

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRANDYWINE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF COATESVILLE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Brandywine Health Foundation of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

Over the last ten years, the Brandywine Health Foundation has made over \$10 million in grants and scholarships to improve health and encourage youth development in the greater Coatesville area. Its efforts have resulted in bringing ChesPenn Health Services, the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Chester County, to Coatesville. This helps to provide over 8,000 patient visits to low income County residents. Additionally, the Foundation has assisted in the development of a new Dental Center, Chester County Community Dental, and has partnered with the Chester County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, as well as the Coatesville Area School District, to bring behavioral health services to child guidance research centers.

The Brandywine Health Foundation is also responsible for the construction of the four-story Brandywine Center, which opened in April 2008 and houses the non-profit organizations such as ChesPenn Health Services, Chester County Community Dental, Child Guidance Resource Centers, and Human Services, Inc., as well as offering 24 units of affordable senior housing.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its years of exemplary service to the community and outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing The Brandywine Health Foundation in celebration of its 10 year anniversary.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
MAYOR RICHARD FREY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of a distinguished public servant and friend, the Mayor of the City of Dunkirk, New York, the Honorable Richard Frey.

With a long career in the private sector—and distinguished wartime service in Korea, including earning the Purple Heart—before running for Mayor, Dick Frey has unquestionably been a hands-on Mayor for the residents of Dunkirk.

Dick's key focus as Mayor was community revitalization and economic development, and he delivered for his constituents. On each ex-

ample of progress you see in Dunkirk today—from waterfront development to the Dunkirk Boardwalk Market, from the SUNY Fredonia Incubator to the redevelopment of the vacant Crocker-Sprague building—you see Dick Frey's fingerprints. Through Dick's efforts, underutilized recreational parks and other brownfields throughout the city were turned into clean and development-ready sites.

Never shy about fighting for his city, I first met Dick Frey in 2005, shortly after I took office representing Dunkirk and Chautauqua County as a Member of Congress, and I'll confess to being a little concerned. After all, Dunkirk and Chautauqua had not been represented in Congress by a Democrat in nearly a generation. But after our first meeting, two things were clear: number one, Dick Frey was a man of his word who passionately cares about the constituents he served; number two, Dick Frey cares about people, and not politics.

Dick once said in an interview with the Dunkirk Observer newspaper, "As far as politics go, you can expect to leave politics at the door when dealing with [people's] concerns." That statement embodies my experience with him completely. Though we come from different political sides of the aisle, politics was never an issue between us. We both represented the same people—the hard-working folks in the city of Dunkirk—and we each had a responsibility to deliver for them.

Now as his wife Pat and their large extended family will welcome Dick back to them after loaning him, his time and attention to the city and its residents for the past ten years, we wish them good luck as Dick leaves active civic life for a much deserved respite.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to commemorate the service of one of the most honorable public servants that I have had the good fortune to know. I am thankful all the more, however, to call Dick Frey my friend, and to wish him Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO POLICE CHIEF DEBORAH E. LINDEN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect that I rise today to recognize Deborah Linden on the event of her retirement as Police Chief for the City of San Luis Obispo.

Chief Linden is a native Californian, raised in Sunnyvale. She moved to Santa Barbara in 1979 to attend U.C. Santa Barbara, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. She began her law enforcement career with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff at the age of 22.

During her 18 year tenure at the Sheriff's Department, Chief Linden served in a variety

of assignments including Patrol Deputy, Narcotics Detective, Major Crimes Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Major Crimes Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Commander.

She was hired by the City of San Luis Obispo as Chief of Police on January 1, 2003.

Chief Linden holds a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from St. Mary's College in Moraga and she is a P.O.S.T. Command College graduate. In 2004, she was honored with a three-year gubernatorial appointment to the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and she was reappointed to subsequent terms in 2007 and 2010. Chief Linden serves on the Board of the California Police Chiefs Association and is a lifetime member of the California Narcotic Officers Association. Chief Linden is also dedicated to future members of law enforcement, as she has been a criminal justice instructor for Santa Barbara City College, an academy instructor for Allan Hancock Law Enforcement Academy, and an instructor of Public Policy for St. Mary's College Graduate Leadership Program.

Chief Linden also takes an active role in our local community in addition to her commitments as Police Chief. She is involved with many community and non-profit groups, including serving on the boards of the Anti-Defamation League, Transitions Mental Health Association, and the Monday Rotary Club in San Luis Obispo. She is the law enforcement representative on the San Luis Obispo County Homeless Services Oversight Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Deborah Linden, for her leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to our community and the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT KENNEDY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a good friend and great leader who passed away unexpectedly on November 19, 2011. His energy, intelligence, and dedication served the City of Santa Cruz since 1976, when he co-founded the Resource Center for Nonviolence. In 1991, Scott began his political career, serving on the Santa Cruz City Council from 1991 to 1998 and again from 2001–2003. He also served as the mayor of Santa Cruz in 1994 and 2004. Throughout his life, Scott demonstrated a strong commitment to his community and he will be dearly missed. I am proud to honor my friend and his service to the City of Santa Cruz and to the rest of the world.

Scott was born in Nebraska on December 9, 1948, and grew up in San Jose, California. He began his advocacy for international peace while attending the University of California at Santa Cruz when as a freshman he first traveled to the Israel-Palestine region. Middle

• 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.

Eastern issues were at the forefront of Scott's advocacy and he led some 25 delegations to the Middle East with increasing success over three decades of involvement. Since the mid-1970s Scott attempted to amplify the voices of Israelis and Palestinians who are committed to participating in a nonviolent struggle for lasting peace. Scott's tenacity and passion provided the foundation from which the Resource Center for Nonviolence has continued to prosper to this day. His later heavy involvement with the Washington, D.C.-based group Interfaith Peace Builders only adds to his great strides toward world peace. His lifetime of humanitarian service was honored in 2010 when he received the Pfeffer Peace Prize.

The Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 was a jumping off point for Scott's local political career. Several affordable housing activists, afraid the disaster would result in a lack of affordable housing, recruited Scott to be their voice and run for city council. During his time in elected office, he worked to construct low-income housing, build a community soccer field, pass a resolution against the first Iraq war and permanently preserve several greenbelt properties on the city's perimeter. His intelligence and passion challenged and taught those who served alongside him to do their very best for Santa Cruz.

Throughout all of these great achievements, Scott had the stalwart support of his loving family. He is survived by his wife and soulmate, Kristin (Kris), his two sons, Peter and Benjamin and his daughter Megan, who served in this Chamber as a Congressional House Page. His entire family actively supported his work by door-to-door canvassing and later travelling to Israel and Palestine. Scott described his family, and his wife Kris in particular, as his bedrock. The support she gave him made possible his lifelong humanitarian and political success.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend our Nation's deepest condolences to Scott Kennedy's family for their loss. I would like to honor his great struggle for peace and his service to the City of Santa Cruz. He was a treasured Mayor, father, and husband and he will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE COLONIAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Colonial High School Chamber Choir during their visit to Washington, DC. Founded in 1959, Colonial High School is located in Orlando and is committed to educating its students in a learning environment based on excellence in academic performance, enabling students to become productive and responsible citizens.

The Chamber Choir is made up of 26 audition-selected students from the 150-student Colonial High School Chorus. Their talent is most recently marked by an invitation to perform at the White House on Friday, December 9, 2011. The parents and educators of these students should be very proud of the dedication and discipline required to get to this level.

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I am pleased to recognize the Colonial High School Chamber Choir and congratulate the students for their hard work and accomplishment.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. BYRON LEAVANCE BENTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rev. Byron Leavance Benton for his pastoral and community service that has benefited the youth and religious community of Brooklyn.

