Rushing is survived by his father George, mother Ann, sister Stacy and grandparents Marcheta and William.

For his service and sacrifice, I ask all Members to join me in honoring his life and commitment to our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
PROVIDING A DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PRO-
GRAM (DBE) AT THE FEDERAL
RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, along with 33 minority Members of Congress, I am introducing critical legislation that will address the lack of a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) language in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill will ensure that minority, veteran, and women-owned businesses are getting their fair share of federal transportation dollars. Federal transportation spending has historically served as a crucial means of empowering socially disadvantaged businesses. Thanks to the efforts of the Black, Hispanic, and Asian-Pacific Congressional Caucus' and a bipartisan group of Members on the House Transportation Committee, every major transportation bill since 1983 has mandated minimum levels of participation by minority and/or women owned companies.

Unfortunately, because the Federal Railroad Administration has not historically been a significant grant-making agency, it is not currently authorized to require opportunities for disadvantaged businesses. Without this authority, the FRA is limited in their ability to ensure that disadvantaged businesses are provided an even playing field.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HUDSON
RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join several of my other colleagues in honoring America's first and most prestigious school of painting. Known as the Hudson River School of Painting, this 19th century school popularized the American landscape.

I have a connection to the Hudson River School. One of the school's most popular and prolific artists, Thomas Moran, grew up in Philadelphia. He later worked at a local engraving firm, which sparked his interest in painting. Moran soon garnered attention for his paintings and was hired to paint scenes of the wilderness of the American West. These paintings, for which Moran is best known, are primarily from the area that is today Yellowstone National Park.

Moran's massive landscapes, and works by other Hudson River School painters, inspired Congress to dedicate Yellowstone, as well as Yosemite and Acadia, as National Parks. Eventually, these paintings were used by environmental conservationists to encourage Congress to form the National Park Service in 1916.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in my appreciation for the works of painter Thomas Moran, and for the lasting legacy of the first indigenous American school of painting, the Hudson River School.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DWAYNE
NELSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dwayne Fitzgerald Nelson who passed away suddenly on October 18, 2011 at the age of 50. Mr. Nelson, also known as "Coach Rock," coached the boys' junior varsity basketball and football teams at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Before coaching, he worked for the City of Fort Lauderdale for over 20 years. He impacted the lives of many individuals in the community and will be truly missed.

Hundreds of mourners came to Nelson's funeral service, including friends, family members, colleagues, and other members of the community, celebrating the many lives that he touched throughout his years of service. Many of his current and former players came to pay their respects, and the Dillard boys' basketball and football teams wore T-shirts with Nelson's picture on the front in memory of their respected coach. Those in attendance remembered how Nelson helped lead the boys' basketball team to five state championships.

Dwayne Nelson committed his life to serving the Fort Lauderdale community. His colleagues at Dillard High School noted how he was the first person at the school every day for almost 20 years. As a coach, he taught his players lessons that went far beyond any ath-

letic field. He made sure that they kept their grades up, so that they would succeed both on the field and in the classroom. This type of commitment is what set him apart as an outstanding mentor and coach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Dwayne Nelson's dedication to improving the lives of so many. His service to Dillard High School and the City of Fort Lauderdale, demonstrates how everyday Americans can make a real difference by helping others in their community. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Nelson's family and friends during this most difficult time.

HONORING ESTELLE RUBINSTEIN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Estelle Rubinstein who will be retiring after 41 years of outstanding work in the education field.

Through her work with Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care (AHSCC) in Lewiston, Maine, Estelle has dedicated over 40 years to improving outcomes for Maine's handicapped children. Before graduating with a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1979, Estelle worked as a Head Start teacher for AHSCC. Throughout the years, she has served the organization as its Special Education Director, Program Coordinator and Executive Director.

Throughout her career, Estelle has been a champion of the idea that every child should have the opportunity to receive a high quality education, regardless of their financial situation or disability. Her work to identify children in need of special services and ensure that their families were provided access to vital programs has touched the lives of countless Mainers. She is truly a gifted educator and should serve as a shining example to others of what can be accomplished by a single individual.

It is always with some lingering sadness that I pass along my best wishes for the retirement of people like Estelle. You can never truly quantify the work of such an individual. Although she is retiring, her contributions to the field of education will continue to benefit children for generations. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Estelle and wish her the best of luck on her retirement and in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Estelle Rubinstein for her impeccable commitment to her field and her community.

A HERO OF US ALL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of Jay Nordlinger's recent piece in National Review highlighting the plight of Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng.

Nordlinger writes, "Many people in the world regard Chen as one of the greatest men we have known in the last decade." His courageous exposure of China's brutal one-child

policy earned him the ire of the communist government. He and his family have suffered immensely. His current fate is unknown.

Nordlinger rightly calls a Chen a hero and reminds us that Chen is but one of countless other dissidents languishing in Chinese prisons. Their names may not be known to us, but their struggle is no less real.

The United States must boldly and consistently stand with men and women like Chen who yearn for the basic human liberty and dignity that is our birthright as Americans.

[From the National Review, Nov. 28, 2011]

A HERO OF US ALL

(By Jay Nordlinger)

Last month, there were reports that Chen Guangcheng was dead. That they had at last killed him. "They"? China's ruling Communists, who have tormented Chen for years. Other reports said, No, he is not dead: just in very bad shape. Any report about Chen is now impossible to confirm or deny. The authorities are not letting anyone from the outside see or talk to him.

Many people in the world regard Chen as one of the greatest men we have known in the last decade. These admirers work on the assumption that Chen is alive. A furious international campaign is under way to save him.

Chen was born on Nov. 12, 1971, in the Linyi area of Shandong Province. When a year old, he contracted a fever, which left him blind. Just a peasant, he educated himself, including in the law. He was ready and available to help people. Jianli Yang, a dissident now in America, calls him a "born leader," someone who has always cared for others and whom others respond to.

To the extent he could, Chen helped the disabled petition for their rights. He helped farmers, too. In the worldwide press, he has been known as "the blind lawyer," or "the barefoot lawyer," or "the blind rural activist." Many Chinese throughout the country know him simply as "the blind man."