Rev. Benton, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, is a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where he majored in Business Education with a concentration in Administrative Systems. He earned his Master's of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, focusing his studies on homiletics and pastoral care. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy at Eastern University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At A&T, he sat on the board of several programs that reached out to troubled youth in the Greensboro area, and he served as the percussion section leader and chaplain of the A&T University Band: The Marching Machine.

While at Princeton, Rev. Benton served as a chaplain for both the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital in Trenton, New Jersey and the Association of Black Seminars at Princeton Theological Seminary. He was awarded the Aaron E. Gast Award in Urban Ministry, the Jagow Award in Homiletics and Speech, and the Ray Lindquist Award in Pastoral Care.

Rev. Benton started a community drumline in Brooklyn, New York through the Berean Community and Family Life Center. The drumline's vision is to encourage positive, holistic health in youth by providing physical activity that combats obesity, prevents disease, and encourages an overall healthy lifestyle, while simultaneously creating self-discipline and encouraging community service. Their performances include: museums, numerous church and youth ministry events, and as accompaniment for the Jamal Jackson Dance Company. They were also featured in the 2011 Black History Calendar by Aetna Healthcare. They placed second in both the 2011 Hot 97 Battle in the Apple and Battle of the Drumlines.

Rev. Benton currently serves as the Associated Pastor of the Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York under the mentorship of the Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. He also sits on the board of directors for the Berean Community and Family Life Center.

Rev. Benton has traveled extensively throughout the world, partnering with the National Baptist Convention in Liberia, Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Rev. Byron Benton for his exceptional dedication to the youth of Brooklyn and his years of pastoral service.

REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose H.R. 10, the Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act.

This bill is another instance of the Republican Majority playing politics, rather than focusing on passing legislation that creates jobs, grows our economy, and protects the American people. Requiring that Congress approve all agency rules and regulations with an annual economic cost of \$100 million or more would not only handicap our government's ability to regulate health and safety laws, it would also distract Congress from addressing pressing issues like job creation, national security and reducing our deficit. After an entire year in which the Republican Majority has demonstrated an inability to take up a productive legislative schedule—forcing last-minute votes on critical issues and not even introducing any kind of serious jobs agenda—it seems ludicrous to suggest that Congress should be spending its time nitpicking federal agencies about enacting regulations that Congress has authorized or ordered be done.

Additionally, this bill would actually harm job creation and hurt businesses. By creating a scenario in which regulations are proposed, and then potentially overridden, and then potentially proposed yet again in a new form, businesses will be forced to spend significant time and resources just keeping track of all the changes—decreasing their productivity and bottom line. This will create uncertainty for businesses and harm job creation—the very thing that the Republican Majority asserts that this bill will prevent. This is nothing more than blatant political posturing, as evidenced by the fact that Congress already has the authority to review and override federal rules under the Congressional Review Act.

The fact is that federal agencies need to be able to issue rules in a timely and efficient manner to protect the health and welfare of the American people and help grow our economy. Industries and individuals in areas from finance to farming rely on rulemaking and regulations to facilitate their businesses, and this bill would undermine that. I urge a no vote.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD J. LEONARDINI

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Richard J. Leonardini, who

is retiring after more than 31 years of law enforcement service, with 22 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Richard started his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff, serving three years for the El Dorado County Sheriff's office and over five years with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's office. On March 6, 1989, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, Richard worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Street Crime Apprehension (SCAT) and Field Training. He joined the Crisis Negotiations Team in 1991, the Special Activity Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Sergeant on July 30, 1999.

As a Police Sergeant, Richard served in Patrol and then Personnel and Training before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on December 14, 2001 and serving as the Commander of the Special Operations Division. He was a thoughtful and capable manager which led him to receiving the Manager of the Year award in 2002. On March 19, 2004 he was promoted to Police Captain and served in Administration, Support Services, and Field Operations.

Richard has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Richard J. Leonardini continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Native American Code Talkers for their selfless contributions to America's defense during World Wars I and II. During these times of worldwide turmoil, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States' Armed Forces with the goal of protecting freedom and human rights around the world.

The Code Talkers, as these brave soldiers became known, used their ancient tribal languages to develop a military communications code that no enemy was ever able to crack. American Indians served bravely in both World Wars, though the most well-known code group, the Navajo Code Talkers, was not formed by the Marine Corps until the 1940s.

The Navajo Code Talkers came up with a code that enabled them to send and receive messages that were unintelligible to eavesdroppers. The Navajo language had no alphabet, and only an extraordinarily few individuals outside of the Navajo community were fluent in it, making it the ideal foundation for updating the U.S. military's slow-to-decipher and

easily broken codes. Over 400 Navajo Code talkers served bravely in World War II, and their code was considered so secretive that they were prohibited from writing it down. It was not until the declassification of the code in 1968 that Americans were truly able to appreciate the contributions of the Code Talkers.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that as we remember the brave Americans whose lives were lost at Pearl Harbor 70 years ago this week, we also honor all of America's veterans who have committed their time and risked their lives to protect our nation. It is with great honor and respect that I offer my appreciation to the Code Talkers for exemplifying the spirit and commitment of public service and duty to country. Indeed, both their code and their commitment to America remain unbreakable, and to this day we remain in awe of their achievements.

REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express strong opposition to legislation this chamber passed yesterday, H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2011.

The REINS Act requires that both chambers of Congress pass a resolution approving every regulation with an economic impact of \$100 million or more. If Congress fails to pass such a resolution, that regulation would not take effect, and the law would go unimplemented.

I oppose this legislation, which would hurt the health, safety, and well-being of my constituents and Hawaii's communities. We cannot let our constituents and communities down when it comes to these vital responsibilities.

For example, this bill would stop the rules that are being written now to implement the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act—which will rein in reckless behavior in financial markets. Important rules to implement the health care law—which is already lowering drug costs for seniors—would also be stopped. And rules relating to the recent food safety legislation and protecting clean air and water would be stopped.

These rules—and the laws they are implementing—were and are opposed by various powerful corporate special interests. Those special interests know they don't have the votes to repeal these laws—and they know the American people don't want them repealed.

So instead, corporate special interests and their allies claim that the costs of these types of rules are too big to be worth it.

They're wrong.

Even the Bush Administration recognized that the benefits of rules like these outweigh

their costs. In fact, in 2008, the Office of Management and Budget—which must sign off on all major rules developed by federal agencies—estimated that costs to the economy for major rules it approved were between \$46 billion and \$54 billion. These costs were far outweighed by the benefits of those same regulations, which they estimated to be between \$122 billion and \$656 billion. Imagine if the rules that are being written to implement Wall Street Reform had been on the books in 2005, before the financial crisis came to a head?

I believe our country could have reined in rampant, out of control behavior of Wall Street, and such regulations could have saved our economy trillions of dollars in lost economic growth and hard-earned retirement and college savings. Millions of people who have lost jobs could still be working. And this body could be focused on matters like improving U.S. education, economic competitiveness, and reducing our deficit.

Not only would this bill halt our regulatory system in its tracks, but it is also unnecessary. The Congressional Review Act already gives Congress the ability to review and disapprove of regulations if they are contrary to Congressional intent. This system ensures that the laws enacted by Congress are implemented appropriately, while preventing the law and its implementation from being hijacked by special interests on a whim—and creating disruptive uncertainty for our economy and legal system.

Mr. Speaker, people in Hawaii are tired of these politically motivated bills. They want the federal government to get to work helping to create jobs, protecting health and safety, and to do so responsibly.

The REINS Act also fails miserably on that front. This legislation would require federal agencies to conduct the rigorous analysis required to develop a rule—a process that can take several years—only to have that rule stopped by Congress. This is a waste of federal resources and irresponsible at a time when Congress needs to focus on creating jobs and reducing our deficit.

These are just some of the concerns I have with the REINS Act, and some of the reasons that I voted against this unnecessary and ill conceived legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE CAPITOL CORRIDOR

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Capitol Corridor train service, which connects the Sacramento Region to the San Francisco Bay Area. It is a great pleasure to recognize the corridor's stellar track record of providing cost-effective, public transportation that stimulates economic development, reduces emissions, and promotes partnerships among passengers, private investors, and the communities. As the Capitol Corridors' supporters and partners gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the essential role that the Capitol Corridor plays in Northern California.

Since its inception on December 12, 1991, with a mere six trains between Sacramento

and San Jose, the Capitol Corridor has significantly grown and invested in infrastructure, increasing the number of weekday trains to thirty-two, weekend trains to twenty-two and expanding its corridor to span seven counties with a total population of 6.7 million. In addition to investing in railcars and tracks, it has established signaling systems and sixteen stations that directly connect its passengers to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority buses, and Sacramento Regional Transit light rails.

Over the past twenty years, the Capital Corridor has experienced a 600 percent increase in ridership, up to 1.7 million passengers in the 2010–2011 fiscal year. In all, it has carried nearly 19 million people to travel 1.3 billion miles. With this popular intercity train service, the downtown Sacramento Valley Station is now the seventh busiest Amtrak station in the country.

The Capitol Corridor has been managed by the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) since 1998. Previously, the Capitol Corridor was a partnership between Amtrak and Caltrans. The CCJPA consists of a partnership of six transit agencies from the counties serviced by the Capitol Corridor. Operating funds for the CCJPA are provided by Caltrans. Administrative costs are kept down because of the strong partnership between Amtrak, BART, Caltrain, Caltrans, CCJPA and Union Pacific Railroad. In the past twenty years, the Capitol Corridor has stayed major accident-free and also improved lives by reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Capital Corridor, and its record of giving Northern Californians more transportation options, on their 20th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Capitol Corridor's outstanding work in providing the community with much needed services.

**ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR
THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Thomas C. Garner joined the United States Army on March 5, 1943, eager to serve his nation during World War II. Originally assigned to the revered 78th Infantry Division, Garner soon applied and was selected for Army Air Corps pilot training. He served nearly a year abroad with the Air Corps, running an oxygen generating plant on Guam in support of the B-29 bombers that raided Japan.

Six months after the war's end, Garner decided to make military service his career and

reentered what was now the United States Air Force. Garner's troop carrier organization serviced all the embassies in Central and South America and the Caribbean and, from 1948–1949, participated in the Berlin Air Lift. Over the course of his career, Garner also deployed to Japan, Wake Island, Bermuda, Bangkok, and Thailand.

Garner retired in 1970 after 27 years of active duty service. He then became a civil servant, kicking off a second, 20-year career with the Social Security Administration. During those years, Garner also served with the Texas State Guard, receiving numerous awards and citations and achieving the rank of Colonel.

An active community servant with the Plano VFW and Air Force Sergeant's Association, Garner continues to put others first.

For these reasons, it is my pleasure to name Thomas Garner a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 7, 2011, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 898. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 898: "Yes"—Jackson Lee of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6.

A TRIBUTE TO NIKITA DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Nikita Davis for her passion for teaching and serving as a mentor to the youth in her community.

Ms. Davis was influenced at a young age by her peers and teachers to serve as a role model for young adults in New York City. When she attended Mary Louis Academy for girls in Jamaica Estates, New York, her mathematics teacher made such a great impression on her that it has transcended into her current work. At the time Ms. Davis gained an affinity for working with adolescents and other students, tutoring and teaching them alongside her teachers.

When Ms. Davis enrolled in Mount St. Mary College and began studying mathematics and secondary education, she continued her work with teens in the community. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Davis was offered a teaching position in the Mathematics Department of the NYC Department of Education. She has served in this capacity for the past eight years and truly loves the difference she can make among the youth.

Ms. Davis reminds herself of how her grassroots involvement with her peers at a young age propelled her to this current post. To this day Ms. Davis still works with students after school for personal tutoring, and is a member

of the United Federation of Teachers Delegate Assembly where she serves as a union delegate for her colleagues.

A quote that offers a unique perspective into the drive Ms. Davis has for her profession is by Sasha Azevedo. "When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then you will have accomplished the meaning to live." For Ms. Davis this is the essence of her mission as an educator.

Ms. Davis lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is married to her wonderful husband Derrick and has two daughters, Anaiya and Laila.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the profound accomplishments of Ms. Nikita Davis to continue the fight of educating our youth.

THE REOPENING AMERICAN CAPITAL MARKETS TO EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES ACT OF 2011

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, unemployed Americans are crying out for more jobs and urging Congress to review rules and regulations that stifle innovation, economic growth, and job creation. I am introducing the Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act of 2011 for one reason: to increase job creation on Main Street. Burdensome costs are discouraging companies from going public, which deprives firms of the capital needed to expand their businesses and hire more American workers.

During the last fifteen years, fewer and fewer start-up companies have pursued Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to access the capital needed to expand their businesses, develop innovative products, and hire new employees. The number of IPOs in the United States is slipping behind the rest of the world in terms of growing our markets. Other markets are growing or holding steady, while the United States continues to decline. This is especially true in the Asian markets, which have seen an explosion of new public companies in recent years.

Since 2010, the Asian markets have had nearly 700 new IPOs compared to less than 300 in the United States during the same time-frame. Unfortunately, federal regulatory burdens are a major contributing factor in the steep drop of IPOs in the United States.

This decline is of concern because going public provides opportunities for companies to raise badly needed capital in order to expand, reinvest, and create jobs. From 2008–2010, 21 percent of the United States GDP was generated by venture capital-backed start-up companies. In addition, an August 2011 survey of CEOs conducted by the IPO Task Force found that over 90 percent of job growth occurs after a company goes public.

Unfortunately, a series of "one-size-fits-all" laws and regulations have changed the nature of the United States' capital markets and had a disproportionate cost on smaller American public companies. Washington's regulatory oversteps have harmed American workers by eliminating jobs that are created when a start-up company decides to go public. Instead, to

avoid costly regulatory requirements, many companies decide to merge with others, which usually results in job cuts.

To help solve this problem, my bill would create a new category of issuers, called "Emerging Growth Companies" that have less than \$1 billion in annual revenues when they register with the SEC and less than \$700 million in public float after the IPO. These companies will have as many as five years to transition to full compliance with a variety of federal regulations that are expensive and burdensome to new companies. This "on-ramp" status will allow small and midsize companies the opportunity to save on expensive compliance costs and create cash needed to successfully grow their businesses and create new American jobs.

I am proud to have Mr. CARNEY from Delaware and 26 additional co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle join me in introducing this bill today. With unemployment holding steady just under 9 percent, this bill would help bring investments back to the United States and help our best job creators put Americans back to work.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARVIN
ANDREW McMICKLE

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I rise today to recognize a religious leader, constituent, and friend in my District. At the beginning of January 2012, Reverend Dr. Marvin Andrew McMickle will assume his new full-time role of President at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. For the past 24 years, Dr. McMickle has been the Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, leading his flock and many others to join him in the fight for social, racial, and economic justice. Dr. McMickle's travels to Israel, Greece, Austria, Senegal and the West Indies are testaments of his effort to uphold his teachings of justice. His leadership in Northeast Ohio is unmatched. He served on numerous boards and led organizations, including President of the Cleveland NAACP between 1989 and 1992.

Dr. McMickle's many accomplishments can be attributed to his educational credentials. Over the years, Dr. McMickle has obtained several post-secondary degrees, two of which are Doctorates from Princeton Theological Seminary and Case Western Reserve University. He used his many years of education to perpetuate the transfer of biblical knowledge and insight to instruct a Homiletics course at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. In addition to academic leadership, Dr. McMickle has written numerous books, articles and sermons to serve as tools and guidelines for others to develop their ministries.