What gained him his fame, and torment, was his exposure of one fact: In the year 2005 alone, in just the Linyi area, there were 130,000 forced abortions and sterilizations. These procedures are brutal. Moreover, relatives of those who escaped the procedures were detained and tortured. Harry Wu, a long-famous dissident working in America, says that few outside China really understand the consequences of the one-child policy. Jing Zhang, another dissident, associated with the Boston-based group All Girls Allowed, points out that Chen touched one of China's most sensitive nerves.

He organized a class-action suit against local Party officials. At first, the government in Beijing seemed pleased with him. In China, believe it or not, forced abortion and forced sterilization are illegal, officially. Beijing signaled that it would punish the guilty locals. But Chen was getting attention in the international press, celebrated as a whistleblower, and a blind peasant, at that. This displeased Beijing, which left Chen to the mercies of the local officials.

They seized him in March 2006. They harassed, detained, and beat members of his family and his lawyers. To him, they did worse. Eventually, they gave him a trial, but it was the usual sham. For example, his lawyers were forbidden to attend. Chen's wife, Yuan Weijing, said, "There isn't much hope. . . . We live in a nation without law, a nation without morality." He was sentenced to four years and three months in prison.

There, he faced what political prisoners can be expected to face. He was beaten over and over. He went on hunger strikes. He was denied medicine.

His wife, sometimes under house arrest, sometimes not, did all she could to help him. The months before the Beijing Olympics in 2008 were especially bad for dissidents and other "troublemakers," although Western supporters of those Olympics had said the Games would do wonders for China's liberalization. The guard around Yuan increased from ten men to 40. She wrote a letter to Chinese president Hu Jintao, calling herself "nothing but a rights defender's wife." She told of the humiliations she and her family endured.

The West protested too, in various ways. At the U.N., there were "working groups" and "special rapporteurs." The State Department and the EU uttered their peeps. Organizations were good enough to give Chen awards, in absentia. Nothing moved the Chinese government.

He was released from prison in September 2010 and confined to his home in the village of Dongshigu. This sort of confinement is known as ruanjin, or soft detention, but it has been very hard. Chen and his family have been watched constantly and subjected to escalating abuses. In February, he managed to have a video smuggled out to the West. It was publicized by a group in Texas called the China Aid Association, which said that the video had come courtesy of a "sympathetic government source."

In the video, Chen described the circumstances in which he and his family were being kept, and he said, "The thing we need to do now is conquer terror" and expose practices that are "lacking in human conscience." He said he was "fully prepared" to be tortured after the video's release, but was "not afraid." Yuan Weijing spoke too, saying that her family was in danger. With a breaking voice, she expressed the hope that friends would take care of their children, Kerui and Kesi, if something happened to them, the parents. What happened immediately is that Chen and Yuan were beaten to a pulp. A letter from Yuan, made available in June, told us the following:

More than ten men covered me totally with a blanket and kicked my ribs and all over my body. After half an hour's nonstop torture, I finally squeezed my head out of the blanket. I saw more than ten men surrounding Chen Guangcheng, torturing him. Some of them twisted his arms forcefully while the others pushed his head down and lifted his collar up tightly. . . . Guangcheng was not able to resist and passed out after more than two hours.

The letter details a great deal more.

Infuriated by the video, the authorities did their best to ensure that nothing could get in or out of the Chen home. They removed the family's electronics and sealed the windows with metal sheets. They installed surveillance cameras. They plundered the house of almost everything, down to family photos, toys, and Chen's white cane. The goal was to isolate the family completely.

Over the months, a stream of visitors have trekked to Dongshigu, hoping to see Chen. These include writers, lawyers, advocates for the disabled, and ordinary citizens. They also include foreign diplomats and journalists. All have been repulsed by teams of thugs at the four entrances to the village. These thugs—a mixture of policemen and their hirees—have detained, beaten, robbed, and shot at the would-be visitors. Many of these incidents are meticulously documented.

Impossible to document, of course, is Chen's condition at the moment. But we know for sure that beatings, malnutrition, and illness have taken their toll. The question is, To what degree? Chen's supporters in China and around the world are redoubling

their efforts in his behalf. Some people are risking a journey to Dongshigu on November 12, Chen's 40th birthday. There is also a "sunglasses campaign." Chen, like many blind people, wears sunglasses, and supporters are donning their own sunglasses and having their picture taken, to be posted on the Internet. It is a gesture of solidarity, a way of getting Beijing's attention.

There is also pressure on an American movie company. Relativity Media has just started filming *21 and Over* in, of all places, Linyi. They must be within shouting distance of Dongshigu. The company is working in cooperation with the same Party officials who are brutalizing Chen. The movie, according to publicity, is a "hilarious comedy" about "two childhood friends who drag their straight-arrow buddy out to celebrate his twenty-first birthday the night before an all-important medical school interview." And "when one beer leads to another, the evening spirals into a wild epic misadventure of debauchery and mayhem that none of them will ever forget."

The same press release quotes Zhang Shajun, a key Party official. He welcomes his "good friend Ryan Kavanaugh and his great company Relativity" and promises to "provide the best service possible in order to help make the movie successful worldwide." Naturally, human-rights groups have asked Relativity Media to use whatever leverage it has to help Chen Guangcheng, or at least inquire into him. The company has so far seemed disinclined.

On another front, Jianli Yang has written the State Department, asking it to bar from entering the United States a Party official named Li Qun. Li studied at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, and even served as an assistant to New Haven's mayor. Now, according to Yang, he is the Party official chiefly responsible for Chen's ordeal.

Have international protests done any good at all? Reggie Littlejohn, president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, says yes: "I believe Chen would be dead by now but for people in the West speaking out for him."

Across China, Chen is a symbol of human rights, like Gao Zhisheng, another lawyer, who has been "disappeared," and Liu Xiaobo, the political prisoner who is also the 2010 Nobel peace laureate. But Sharon Hom of Human Rights in China makes a point that is depressing and inspiring at the same time: There are many, many like Chen, Gao, and Liu, but whose names are unknown to us. They languish in prisons, "black jails," psychiatric wards, and other dark places. They have stuck their necks out for their rights and all people's.