Congratulations to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School for selecting such an exceptional man, husband, father and leader as their new President. Dr. McMickle will be deeply missed in my district, but I know his work at Colgate will continue to change the world.

IN HONOR OF THE LEMAY FIRE
DISTRICT

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lemay Fire District, which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

The history of Lemay Fire District can be traced back as early as 1902. Due to unrestricted building, no fire protection, and bad roads, some insurance companies refused to write insurance in the Lemay area. So, after several disastrous fires, the Luxemburg Improvement Association organized a volunteer fire department in 1902. The Longwood Volunteer Fire Department Fire Association was organized two years later to provide protection to the south side of Lemay.

There still remained an area between the two that had no fire protection, so a group of citizens organized the Bismark Heights Volunteer Fire Department. The department added equipment through the years but had experienced difficulty keeping track and caring for the equipment. So in July 1911, the Bismark Heights Volunteer Department incorporated so it could have recourse to law to protect the equipment. This incorporation would eventually lead to the Lemay Fire Protection District.

In 1917 the Bismark Heights Volunteer Department changed its name to Dewey Heights Volunteer Fire Department, the change being recorded in 1922. A fire house was built in the summer of 1919 at the corner of Orient and Erskine Avenue.

On December 6, 1920 the Longwood and Luxemburg Volunteer Fire departments were invited to consolidate with Dewey Heights as one organization. By 1921, both departments turned their equipment and assets over to Dewey Heights.

In 1933, a tag system was introduced to pay for the protection which consisted of 1500 people. Later that year, full time firefighters were added, giving 24 hour service.

In May 1942, the voters in the Lemay area approved a tax-supported fire district. The Dewey Heights Fire Department was officially named the Lemay Fire Protection District. The district operated out of the fire station located at Erskine and Orient Avenue until 1992.

In 1979, the fire district added another service to help the community; it hired paramedics and established an ambulance service. The fire district not only responded to fires, but began treating and transporting sick and injured people to the hospital.

In 1991, land was purchased, and a new firehouse was built at 1201 Telegraph Road in central Lemay. The firehouse opened in 1992 and is still being used today.

The great flood of 1993 impacted the Lemay area and the Lemay Fire District responded to help its citizens once again. The north part of Lemay has been flooded causing propane tanks to become loose and creating an exposing hazard. With the help of many fire agencies, the disaster was prevented and lives were saved.

The Lemay Fire Protection District continues to serve the citizens of Lemay with twenty four firefighters. While many things have changed over the last 100 years, the one constant that has remained the same has been the unwavering commitment to the community.

HONORING ERIC MASSARI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and service of Mr. Eric Massari of Waterbury, Connecticut, one of our nation's distinguished heroes.

Mr. Massari served in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), also known as "Merrill's Marauders," a group that operated in Southeast Asia during World War II. This elite and all-volunteer unit successfully conducted numerous daring missions behind Japanese lines.

Throughout their service, these volunteers suffered from a multitude of illnesses and diseases, extreme malnutrition and countless encounters in which they were both outgunned and outnumbered. By the end of the war, the Marauders had advanced approximately 750 miles through one of the harshest jungles in the world. Of the 2,750 men to cross enemy lines, only two were left alive who had not been hospitalized. Mr. Massari was one of these two men, and explains that he "had the good lord on [his] shoulders at all times."

The Marauders have received widespread and deserved recognition for their heroic acts. There have been books, movies, and comic books depicting their brave encounters.

Waterbury is lucky to have such a hero living in Town Plot. Each soldier has been awarded the Bronze Star, and the unit has been awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation. However, one of the most meaningful recognitions for Mr. Massari came in the form of a postcard that he received last month. It was a thank you card from a group of Chinese students, who had recently learned about the Marauders in school. They wanted to express their appreciation for being rescued from the Japanese by Massari's unit some 67 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Eric Massari represents the kind of courage, honor, and character that all of us should admire. As a distinguished veteran and a former employee at the Waterbury Tool Company, Mr. Massari has spent his life serving our country and the great state of Connecticut. I ask my colleagues and the entire country to join me in honoring the service of Eric Massari, and all of our veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO LAVERNE NIMMONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Laverne Nimmons for her service towards educating the youth of Brooklyn and her high expectations for her community.

Dr. Nimmons was born in South Carolina and migrated to Brownsville, Brooklyn in 1960 where her mother would instill in her a lifelong passion for teaching. Dr. Nimmons' mother was a teacher at PS 137K and eagerly and ambitiously pushed her daughter towards studying public education. Dr. Nimmons attended Queens College after the passing of her mother and would receive her Bachelors

and Masters degree in Education. She continued her educational pursuits, receiving her Professional Degree in Administration and Supervision from St. John's University, and a PhD in Educational Leadership from Fordham University.

In 2003, Dr. Nimmons began an eight year career as Principal of Granville T. Woods Public School 335, which serves the predominantly African American, Crown Heights and Bedford Stutvesant Brooklyn neighborhoods. In this time Dr. Nimmons increased the passing rates in both mathematics and English courses by 67% and 61% respectively. With the guide of Dr. Nimmons P.S. 335 made the transformation, showing most gains of any other 4th grade students in New York State in mathematics and English. This earned the school the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon Award.

Prior to becoming Principal at Granville T. Woods School, Dr. Nimmons was the director of curriculum and instruction for Community School District Sixteen. In this capacity she directed elementary and middle school Principals and teachers in professional development activities in all curriculum areas. The district that was once one of the lowest performing in the city, now boasts better gains than many other New York City school districts in similar socioeconomic communities.

Dr. Nimmons has been awarded many prestigious awards for her dedicated service: the Terrell Bell Award for Excellence in Leadership, Educator of the Year Award in 2009 and 2011 from Education Update Magazine, and the 2010 Outstanding Educator of the Year from the Association of Black Educators in New York. Dr. Nimmons is currently a member of the Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Public School Principals at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Nimmons' leadership, compassion and knowledge make her an example to all in our community. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the vast achievements of Dr. Laverne Nimmons.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, even though we are approaching the conclusion of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we still live in a dangerous world. But if we look back over the past two decades we can see that considerable progress has been made.

In 1991 the Soviet Union disintegrated, according to our late, great Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a victim of ethnic tensions among the various and diverse republics that made up the USSR. Two decades later, much change has taken place in the former Soviet Union. Independent democracies have begun to emerge where once there were just brutal dictatorships. The Cold War is now over and we no longer have the same types of demands on our defense infrastructure prevalent of that era.

There is one former Soviet Republic that I would like to single out today and congratulate

on the 20th anniversary of its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has been a good friend of the United States, cooperating with us on the war on terror and the program to prevent former Soviet nuclear weapons from falling into the wrong hands. Azerbaijan has also provided important logistical support to our forces in Afghanistan and sent over 150 soldiers to assist us in our efforts in that country.

As a secular Shiite Muslim country, Azerbaijan has been a role model. Before Azerbaijan was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1918, after the Russian Revolution, the country enjoyed a brief period of independence, and was the very first Muslim country to grant women the right to vote in 1918, two years before the United States did so with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Azerbaijan has also enjoyed strong relations with Israel and the over 12,000 Azeri Jews are treated as full members of that society. Unlike most Muslim countries, Azerbaijan has full diplomatic relations with Israel and has hosted Israeli President Shimon Peres on a state visit in 2009. Israel is also Azerbaijan's 5th largest trading partner, and Azerbaijan provides over one-sixth of Israel's oil supply. As a result of these strong relations, when almost 600 Israeli citizens were stranded in Georgia at the beginning of the Russian invasion of that country and the Tbilisi Airport closed, Azerbaijan sent buses to the Georgian border to help evacuate the Israelis.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to concur with President Obama's statement on October 20, 2011 that "This 20th anniversary of independence, and Azerbaijan's achievements during this time, demonstrate the extraordinary promise and determination of the Azeri people. The United States is committed to developing greater opportunities to work with the Government and people of Azerbaijan."