Why do they do it? Why do they risk, or guarantee, the full wrath and murderous power of a dictatorship? Of Chen Guangcheng, Harry Wu says, "He had to tell the truth. Simple. He had no choice but to tell the truth. That is why people appreciate him, and why the government hates him." Perhaps Chen's blindness gave him an extra dose of compassion and courage. Perhaps not. In any case, there is someone much like him in Cuba, the blind lawyer and activist Juan Carlos González Leiva. The bravery of such people is hard to account for. But it can be admired.

In that video, released earlier this year, Chen said, "A society that is not built on a foundation of fairness and equality, but instead relies on bullying and violence, cannot possibly maintain lasting stability." He is probably right about that. Yet think how many suffer and die in the meantime.

HONORING BERT STEPHEN CRANE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Merced community, Bert Stephen Crane, on his 80th birthday. Bert was born in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley's fertile lands of California on November 29, 1931. He is the fifth generation of California farmers and ranchers that came from Connecticut during the Gold Rush of 1849. His ancestors can be traced to John Alden of the Mayflower landing in Plymouth. A true son of this great country.

Growing up on the cattle ranch he learned that the day starts in the saddle before dawn, and it doesn't end until all the work is done and the horses are grained and rubbed down. A cattle sale has always been done with an honest handshake.

Bert loves music and was the Drum Major in the Merced High School Band, and played basketball. At Menlo College, Bert enjoyed roping and polo. He later studied at Stanford University and U.C. Davis, where he achieved his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics. During these years, he fell in love with a young gal, Nancy Magnuson, who was studying at Stanford University. They married in 1957, raised three children and have been married for over 54 years.

Bert's life has been a great and wonderful adventure. His leadership skills have extended from achieving his Eagle Scout as a young man, to the highly coveted Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, which is a recognition award of outstanding service to scouting and the community awarded at the National Scouting level. He has ridden horses with Ronald Reagan, coached Little League and shipped his Registered Red Angus bulls to Europe and Hawaii. He diversified from the beef business in the early 1970s and started farming walnuts as well. Eventually, he built a walnut processing plant with his wife, Nancy and three children, Bert, Mary and Karen. His children and seven grandchildren are following the tradition of ranching and farming.

Bert's step-father was James Parker, M.D., a third generation family doctor. James' love for the outdoors was a natural match for Bert, as they enjoyed fishing and duck hunting out on the family's Sunrise Ranch. Bert has always had fond memories of loading up horses, and packing into Hetch Hetchy reservoir, and Davis Lake for trail riding and trout fishing together.

His passion for quality healthcare was learned through his stepfather. Bert has served and led fundraising events for Mercy Hospital for over 36 years and spearheaded the building of the Mercy Cancer Center, and a new state-of-the-art Mercy Hospital in Merced. Bert's wife, Nancy, was the founding president of the Mercy Hospital Volunteers and has served for over 40 years.

In 1986, Bert was honored by the University of California, Davis Alumni with the Distinguished Achievement Award for his involvement in research in the University's agriculture and governmental programs, along with his community and industry associations.

His service to his community, agriculture and research is one of great respect and in-

tegrity. Bert served on the Merced County Planning Commission for 28 years. All of this would not have been possible without the work of his loving wife, Nancy, in keeping the home fires burning and taking care of the children while supporting his passion for service to others.

REMINISCING WITH BERT

The year was 1943. The place was the Sunrise Ranch of local pioneer C.A. "Bert" Crane, located just off the old Gustine Highway. A young cowboy was growing up on this ranch; he was named Bert, after his grandfather. Well, all ranches have dogs and this was no exception. One of Bert's chores was to feed the dogs.

To digress a moment, Grandfather Bert had a best friend, Bill Moffat, of Manteca Beef fame. One of Moffat's employees named Scotty Allen, convinced him that it would be good business to use the scraps from the beef plant to make dog food. The result: Scotty Allen dog food. To promote the sale of this product, the cans were wrapped with coupons Being loyal friends, the Cranes served up nothing but Scotty Allen. As young Bert fed the dogs he fastidiously peeled the coupons off the cans and sent for the catalog of prizes. When the catalog arrived, Bert searched the pages and finally selected his prize: a fabulous crook-neck Boy Scout flashlight. Mother Crane cautioned that Boy Scout flashlights are for Boy Scouts. This saddened Bert, for the chances of becoming a Scout out there "in the boonies" were remote. However, after some soul-searching he sent for the flashlight.

Soon after, Bert and his family moved to town. Bert packed up his flashlight, and the family settled across the street from Applegate Park. As good luck would have it, there in the park stood the log cabin Boy Scout hut. Bert quickly joined the Scouts and legalized his flashlight. Bert was twelve; his Scout troop was #101; the leader was Scotty Langley. Langley became Bert's mentor and guided him along the journey to the coveted Eagle Scout Award. His first merit badge was for Horsemanship; his second badge was for Steer Production, and he could tie more knots than the Scout handbook. Three years running Bert won the Merced-Mariposa Trail Ride, Junior Division.

Bert was a member of Rancheros Visitadores and enjoyed going on the week long trail ride with friends and politicians in the Santa Ynez Valley. One of his friends was the late Governor of California and United States President, Ronald Reagan. Bert was visiting with the then past Governor and seized the opportunity to take a rope off of a saddle and "lasso" Reagan in the outhouse. Reagan thought that Bert was going to flip over the outhouse. Reagan opened the door a couple of inches and worked the knot out of the rope and undid the knot. Reagan came out laughing, stating "You know Bert, I've been in tighter places than that."