TRIBUTE TO BEN MCKINNON,
"GODFATHER OF BIRMINGHAM
RADIO"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Alabama's radio pioneers, Mr. Ben McKinnon, who recently passed away at the age of 89. An influential force in broadcasting throughout the Southeast, Ben was perhaps best known as the "Godfather" of Birmingham radio.

Born in Maxton, North Carolina, Ben graduated from the University of North Carolina with an AB in Journalism. As the nation became involved in the Second World War, Ben answered his country's call to duty by serving as a line officer in the U.S. Navy. Seeing action in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres, Ben led one of the major assault waves on Yellow Beach in Okinawa.

Upon returning home from the war, Ben traded his service pistol for a typewriter as editor of three weekly newspapers in his home county. But it wasn't long before his gaze turned toward the growing broadcast industry. He soon joined the staff of legendary Charlotte radio station WBT as local sales manager. Three years later he was hired as general

manager of television station WGVL in Greenville, SC. His skills as a manager quickly brought him down to Alabama where he took the reins of Birmingham radio station WSGN. From that point on, he would call Alabama's largest city his home.

As vice president and general manager and later president of WSGN, Ben transformed the radio station into a dominant player in Birmingham and north Alabama broadcasting. Under his leadership, WSGN—known as "The Big 610"—thundered across the airwaves with the Magic City's first full-time "top 40" format. For those who listened to radio in the 50s and 60s, rock 'n roll was king. Under Ben's direction, WSGN proudly wore the crown in Birmingham radio and earned a spot as one of the nation's top rock 'n roll stations.

Upon his retirement after 28 years with WSGN, Ben remained a strong voice in the state's communications industry. As executive director of the Alabama Broadcasters Association, he was a frequent visitor to Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of our local radio and television stations. He led the ABA for 18 years before retiring a second time.

Mr. Speaker, Ben's awards and accomplishments are, frankly, too extensive to list here. He was active in numerous major Birmingham area community service organizations for decades, ranging from board member of the Jefferson County March of Dimes and the Birmingham Chapter of the American Red Cross, to president of the Jefferson County Chapter of the American Cancer Society—to name but a few.

His remarkable career and many contributions to society are further highlighted by an impressive array of recognitions including the Thad Holt Distinguished Broadcaster Award from the University of Alabama School of Communications, the Silver Plate Award from the South Carolina Association of Broadcasters, the Broadcaster of the Year Award from the Alabama Broadcasters Association, and the National Association of Broadcasters State Executive of the Year Award.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to offer condolences to Ben's daughters, Sharon Bruns, Ellen McKinnon and Lisa McKinnon; and grandchildren and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers. Ben was well loved and will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HONORABLE NETTIE MAYERSOHN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of New York State Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn. Nettie was the political midwife to a generation of young politicians in New York. She spent decades working tirelessly for the people of Queens, and I know I speak for many when I say that her recent retirement from the Assembly has truly marked the end of an era. Nettie is being honored this week for her innumerable accomplishments over many years by the Stevenson Regular Democratic Club at its

annual dinner, and I would like to join in recognizing the profound impact that my very dear and long-time friend, Nettie Mayersohn, has had on our community.

Nettie Mayersohn's steadfast dedication to Queens County began long before she was elected to the Assembly. For over 20 years, she served as a community activist, making a name for herself as an unrelenting advocate for children and families in Queens. She was a member of Community Board 8 for ten years, at one time serving as the Chairperson of its Youth Committee; she served as the Chairperson of the Pomonok Community Center; and she continues to serve as a Democratic District Leader, a role she has filled for some three decades. Nettie also served as the Executive Secretary of the New York State Crime Victims Board. In 1977, Nettie was New York State's delegate to the International Women's Conference and the recipient of the Builders of Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She received a B.A. from Queens College in 1978, and was elected four years later to represent the 27th District in the New York State Assembly.

As an Assemblywoman, Nettie led the charge to improve healthcare for New Yorkers and defend the rights of victims of violent crime. Nettie's proudest and best-known achievement was the 1996 passage of her Baby AIDS bill, which requires doctors in New York State to tell a mother if her newborn child is HIV-positive. While the fight to enact this bill was, at times, a lonely battle, Nettie's tenacity and fortitude resulted in a landmark law that has saved an untold number of lives and led to an increase in the number of pregnant women who receive prenatal care. Among Nettie's numerous other legislative accomplishments are her HIV Rape Law, which requires a court to comply with a rape victim's request to test the accused for HIV; her Partner Notification Law, which requires the names of those testing positive for HIV to be reported to the Department of Health for the purpose of contact tracing and partner notification; her Victim Impact Law, which allows the victims of a crime to describe, in court, the effect the crime has had on their lives; and her Food Service Law, which implemented crucial health safety measures for food service workers.

Nettie Mayersohn's unwavering commitment to AIDS policy inspired the Beyond AIDS Foundation to create the Nettie Award—an annual honor that recognizes outstanding efforts to promote HIV prevention and control in the United States and across the world. Nettie herself was given a special Nettie Award from Beyond AIDS in 2002, in recognition of her leadership on HIV/AIDS issues. That year, she also received the Public Service Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

After 28 years of tireless service, Nettie retired from the Assembly at the beginning of April 2011 so she can spend time more with her wonderful family. While I lament Nettie's retirement from an impressive career as a public servant, she will remain my lifelong friend. We are all beyond grateful for everything she has done to help New Yorkers. I wish her all the best in her retirement—she will be sorely missed in public life.

Mr. Speaker, Nettie Mayersohn is a one-of-a-kind leader and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments and

thanking Nettie for a lifetime of dedication to her community.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST ALDINE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the East Aldine Management District for their commitment to improving the safety and development in East Aldine.

The District was created in June of 2001 with the purpose to improve the physical, social, and economic well-being of the community. Their goal is to attract public and private investments and promote the area as a leading place to not only invest but also to work and live. Since then the District has gained the power to finance public safety and transportation projects as well as assist with environmental and economic development.

District funding has improved the community's street conditions by adding pedestrian crosswalks, signage to the streets and landscaping, making the area more attractive to families and businesses. In the year 2010 alone, the District funded over \$240,000 in community projects.

The District's economic development program provides across the board marketing and public relations activities for the District to support business retention and encourage new business within the District as well as expansion of small businesses. The development program is successful due to the advanced media outreach which includes traditional methods such as print and mailings but also utilizes the District's alliance with community partners.

Over the past ten years this community has witnessed significant advancements but the next ten years will bring even more economic growth to the area. The District is located just four miles away from Houston Intercontinental Airport and the Port of Houston is a mere twelve miles away, making the District a great expansion location for manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution companies.

I congratulate the President and CEO David Hawes, Board Chairman Gerald Overturf, the entire East Aldine District staff, and the many other volunteers that have dedicated their time to improving their community.

HONORING RALPH STANFORD GRIFFIN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the tremendous contributions made to our community by my friend and constituent, Ralph Stanford Griffin, who passed away on December 1, 2011.

Ralph Griffin, a native of San Antonio, Texas, worked and raised his family in the

San Francisco Bay Area, retiring as an educator and administrator from the Oakland Unified School District. Ralph was a lifelong champion of equal education for all, services for the developmentally disabled, and support for African American families in our community.

His passion and determined advocacy was in no small part the catalyst for establishing the Black Families Association of Contra Costa County (BFA) in 1973. As Founding Members, Mr. Griffin and his wife of 50 years, Norma, together with a small group of their peers saw the need for African Americans in their community to have an outlet to discuss current events and provide support to one another. In an era where racism and biases still prevented equal access to housing and education, the BFA was a place where neighbors could come together to guide and help one another through these challenges. It was and remains an organization that promotes cultural heritage, pride, and dignity within the community, and provides scholarships for deserving high school students.

Ralph Griffin further extended his commitment to students' access to higher education as a dedicated member of the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund. He was instrumental in helping the Fund provide annual \$8,000 college scholarships to students from minority groups often under-represented at California's four-year colleges and universities. It is due to Ralph's commitment that so many of our brightest graduating high school students have been able to continue on to higher education.

To Norma, their sons Stanford and Steven, and the entire Griffin family, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Your loss is shared not only by those who knew Ralph personally, but also by all of those touched by his work. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mr. Ralph Griffin, a courageous and compassionate man who shared his time and talent freely for the betterment of our entire community.

CONGRATULATING SAN JACINTO COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College on its fiftieth anniversary. For fifty years, San Jacinto College has provided high quality education to the citizens and communities of East Harris County, Texas. Congratulations to San Jacinto College for a wonderful half-century of empowering students to achieve their goals.

San Jacinto College first opened its doors on Sept. 18, 1961, in a downtown Pasadena storefront, with an initial enrollment of 700 students. Thanks to their passion for helping students succeed, the college has grown to serve more than 30,000 students in 140 disciplines, and it continues to expand.

A leader in comprehensive learning, San Jacinto College recently earned recognition for being a veteran friendly college and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College. This establishment plays a critical role in improving the educational experience of the hard working citizens in our communities.

Access to quality education is an important stepping stone to achieve the American dream of a better life. San Jacinto College provides a valuable opportunity for people throughout our communities to access higher education. As President Kennedy once said, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

The achievements of San Jacinto College bring pride to Houston and all of Texas. Congratulations to San Jacinto College for fifty years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY,
ALABAMA MAYOR EMORY FOLMAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to an Alabamian whose patriotism and devotion to country made him a leader early in life and carried him to prominence in business and public service in later years. I am speaking of former Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar, who passed away on November 11 at the age of 81.

Emory Folmar was born in Troy, AL, in 1930 and moved to Montgomery when he was fourteen. After graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in 1948, he attended The University of Alabama, receiving a BS in Business in just three years while serving as cadet colonel of the Army ROTC.

After college, he received an Army commission and went to Ft. Benning, GA for parachute training and instructors' schools where he was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. He married Anita Pierce in February 1952 and was deployed to Korea that summer. Wounded in action, he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. At the rank of lieutenant, he received the French Croix de Guerre as a result of his actions with the 23rd Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division and French troops.

Following his service in Korea, he was assigned to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, as an Airborne Jump Master until 1954. He then moved to Montgomery to join his brother James Folmar and Henry Flynn in home construction. The Folmar brothers' business later expanded to include large commercial shopping center construction throughout the Southeast.

In 1975, he entered politics at the urging of his son David, first running for Montgomery city council. He was soon elected president of the city council and then became Mayor of Montgomery from 1977 till 1999. His time in office was marked by economic growth and an emphasis on law and order.

Mayor Folmar ran as Republican for governor in 1982 against former Democrat Governor George C. Wallace. Although he did not win the election, Emory made the strongest showing of any Republican running for governor since reconstruction to that time.

Very active in Republican politics on the state and national levels, he also served as campaign chairman for Ronald Reagan's finance committee in 1980; state chairman for President Reagan in 1984; and chairman for

Bush-Quayle in 1988 and 1992. After retiring from politics, he was appointed Commissioner of the Alabama Beverage Control Board by then-Governor Bob Riley in 2003. During his time in that post, he streamlined and modernized the ABC to make it more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to send my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Anita; their children, Wilson Bibb and Margaret; and their grandchildren; as well as his sisters, Miriam and Anne, and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING ALBERT BIERSTADT
AND THE HUDSON RIVER
SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a change in the Capitol Visitors Center. Two paintings by the prominent 19th century painter Albert Bierstadt have recently been returned to the Capitol Complex by the Architect of the Capitol. Originally purchased after the Civil War, "Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," are part of the first indigenous American school of painting, called the Hudson River School. This movement was not just restricted to beautiful landscapes—it also had an important influence on American culture, recreation, and conservation.

Though the Hudson River School originated in upstate New York, painters soon began traveling widely to study and capture new scenes. These travels took the painters to Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, South America, and the American West. Bierstadt is one of the most prominent artists of the Western United States, and has a strong connection to my district in Colorado.

In 1859, Bierstadt traveled to my home State of Colorado and to Wyoming, then territories, with a government surveyor. The large-scale landscapes he painted from his notes and sketches from this trip prompted the creation of many more paintings back in his studio. Bierstadt's depiction of the craggy peaks of the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada, and in Yosemite, among others, resulted in the christening of Mount Bierstadt in my district.

In the 1870s, Congress purchased several of Bierstadt's works, including the two that hang today in the CVC. These same paintings, and other Western landscapes by Hudson River School painters, coupled with a growing environmental conservation movement, inspired Congress to protect this natural beauty through the creation of Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks. Later, these paintings were used again to prompt the formation of the National Park Service.

This is just one example of the Hudson River School of Painters' legacy. The School emphasized realistic, highly detailed scenes that were very popular over the 19th century. These works captured the beauty and variety of the American landscape.

Painters from the Hudson River School also had a hand in the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Inspired by the artistic culture of the capitals of Europe,

School painters joined other area businessmen and academics to form the Met in 1870. Bierstadt met with the President, and other painters of the School served as trustees or as members of the executive committee. Today, many of Bierstadt's works hang in the Met alongside works by many other Hudson River School painters, as well as other institutions like the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Americans of all ages to take the time to view these paintings and consider the beauty and greatness of these landscapes, both on canvas and in the wilderness.

THE FAILURE TO PROTECT FARMERS
AND RANCHERS FROM CORPORATE ABUSES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) final rule that was supposed to protect our Nation's farmers and ranchers from abusive practices in the livestock industry.

Simply put, the final rule is inadequate and shows the power big corporate packers and processors have in this country. The final rule does not include about half of the protections it did in a previous draft.

Congress had to direct USDA in the 2008 farm bill to establish a set of comprehensive protection rules because the department was so slow in responding to the changing marketplace that has become so slanted toward corporate packers and processors that we are losing small farmers at a rapid pace.

The average American chicken grower makes 34 cents per bird while the processing corporation makes \$3.23 per bird. With a profit margin of 34 cents is it any wonder that we have lost over 460,000 small-scale farms since 1982.

USDA claims it is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent marketplace. How can we have a fair and transparent marketplace when we allow corporations to force farmers to sign production contracts where one farmer is paid less than another despite producing the same livestock because there is no way for farmers to determine fair product value since there is no contract disclosure requirement.

In addition, how can USDA claim it supports a fair marketplace when it fails to clearly define conduct that is a violation of law? How are farmers supposed to know when they are being taken advantage of when the governmental agency tasked with protecting them does not tell them what types of practices are a violation of the law?

This House has not helped our Nation's producers either. We recently passed legislation that withholds funding from USDA to move forward with establishing more comprehensive fairness rules. Ultimately, we set the USDA up to fail and farmers and ranchers will suffer because corporate special interests have a stronger lobby than America's producers.

While the final rule will prevent some of the most abusive practices in the poultry industry,

it largely fails to protect farmers and ranchers specifically in the pork and beef industry. Nevertheless, I will continue to fight to protect our farmers and ranchers from further corporate abuses and urge the USDA to enforce existing laws designed to regulate corporate packers and processors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN M.
DUGAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Sergeant John M. Dugan, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

John started his career of service as a Firefighter for the California Department of Forestry and the City of Paradise. On March 19, 1982, he was hired as a Public Safety Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, John worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Special Operations, and Field Training.