The following is a list of his service and awards:

Member of Central Presbyterian Church
Bank of America Advisory Board 1957–1969
Bank of America Plan to Prosper Comm. 1967–1968
Bank of America Livestock Symposium 1969–1970
Merced Land Bank Assoc. 1980–1988
Merced County Land Bank Assoc. 1984–1988

Diamond Walnuts Top Twenty Service Walnut Grower 1983

Speaker at U. C. Davis 1973, Livestock Speaker at Fresno 1985, Livestock Speaker at U.C. Davis 1987, Livestock U.C. Davis Alumni Achievement Award 1986

Merced City-County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Livestock Produced for the year 1976

California Farm Bureau Member
California Cattlemen's Assoc. 1954–1988
Research Comm. 1968–1970

California Cattlemen's Assoc. Farm Credit Policy Comm. 1984–1988

California Cattlemen's Assoc. Land Use Comm. 1984–1988

Merced-Mariposa Cattlemen's Assoc. 1954–1988, Director 1964

American Quarter Horse Assoc. 1954–1988
American Simmental Assoc. 1969–1970

National American Cattlemen's Assoc. 1970–1988

Beef Health Conference Comm. Davis, California 1968

Livestock Research Advisory Board, Davis, California 1970

Pacific Slope Red Angus Association
California Beef Cattle Improvement Assoc. 1965–1988, President 1978–1980, Director 1966–1970

Rancheros Visitadores Member 1978–1988
Beef Improvement Federation

Commendation for Excellence for Feed Stock Breeder 1974

Cattlemen's Expo Member of Formation Comm. Representing Red Angus 1968

Red Angus Association 1951–1988:
Registration Comm. Chairman 1964–1968

Board of Directors 1962–1971
President of Assoc. 1969–1971

Top Hand Award 1972
Red Angus Assoc. of America Pioneer Breeder Award 1988

Little League Baseball Coach, 1970
Weaver Union School District Board 1966–1970:

Clerk 1968
Vice President 1970

Merced County Planning Comm. 1964–1988, Chairman 1966–1967

Merced County District #1 Alternate Supervisor 1966–1970

Lone Tree Soil Conservation District:
Director 1957–1986

President 1957–1962
Secretary 1976–87

Eagle Scout Award, 1946
Boy Scouts of America Comm. Member 1969–1970

Boy Scouts Yosemite Area Council Century Club 1978–1988

Central Presbyterian Church 1945–1988
Usher Comm.

Merced County District #1 Alternate Supervisor 1966–1970

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, each year we recognize November as National Adoption Month. I encourage my colleagues in both chambers to raise awareness about the adoption of young boys and girls in our foster care system who dream of one day having a forever family. Many of us have brothers or sisters, aunts or uncles, sons or daughters, who have lovingly decided to add to their family through adoption. By raising awareness about the many benefits of adoption, and the process for families and children in foster homes, we can make sure more children go to sleep in their own home every night.

According to the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, 423,000 children are living without permanent families in the U.S. Today, 115,000 of these children are eligible for adoption but almost 40% will wait more than 3 years in foster care before being adopted. Every single year—and this number is climbing—over 29,000 of our young people “age-out” of foster care. A child that “ages-out” is more likely to be undereducated, unemployed, homeless, addicted to drugs or alcohol and/or utilizing government benefits to survive, compared to their peers who grew up outside the foster care system or were adopted before aging out. Our children deserve better than this, and the good news is we can help. We can help by encouraging more families to consider adoption, and offering assistance to those who do by extending the adoption tax credit.

Our young people are our greatest treasure. To continue to allow thousands of our young people to begin adulthood at a distinct disadvantage would be devastating. Please consider the plight of so many of our children and young adults living in foster care; shuttled back and forth between homes, towns, cities, schools, friends, support groups, and so on. Children in foster care without a more permanent structure and support system are more likely to distrust adults or have strained relationships with the adults in their lives and with their peers.

National Adoption Month is also an opportunity to recognize the foster parents in our communities who are selflessly giving so much to help our youth. They too deserve our support and our thanks. Foster parents across this nation are wonderful examples for all of us and provide some of our most vulnerable young people with protection and a sense of family and home. I appreciate their sacrifice and I hope they know it does not go unnoticed. The decision to become foster parents or adoptive parents can sometimes be scary; not knowing how one's family dynamics may be impacted or if you'll be able to create a bond with the child and the child with you. To all who may be considering these options today, trust me. I know from personal experience that the worry melts away as soon as you bring that special child into your home. As a foster grandparent, and now a proud grandpa of two adopted children, I can assure you that it won't be long before you realize that it's not just the children who gain so much through adoption. You too gain more joy and more love than you ever could have imagined.

Look for ways that you can get involved with adoption efforts in your local community. Locate adoption services in your community and help with your time, money, or both. Adoption is essential to the health of our nation. Supporting adoptive parents, adoption agencies, and foster parents is a duty for all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the AbilityOne Program, which has helped more than 47,000 blind or significantly disabled Americans develop skills and receive training ultimately leading to successful employment.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from participating community-based non-profit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and a higher quality of life.

I am proud to acknowledge two non-profit agencies, Skookum and Lighthouse for the Blind, both of which are closely associated with AbilityOne in my district. These organizations represent two of many non-profit social enterprises dedicated to the mission of enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

Skookum's mission is to create opportunities for people with disabilities, assisting government customers by delivering critical logistics, facilities maintenance and public works services. Skookum was recently awarded the 2010 National AbilityOne Award for Performance Excellence in Hiring Veterans with Disabilities which demonstrates a proud commitment to recruiting the right person for the right job and bringing Wounded Warriors into our workforce.

Lighthouse for the Blind has been providing employment, support, and training for people who are blind, deaf-blind, and blind with other disabilities in the Puget Sound since 1918. Lighthouse for the Blind expands employment opportunities by providing the technical and communication tools needed for self-sufficiency. The manufacturing operations center makes products for the Federal Government and various aerospace companies.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. The dedication and commitment of Skookum and Lighthouse for the Blind help individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment, live fuller lives, and remain active members of our community. I commend everyone associated with AbilityOne for working to improve so many lives and make our country a better place for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF SIX RETIRING OFFICIALS WITHIN USDA'S OFFICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished public service careers of six retiring officers within the Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development, RD. These individuals have worked diligently and effectively over many years to promote economic prosperity and safe living in the various rural communities throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Lambert Rosenbaum, Virginia Stump, Cindy Brandt, Barbara McMillen, Susan O'Donnell, and Mary Ellen Polosky have made clear through the quality of their work at RD that they see a place for rural areas in America's future. These individuals will leave a lasting legacy; their belief in the promise of rural America will surely live on in those who have had the privilege to work with them and manifest itself in all that RD does for the individuals, communities, and businesses of southwestern Pennsylvania for years to come.

Public service has been a calling for each of the six outgoing officials at USDA Rural Development. Lambert Rosenbaum, the outgoing Area Director for the Butler and Westmoreland Area Offices, boasts a 31 year career at USDA. In addition to his civil service, Mr. Rosenbaum served three years of active duty in the Army, during which he served a combat tour in Vietnam and earned the prestigious Bronze Star. He has also served in the Army Reserves for 42 years. Most recently, Mr. Rosenbaum's reserve service took him to Kuwait, where he earned the Meritorious Service Medal. His devotion to the public welfare has clearly made an impression on his children, as two of his sons have served in the Iraq War.

Virginia Stump, a Team Leader and Area Specialist, will leave RD after 30 years of civil service. She has worked extensively on the Water Waste Program, which furnishes rural communities with the means to install sanitary sewers. She has also helped to market several rural development programs, including the Value Added program and the Renewable Energy programs. Ms. Stump is married and has one daughter, as well as twin grandchildren.

Cindy Brant, a Loan Specialist, also has over thirty years of experience in civil service. She began her career with USDA in 1979 as a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, CETA, Trainee. A year later, she became an Assistant County Supervisor, working out of the Somerset Office until its closure in 2007. While in the Somerset Office, she worked extensively on the Direct Housing Program, helping numerous low-income individuals to purchase homes in rural areas. Upon leaving Somerset, she moved on to the Greensburg Area Office and took on the additional roles of Guaranteed Housing Program Specialist and Multi-Family Housing Program Specialist. In recognition of her outstanding service, Cindy received USDA's Unsung Hero Award in 2009.

In her 28 years with USDA, Barbara McMillen, an Area Specialist, has worked on a

number of different projects, including those that provide housing loans and loans to farmers and ranchers who are having difficulty obtaining commercial credit. Over the last seventeen years, she has worked ardently to help 51,450 households and businesses to obtain \$331 million dollars in loan and grant funds for public water and sewer service.

Susan O'Donnell, also an Area Specialist, has been with USDA since 1977 and has done extensive work in the business, multi-family housing and community facility programs across six counties. She is extremely passionate about public service, and plans to continue to working to promote the welfare of others through volunteer work upon retirement.

Having performed over 36 years of Federal service, Mary Ellen Polosky has set a laudable example for current and aspiring public servants. While with USDA, she has worked mainly in the Housing Division. She has served in her current capacity for the last 9 years, during which time she has helped numerous individuals living in rural areas to procure loans for home purchases and improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working closely with these individuals while serving as the District Director for the late Congressman John Murtha, and can attest that they embody the highest order of integrity and proficiency. We should all be grateful that such exemplary individuals chose to engage full-bore in the effort to secure a prosperous future for rural America. Their work has given hope to countless individuals and businesses in southwestern Pennsylvania. All of us in the Federal Government should attempt to emulate their commendable public service in our own careers.

HONORING THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON AND WARREN COUNTIES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties located in Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

For half a century, the Federation has helped raise funds to coordinate services and help support agencies that touch the lives of Jews in Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. Through numerous programs, they have not only assisted in funding but have also provided a place for Jews to come together both in their faith and in the spirit of community service. The Federation is the umbrella organization of the area's Jewish community, bringing together agencies, organizations, and communities to support and fulfill the needs of the Jewish people.

The Federation targets those in their twenties through forties with their Young Leadership Division (YLD) that aims to strengthen the Jewish community by focusing on three principles: "Live Jewishly. Live Socially. Live Generously." YLD encourages involvement in the Jewish community and provides members with opportunities to not only socialize within their faith but to join together to help others.

The Women's Philanthropy Division is a program that educates and engages women to be active in their religious community. These women work to support those in need locally, in Israel, and around the world through numerous events and fundraisers.

In an effort to aid local businesses, the Federation holds several events throughout the year for the business community to build valuable, lasting relationships. With the understanding that the success of a business is dependent on its visibility and connections within a community, the Federation gives them the boost they need to establish their credibility.

In addition to the programs the Federation offers, it also hosts mission trips overseas to Israel and other countries in an effort to show the history, status and future of Jewish People.

The Federation is a resource of information for anything from educational organizations to social services. No matter the needs or the issues, the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, continues to work to address them.

Mr. Speaker, I task you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties on 50 years of dedicated service.

HONORING FRED BIRCHMORE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of one of the 10th Congressional District's most impressive and dedicated constituents, Mr. Fred Birchmore. Renowned for his round-the-world cycling trips, Birchmore has biked tens of thousands of miles worldwide on a one-speed 42-pound Reinhardt that now sits in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. His travels have taken him 25,000 miles across Europe, and through Africa, the far Middle East, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and 2,000 miles along the United States Appalachian Trail. He's traversed deserts, jungles, beaches and warzones, even once crossing paths with Adolf Hitler. Birchmore's adventures on his trusted bike opened his eyes to not only new horizons, but new cultures, peoples, and ways of life that enriched his own in many aspects.

Even more than a sportsman, Fred is a decorated World War II war hero, a loving father of four and has been a devoted husband to Willa Deane Birchmore for 72 years now. His eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren know him to be an adventurer, an intellectual, and an all around outstanding man and role model.

Birchmore is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was a personal friend of the late Larry Munson. He carried the Olympic Torch under the Arch in the Classic City, takes great pride in his possession of the sword of Colonel Sanford who is the namesake of UGA's Sanford Stadium, and still remains a faithful community servant to Athens-Clarke County today.

I am honored to be able to wish Mr. Birchmore a happy 100th birthday on behalf of the United States Congress, and I am pleased

to have the opportunity to shed light on a life that has been so filled with adventure, hard work, passion, and love for family, friends, community, and country. Happy Birthday Fred and may you continue to set an example for all those who love and admire you for many more years to come.

NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, November is National Lung Cancer Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness of lung cancer issues for people who have been affected across the country.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in both men and women in the United States, claiming more lives each year than breast, prostate, colon, and kidney cancers combined. In fact, sadly one in fourteen Americans will be diagnosed with cancer of the lung and bronchus during their lifetime.