John was promoted to Police Sergeant on July 22, 1994, and ultimately supervised a number of different units including Patrol, Traffic, Crime Suppression, and Youth Services. In 2000, he earned the California Highway Patrol's 10851 Award for recovering 12 stolen vehicles in eight months; three of which were occupied vehicles. Sergeant Dugan was a strong, decisive, professional, and respected leader. As a result of these superb traits, he received the Manager of the Year award in 1999 and 2006.

In 2007 and 2010, as the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, Sergeant Dugan stepped in and assisted the City management in filling the gaps. Over the last four years, he has assumed the Police Lieutenant's position twice and managed Patrol Operations. Sergeant Dugan has a can-do attitude and he consistently provides quality service to the community.

John has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing John M. Dugan continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HANDLEY HIGH SCHOOL STATE
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention

today to congratulate Handley High School of Roanoke, Alabama, on winning its first Alabama Class 3A championship football title in 90 years.

Rallying from a 14–7 deficit late in the fourth quarter, Handley came back to win the game 20–14 in stirring fashion with a goal-line stand in the final seconds. Led by their coach, Mike Battles, this team showed the type of grit and determination that we should all try to emulate during these difficult times.

Originally opened in 1848 as the Roanoke Academy, it was the first school in the city. After various changes through the years, the name of the school finally settled on Handley High School in 1910 to honor the memory of a Confederate soldier, Captain William Anderson Handley. The late Captain had gifted the land which supports the campus today in exchange for one dollar.

Known for its strong music, band and theatre department, Handley has always been known to offer its students excellent opportunities to pursue artistic endeavors. Now it has a football program it can brag about too.

Congratulations to Handley High School, Principal Gregory Foster, Superintendent Chuck Marcum and all their fans on their State Championship. Go Tigers!

SUPPORT OF TIME WARNER
CABLE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Time Warner Cable, which is headquartered in my district, for its investment in local television news coverage, specifically for opening a Washington, D.C., news bureau that will cover stories and events here in Washington that are important to the communities served by its 14 local news channels throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Time Warner Cable is dedicating significant resources to high quality local news channels that provide critical local news, weather, traffic and sports coverage in the local communities that they serve. These stations are good for the public, and for our republic, at a time when many local television news budgets are being cut and local newspapers are cutting back, too. Thus it is important to note the rare times when we see new investment in local news coverage.

I applaud Time Warner Cable for recognizing the importance of local news, for investing in it, and creating jobs while providing this critical service to its customers—many of whom are my constituents. With more local news coverage, it's a certainty that we will have a better informed citizenry, which can only improve our nation.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
CITRONELLE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of this House a very special his-

torical event in my home state, the 200th Year of Celebration of the founding of Citronelle, Alabama.

Located in northwest Mobile County, Citronelle may not be a household name nationwide, but over a hundred years ago the friendly and charming small town was a popular stop for Northern vacationers. To the residents of such bustling Midwestern cities as Cleveland and Chicago, the name Citronelle conjured images of healing springs and bucolic Southern vistas.

In the early 20th century, Citronelle was known as the "Land of Healing Waters," owing to its mineral springs which a 1903 publication compared to the famous Poland Springs of Maine.

Located along the main line of the Mobile and Ohio Railway, for many years Citronelle was celebrated not only for its prized therapeutic waters, but also for its "salubrious" air which was reported to aid in the treatment of respiratory disorders. Indeed, the small town soon sported four very nice guest accommodations, including the Illinois Hotel, the Hygeia Hotel and the Hotel Citronelle. The Hygeia Hotel Cottage still stands today and is a local tourist attraction.

It is not surprising that Citronelle would have gained a reputation as a haven for rest and good health. In the late 1700's, the area was already destined for fame because of its curative properties. Native Americans in Southwest Alabama told European settlers about a unique plant thought to cure malaria. The miracle plant—which was named "Citronella"—was discovered growing in abundance along the hills that would eventually be known as Citronelle.

Along Citronelle's historic journey, the community also found improbable ways to add to its remarkable resume. For example, we all learned in school that Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 8, 1865. What some may not have been told in class is that less than a month later, on May 4, Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor, son of President Zachary Taylor, surrendered his Confederate forces under the "Surrender Oak" in Citronelle, Alabama. Citronelle was, therefore, one of five Civil War surrender locations. The legendary oak tree was sadly lost to a hurricane many years ago, but the town's contribution to American history is undeniable.

In addition to being a site of the official end of the Civil War, Citronelle has also occupied the spotlight as a potential rival to America's Western oil fields. In 1955, Citronelle was dubbed the Oil Capital of Alabama and home to the largest oil discovery east of the Mississippi River at that time.

Over the years, the sometimes sleepy town has capitalized on its quaint atmosphere, touting its "delightful walks through the woods (that) always charm the man or woman who seeks rest and recreation away from the busy city." Today, Citronelle remains a beautiful place to live filled with hard-working, dedicated people who love their God, their country and their families. I am proud to represent this lovely city in Congress.

On December 10, 2011, I will join Mayor Loretta Presnell, and other city officials, along with the people of Citronelle, in celebrating the birthday of their historic city. Older than the State of Alabama, Citronelle occupies a special place in our culture and in our hearts.

Congratulations to the City of Citronelle on this special occasion and a very Happy 200th birthday! May there be many more good years ahead in the next chapter of your rich history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes" on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 10.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from one of my constituents with respect to the debate on H.R. 1254 that occurred on December 7, 2011.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LATHAM: Regarding the Synthetic Drug Control Act, as you know I am a mother who lost her son to these drugs and I can't stop myself from reacting to the opposition on the floor yesterday.

Hundreds of chemical compounds are used to make synthetic drugs manufactured under the guise of bath salts, plant food, k2 and various names of synthetic marijuana—with the sole purpose being to ingest. These drugs are smoked, snorted, injected, or put into drinks. The label may say they are not for human consumption, but they are implicitly being sold as such.

Yet those opposing H.R. 1254 argue that not enough research has been done to prove whether or not these already banned and potentially future banned chemicals would bear any medical benefit.

To the contrary, not only have the synthetic drugs included in this legislation failed to show medicinal promise, but the Controlled Substances Act would still allow research on these synthetic drugs to continue if H.R. 1254 were enacted.

Under current law, researchers, universities and labs may register with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to obtain Schedule I controlled substances for scientific study. DEA allows thousands of labs to handle Schedule I drugs for scientific and investigative purposes. Chemicals with "a high potential for abuse" and "a lack of accepted safety" under the Controlled Substances Act should be placed under Schedule I—available for scientific study but not sold on convenience store shelves.

The reality is that without H.R. 1254, our society will continue to allow informal, unsupervised and unethical medical experimentation—with our kids as the subjects. It begins with unscrupulous manufacturers obtaining unknown chemical compounds from other countries. It is either manufactured overseas here or in our own backyard. These drugs are openly sold to those "18 years or older" and can be purchased at gas stations, convenience stores and head shops around this country. Its availability is rampant on the internet as well. It is difficult if not im-

possible to find out who the people really are that sell the chemicals or premade products. When it's all said and done, it is American teens who are being endangered and experimented with.

Let's be bold and put a stop to the newest drug trends that are sweeping across our nation like a tidal wave—Jan Rozga, Indianola, IA

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN KATZ

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Alaska's most distinguished, faithful, and respected public servants, John Katz.

Fresh out of Berkley Law, he boldly moved to Alaska and made a decision to embark upon a life of selfless public service to the people of Alaska. Among his first few jobs in public service were being Alaska Commissioner of Natural Resources and special counsel on land-use issues, before being appointed the Governor's man in Washington D.C. in 1983.

His departure can only be described as an enormous loss for our great state. For more than 40 years, and spanning eight governors, he has served Alaska with unwavering commitment, integrity, and with the utmost level of professionalism. Having worked with him for almost 30 of those years, I have little doubt that his loyalty to and knowledge of Alaska is second to none.