According to the American Lung Association, over 370,000 men and women in the U.S. are currently living with lung cancer. In Florida, an estimated 17,000 people were diagnosed with lung cancer just this past year.

While there are few early symptoms of lung cancer, treatment is available through surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Unfortunately, only 15 percent of people who develop the disease will live more than 5 years. A need still exists for further advancement in the detection and treatment of lung cancer.

Lung Cancer Awareness Month brings much-needed attention to a deadly disease. I hope in the years to come we can make advancements in detection and treatment of this deadly form of cancer.

HONORING FRANK KAMENY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, before he died, Frank Kameny had already won a place reserved for Americans who make personal sacrifices for human rights. There can be no doubt that Frank's pioneering sacrifices for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, LGBT, community place him alongside the nation's human rights heroes. What exactly did Frank do? At a time when it was unthinkable, Frank refused to suppress who he was to keep his job with the Federal Government. A World War II veteran with a Harvard Ph.D., Frank had everything going for him except, of course, his identity and, thus, his legitimacy. It was being forced out, not coming out, that was the issue, and Frank took his dismissal from the federal service (for which he later received an apology) as a badge of honor. As we in the Civil Rights Movement began wearing our hair natural, i.e., nappy, to show that "black is beautiful," Frank coined "gay is good."

But it was Frank's lonely act of defiance, without reward, that sets him apart. Frank no

more set out to sacrifice his livelihood when he refused to deny his sexual orientation to federal authorities than Rosa Parks intended to give up her work as a seamstress when she refused to move to the back of the bus. Rosa Parks got tired of suppressing her full identity and dignity, and so did Frank. Frank did not put in those years of hard work for his Ph.D. in order to come out as a gay man. Like Rosa Parks, Frank wanted the same kind of life as the rest of us. But at a moment of reckoning, Frank summoned something few of us have: raw, pure courage. It is a brand of courage that is the opposite of self-preservation.

Long before there was a LGBT movement, Frank lost his job and his livelihood for the rest of his life. Yet Frank lived to see historic advances that bear his signature, including security clearances for gays in the Federal Government and the admission of gays into the United States armed services.

We honor those who fight for human rights. We revere those who make sacrifices for human rights. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose memorial we dedicated in October after he sacrificed his life. Anita Hill, whose fearless testimony 20 years ago brought her controversy, while she brought record numbers of women to the House and Senate.

As we honor Frank, in a place that is part of the government that dishonored him, we remember that it is one thing to join a movement; it is quite another to start one. We revere Frank because his life tells us that great human rights victories often begin with the courage of a single individual like Rosa Parks and, yes, Frank Kameny.

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to further submit for the RECORD the following letter signed by 281 different organizations opposed to this or any Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. It is my intent that this letter supersedes a version previously submitted.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR: The 281 undersigned national organizations strongly urge you to oppose any balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

A balanced budget constitutional amendment would damage the economy, not strengthen it. Demanding that policymakers cut spending and/or raise taxes, even when the economy slows, is the opposite of what is needed to stabilize a weak economy and avert recessions. Such steps would risk tipping a faltering economy into recession or worsening an ongoing downturn, costing large numbers of jobs while blocking worthy investments to stimulate jobs and growth and address the nation's urgent needs in infrastructure and other areas.

According to a new analysis of a balanced budget amendment by Macroeconomic Advisers, one of the nation's preeminent private economic forecasting firms, if a constitutional balanced budget amendment had already been ratified and were now being en-

forced for fiscal year 2012, "the effect on the economy would be catastrophic." The analysis reports that if the 2012 budget were balanced through spending cuts, those cuts would have to total about \$1.5 trillion in 2012 alone, which they estimate would throw about 15 million more people out of work, double the unemployment rate from 9 percent to approximately 18 percent, and cause the economy to shrink by about 17 percent instead of growing by an expected 2 percent.

Additionally, all versions of the balanced budget amendment being considered also contain a provision requiring three-fifths of the whole membership of both houses to raise the debt limit, making risk of default more likely and empowering a willful minority to hold the full faith and credit of the U.S. hostage to whatever other political demands they may have. The difficulty of raising the debt limit this summer illustrates how hard it can be to secure the necessary votes even when the consequences are so grave. Only three of the last 11 debt limit increases obtained three-fifths vote in both chambers; two of those instances occurred amidst the financial crisis in 2008 when the debt limit increases were included in larger legislation to respond to the meltdowns already occurring in the housing and financial markets, and the third occurred this August as part of the Budget Control Act and came only after a bitter process that led the nation to the brink of default.

In short, a balanced budget amendment is a recipe for making recessions more frequent, longer, and deeper, while requiring severe cuts that would harshly affect seniors, children, veterans, people with disabilities, homeland security activities, public health and safety, environmental protection, education and medical research. It would almost certainly necessitate massive cuts to vital programs including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and lead to even deeper cuts than the House-passed budget.

A balanced budget amendment has no place in the Constitution of the United States. Our Constitution has served the nation well because it represents enduring principles that are the foundations of our government. It should not be used as a substitute for real leadership on fiscal policy. We strongly urge you to oppose any constitutional balanced budget amendment.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women; AFL-CIO; AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families; AIDS Community Research Initiative of America; The AIDS Institute; AIDS Project Los Angeles; AIDS United; Alliance for a Just Society; Alliance for Excellent Education; Alliance for Justice; Alliance for Retired Americans; American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

American Association of Community Colleges; American Association of School Administrators (AASA); American Association of University Professors; American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Counseling Association; American Dance Therapy Association; American Educational Research Association; American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO; American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO; American Jewish Committee.

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA); American Medical Student Association (AMSA); American Network of Community Options and Resources; American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO; American Psychiatric Association; American Public Health Association; Amer-

ican Rights at Work; American School Counselor Association; Americans for Democratic Action; American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC); The Arc of the United States; Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum; Association for Career and Technical Education; Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers; Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP); Association of Education Service Agencies (AESAs); Association of Flight Attendants—CWA; Association of School Business Officials; Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUUCD); Autism National Committee; AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Bienestar Human Services; Bread for the World.

Break the Cycle; Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; B'nai B'rith International; Campaign for America's Future; Campaign for Community Change; CANN—Community Access National Network; Cascade AIDS Project; Center for Family Policy & Practice; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); The Center for Media and Democracy; Center for Medicare Advocacy; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Child Welfare League of America (CWLA); Children's Defense Fund.

Children's Dental Health Project; Cities for Progress, Institute for Policy Studies; Citizens for Global Solutions; Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington; Citizens for Tax Justice; Clinical Social Work Association; Coalition for Health Funding; Coalition of Labor Union Women; Coalition on Human Needs; Commission on Adult Basic Education; Committee for Education Funding; Common Cause; Communications Workers of America (CWA); Community Action Partnership.

Community Food Security Coalition; Community Organizations in Action; Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED); Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders; Council for Exceptional Children; Council for Opportunity in Education; Council of Administrators of Special Education; Council of the Great City Schools; CREDO Action; Defenders of Wildlife; Democracy 21; Demos; Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO; Direct Care Alliance.

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC); Easter Seals; Elev8 (Baltimore, Chicago, New Mexico, and Oakland); Every Child Matters Education Fund; FairTest, the National Center for Fair & Open Testing, Inc.; Families USA; Farmworker Justice; Feminist Majority; First Focus Campaign for Children; Food & Water Watch; Food Research & Action Center (FRAC); Forum for Youth Investment; Foster Family-based Treatment Association.

Franciscan Action Network (FAN); Friends Committee on National Legislation; Friends of the Earth; Gamaliel; Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC); Generations United; GLSEN; Gray Panthers; Growth & Justice; Half in Ten; Health & Disability Advocates; Health Care for America Now; Health GAP (Global Access Project); HealthHIV; HIV Law Project.

Horizons for Homeless Children; Housing Works; Interfaith Worker Justice; International Association of Fire Fighters; International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; International Society for Technology in Education; International Union of

Police Associations, AFL-CIO; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW).

Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Laborers' International Union of North America, (LIUNA!); Latino Commission on AIDS; The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Leadership Team, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; League of Conservation Voters; League of Rural Voters; League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); League of Women Voters of the United States; Learning Disabilities Association of America; Main Street Alliance; Medicare Rights Center; Mental Health America.

NAACP; National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE); National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity; National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD); National Assembly on School-Based Health Care; National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs; National Association for Children's Behavioral Health; National Association for College Admission Counseling; National Association for Hispanic Elderly; National Association for Music Education; National Association for the Education of Young Children; National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a); National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. (NACWC).

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD); National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Federally Impacted Schools; National Association of Government Employees/SEIU; National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO); National Association of Letter Carriers; National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP); National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA); National Association of Private Special Education Centers; National Association of School Psychologists; National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP); National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium; National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE).

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators; National Association of Thrift Savings Plan Participants; National Black Child Development Institute; National Center for Family Literacy; National Center for Law and Economic Justice; National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development; National Coalition for LGBT Health; National Coalition for Literacy; National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; National Congress of American Indians; The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCEP).

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare; National Council for the Social Studies; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of La Raza (NCLR); National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO); National Council on Independent Living; National Disability Rights Network; National Education Association (NEA); National Employment Law Project (NELP); National Fair Housing Alliance; National Family Caregivers Association; National Federation of Federal Employees; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund; National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA); National Housing Trust; National Immigration Law Center; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health; National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National Organization for Women (NOW); National Partnership for Women & Families; National Pediatric AIDS Network; National People's Action; National Priorities Project; National Respite Coalition; National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition; National Rural Education Association (NREA).

National School Boards Association; National Skills Coalition; National Superintendents Roundtable; National Treasury Employees Union; National Urban League; National WIC Association; National Women's Conference Committee; National Women's Law Center; Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Not Dead Yet; OMB Watch; Paralyzed Veterans of America; People For the American Way (PFAW); Population Action International; Progressive States Action.

Project Inform; Public Citizen; Public Education Network; Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition (REHDC); Rebuild The Dream; RESULTS; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; School Social Work Association of America; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS); Share Our Strength; Sisters of Mercy Institute Justice Team; Social Security Disability Coalition; Social Security Works; Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; Stand Up for Rural America, Robert S. Warwick, Steering Committee; Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF); Strengthen Social Security Campaign.

Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice; TESOL International Association; Transportation Communications Union; Transportation Equity Network; Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO; Treatment Access Expansion Project; Treatment Action Group (TAG); Trust for America's Health (TFAH); Union for Reform Judaism; United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada; United Cerebral Palsy; United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE); United for a Fair Economy; The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society.

United Methodist Women; United Mine Workers; United Spinal Association; United States Student Association (USSA); United Steelworkers (USW); USAction; US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA); VillageCare; Voices for America's Children; Voices for Progress; Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW); Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER); The Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance; Working America; YouthBuild USA; YWCA USA; ZERO TO THREE.

HONORING JANICE LANGBEHN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Janice Langbehn, a recipient of the 2011 Presidential Citizens Medal, one of our Nation's highest civilian honors.

Each year, the President recognizes American citizens with the Presidential Citizens Medal who have taken exemplary steps outside of their daily lives to serve and improve their communities. Past honorees have addressed some of our nation's most persistent problems, such as hunger, homelessness, high school dropout rates, lack of access to health care, and several other pressing issues affecting the lives of millions of Americans. Citizen Medal honorees face challenging circumstances and act admirably while taking risks to help others. Out of over 6,000 nominees across the country, President Obama chose only thirteen recipients, including Janice Langbehn of Lacey, Washington.

In 2007, while on vacation with their children, Janice's partner of 18 years, Lisa Marie Pond, collapsed with a brain aneurysm. Lisa was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center. When Janice and her children arrived, hospital officials refused to let Janice or her children see Lisa for eight long hours even though they had a power of attorney in hand. Lisa eventually slipped into a coma and passed away while her loved ones continued to fight to be by her side.

Afterwards Janice brought a lawsuit against the hospital, which was dismissed in 2009, and then turned her experience into activism, fighting to make sure no partners or parents have to go through what their family experienced. Her story attracted the attention of President Obama, who revised hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples across the country. The executive order went into effect in January 2011 for any hospital receiving Federal Medicare or Medicaid funds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in recognizing Janice Langbehn for her efforts to improve equal treatment for all Americans and congratulate her for being honored with the 2011 Presidential Citizens Medal.

HONORING LEAUTHA LANORA
"LEE" ANDERSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved woman in the Modesto Community, Leautha Lanora "Lee" Anderson. She was born July 26, 1921, to Mary Alena (Carl) and Lloyd Buster Nutt near El Reno, Oklahoma and died November 15, 2011, in Modesto, CA. She was the second born of seven sisters.

Her parents were poor farmers and she grew up working the fields and herding cattle. Her father had hoped for a son, so he nicknamed her "Buck". Lee was one of the few remaining true Frontier Women. She could shoot a rifle from the back of a galloping horse and could light a match from a hundred paces with a rifle that is still in the family today. April 24, 1941, Lee married Alfred Anderson Jr. after a whirlwind relationship of three weeks. They began married life in Vinita, Oklahoma. On a wintry November day in 1942, they left for California with their savings of \$80.00. They settled in Carlsbad, California where their first-born son, Dwight was born May of 1943. They enjoyed the coastal town and beaches. While

there, Lee worked for actress Rita Hayward, who allowed her to bring baby Dwight along with her to the home. In 1945, Lee and Andy moved and resettled in the lovely central valley town of Modesto with its fertile farming and dairy land.

They bought an unfinished home that had no interior walls or electricity. Their house payment was \$10.00 a month. Son, Thomas was born there February 1946. A new home was purchased in the then developing outskirts in 1951. Lee took great pride in caring for her new home until her dying day. Lee and Andy were blessed with two more sons with the arrival of Michael in May of 1960, and Troy, November 1961.

She was preceded in death by her late husband, Andy, of 63 years in March 2003. They had four sons together; Dwight A. Anderson (Leslie) of Oakdale, CA., Thomas E. Anderson (Kathleen) of Sonoma, CA., Michael D. Anderson (Angela) of Modesto and Troy A. Anderson (Elizabeth) of Modesto. Lee is also survived by three remaining sisters; Gladys W. Antle, Joann Delhart, and Janice Pence, all of Ceres, CA. She was blessed with 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Lee was an active "Gold Star" grandmother. She was preceded by her grandson, Cpl. Michael Anderson Jr., who was a United States Marine, a member of the Famed 3/5 Darkhorse Infantry Unit. Cpl. Anderson Jr., was tragically killed in combat action during the successful "Battle of Fallujah" in December 2004.

Leautha was a devout Christian, accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as her savior at the age of 19 and was baptized in the Holy Ghost 6 years later. She attended and was a faithful member of Calvary Temple Worship Center in Modesto where she was also a member of the church choir. She was surrounded by love and will be dearly missed by those who knew or associated with her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Leautha Lanora "Lee" Anderson for her unwavering faith in God and love of country and family. The life of Leautha Lanora "Lee" Anderson serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLS & MILLS LAW FIRM

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mills & Mills law firm of Farmington, Maine on their 100th year anniversary.

A century ago, Sumner P. Mills came to Farmington in order to many Flora Pearson and build a business. It was on the corner of Main Street and Broadway in downtown Farmington where his law firm set up shop, and to this day it remains a fixture of the community there. Sumner Mills had the good fortune to watch his son Peter inherit his legal talents, and the two began working together in 1940, forming the original Mills & Mills office. For generations, the Mills family has lent their expertise to serve the Farmington community, the state of Maine, and their country.

Over the years, Mills & Mills has remained an integral part of the Farmington community. In its early days, the firm took on a wide range of cases that covered everything from real estate to criminal and domestic law. The law firm has evolved over the decades, but its service to the town remains strong from each generation to the next.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Peter, Janet and Dora Mills, the grandchildren of Sumner. They have all reached a level of accomplishment befitting of their family's proud tradition of public service. It is this devotion to community which has sustained Mills & Mills for all these years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mills & Mills on the 100th anniversary of its founding.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from a vote which occurred on November 16, 2011. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 851—H.R. 822—Motion to Recommit, National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011—"nay."

IN HONOR OF REVEREND RICHARD WALTER JORDAN, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Richard Walter Jordan Sr. for his decades of dedicated community service and pastoral leadership to the numerous church congregations and com-

munities that he served in the great state of Georgia and throughout the United States of America.

Reverend Jordan, a pillar in the Dougherty County, Georgia community, recently passed away at the age of 90 at the Wilson Hospice House in Albany. His funeral service was recently held at the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, November 26, 2011.

Reverend Jordan was born and raised in Albany, Georgia and his early spiritual rearing took place at the Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Albany. During his early religious maturation and training in the Christian faith, Reverend Jordan served as an usher, choir member, and a deacon at Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church before being called into the ministry in 1955.

Over the course of his distinguished career in the ministry, Reverend Jordan served as the Senior Pastor at over 10 churches. His riveting and inspirational messages of adhering to the word of God positively impacted the lives of those he encountered.

He was a principled man who devoted his life to Christ by not only preaching good sermons and practicing good deeds but by unrelentingly allowing God to direct his steps and use his immeasurable talents to bestow motivation and inspiration upon those who had neither but needed both.

At the end of our mortal life's journey, our measure of greatness will not exclusively be determined by the number of degrees we have earned; the level of financial wealth we have obtained; the titles that have been imparted upon us; or by the tangibly expensive goods we have acquired.

The true measures of greatness are those time-honored standards established by Jesus Christ that tell us, he who is great among you shall be your servant and he who is greatest shall be servant onto all. Reverend Jordan was great because he served and he will forever be remembered as one of Albany, Georgia's greatest because he sought to be a servant onto us all.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I would like to extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to Reverend Jordan's beloved wife of 70 years, Martha Green Jordan, his lovely children and the congregation of Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Jordan's mortal journey on this earth has ended but his devotional faith and inspirational courage will continue to live on in the countless individuals he counselled and served.