Through thick and thin, his dedication to Alaska was evident to everyone who worked with him. Over the years he has always put the needs of Alaska first, no more so than when he delayed his retirement at the request of Governor Frank Murkowski.

His reputation of being calm and cool under pressure is well known and his ability to work well with Republicans and Democrats alike should be emulated by others here in Washington. He once said his greatest disappointment was being unable to open up ANWR and I share that disappointment with him.

But despite ANWR, he was an integral part of every positive development to happen to Alaska in the last three decades including Alaska Native rights, fisheries management, protecting Alaska's sovereignty, and natural resource development. After all the work we've done together, I will do my utmost to continue this legacy for the good of Alaska.

He is exactly the kind of public servant who gives public service a good name. My staff and I will miss working with him, but I hope that our paths will continue to cross.

Thank you for your service to Alaska, John, and I wish you all the best in the future.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this legislation because, like the rest of my

colleagues, I want to see an end to the illegal manufacture, sale, and use of synthetic drugs that mimic the properties of illegal drugs. Many of these drugs are extremely dangerous and warrant control. In fact, some 30 states, including Hawaii, have laws that address the manufacture, sale, and use of synthetic drugs.

I am concerned, however, that we may be moving too fast. I would prefer to see a bill that is as important as this considered under regular order, with members having an opportunity to offer amendments. I am hoping that the Senate will take a more measured approach in considering this legislation.

I am especially concerned about the application of mandatory minimum sentences and Schedule I penalties that are included in this bill. I support judicial discretion, especially when the lives and futures of young people are involved.

I know too that there are concerns that this could impede legitimate scientific research of chemical compounds listed in this bill. Adjustments to this legislation may be needed to ensure that we don't hinder development of future biomedical breakthroughs.

We need to make sure the legislation targets those most responsible for widespread distribution of these drugs. Most important, we need to find ways to keep our young people from using synthetic drugs. Education of parents and young people is badly needed as is market regulation to reduce the availability and misuse of certain household and industrial aerosol products. Adding to our already crowded prisons is not a real solution to the very real problem of synthetic drugs.

THE CENTENNIAL SEASON OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and joy that I join my constituents in celebration of the centennial season of the San Francisco Symphony. Its illustrious history is marked by commitment to artistic excellence and innovation; its future is sustained by its large and loyal base of supporters.

One hundred years ago today, December 8, 1911, the Symphony gave its first performance. In recognition of this historic occasion, on September 7, 2011 we began a year-long celebration with a free outdoor concert at the Civic Center Plaza with Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, pianist Lang Lang and violinist Itzhak Perlman. This concert demonstrated the San Francisco Symphony's value of making music available to everyone. The founders believed music was a source of enrichment and pleasure intended for all and not the province of the privileged few. Reaching broader audiences has always been a priority, from recordings and radio broadcasts in the 1920s to video and internet today. Today the San Francisco Symphony has accomplished one of its early goals, to offer music to a city, to a Nation and to the world.

To help commemorate the centennial over the next year, San Franciscans will welcome notable performers and six of our Nation's greatest orchestras will visit San Francisco:

the Boston Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The centennial presents a wonderful opportunity to honor the Symphony's robust musical history, starting with the Barbary Coast. Over the past century, the Orchestra has grown in stature and acclaim under the leadership of eminent music directors, including Pierre Monteau, Seiji Ozawa, Herbert Blomstedt, and since 1995 Michael Tilson Thomas.

Michael Tilson Thomas has brought pride to all San Franciscans. He has served as Music Director for 15 years, and this is his 25th season as Artistic Director of the New World Symphony—an academy for training the next generation of orchestral musicians. A recipient of the 2010 National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the President, and winner of seven Grammy Awards, Thomas has been a remarkable mentor and supporter to many young artists, and he has educated millions about the joy of music.

The San Francisco Symphony provides the most extensive education and community programs offered by any American orchestra. Concerts for children have been part of the programming from the beginning and the groundbreaking *Adventures in Music* program, now over 20 years old, provides music education and free concerts to every first through fifth grader in San Francisco's public schools—75,000 children each year.

We offer special congratulations to John Goldman, the Symphony's President, whose generosity and family philanthropy have had a dramatic impact on the quality of life in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Symphony is blessed with an active board of governors with deep philanthropic and social ties to our City as well as tremendous public support. Thank you to the Symphony's brilliant musicians, dedicated staff and volunteers.

The first one hundred years of the San Francisco Symphony have been distinguished by outstanding concerts of the highest quality. Its second century is certain to be just as successful.

INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2011

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2010, along with additional cosponsors. This legislation represents a comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. This legislation is designed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws by eliminating racial profiling through changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice.

This legislation can be traced back to the data collection efforts of the late 1990's that were designed to determine whether racial profiling was a fact versus an urban legend. Based upon the work around that legislation, by September 11, 2001, there was significant empirical evidence and wide agreement

among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling was a tragic fact of life in the minority community and that the Federal government should take action to end the practice. Moreover, many in the law enforcement community have acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities.

At a recent Judiciary Committee hearing on the issue of racial profiling, we approached the issue from the perspective of "smart policing" and what makes sense in a time of austerity in the face of the continuing need to protect public safety. I believe that it became clear during the hearing that enough agreement exists to allow us to re-open the bipartisan dialogue on racial profiling commenced by President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft.

Despite the fact that the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias—and we value their service highly—the specter of racial profiling has contaminated the relationship between the police and minority communities to such a degree that federal action is justified to begin addressing the issue.

While the Department of Justice promulgated a series of guidelines in 2003 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies, these measures do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies. Further, the guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to eliminate racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin profiling that is well documented. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates that training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training, the collection of data on all routine or spontaneous investigatory activities that is to be submitted through a standardized form to the Department of Justice. Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Decades ago, with the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation, this country made clear that race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. However, recent events demonstrate that racial profiling remains a divisive issue that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. With the cooperation of the Administration, we have the opportunity to develop a comprehensive

approach to eliminating the practice of racial profiling through this legislative effort. I hope that we do not miss this historic opportunity to heal the rift caused by racial profiling and restore much of the community's confidence in law enforcement.

SUPPORT OF KAISER PERMANENTE'S INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE BREASTFEEDING AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a new Kaiser Permanente initiative to encourage breastfeeding as an important component of preventing childhood obesity and promoting other health benefits. Kaiser is implementing a systemwide program to ensure mothers are provided ample breastfeeding education and support. They will track their successes as a measure of hospital quality.

Research suggests breastfeeding has multiple benefits for baby and mother alike. Breastfed babies have a lowered risk of childhood obesity as well as allergies, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome. Nursing reduces a mother's risk of post-partum depression, Type 2 diabetes, ovarian and breast cancer.

Family- and patient-centered prevention initiatives like this will play an enormous role in battling America's toughest health care challenges. Kaiser's new breastfeeding initiative is an example of how a commitment to prevention can positively impact health outcomes.

Health care in America must shift from its singular focus on treating disease to incorporating a strong commitment to prevention. I encourage other major health care providers to follow Kaiser's example.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MARTINA DAVIS-CORREIA, SISTER OF TROY ANTHONY DAVIS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. Martina Davis-Correia, the older sister of executed Georgia prisoner, Troy Anthony Davis, died last week in Savannah. She was the most outspoken advocate of the "I Am Troy Davis" clemency campaign, which spread to countries all around the world. Correia traveled far and wide to any group that would give an ear in a strenuous effort to save her brother's life. Despite several commutations of his sentence, Davis was killed by lethal injection in Georgia in September of this year. The Davis case has helped turn the tide of public opinion in the struggle for repeal of the death penalty.

I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Martina Davis-Correia. The agony of this death sentence and execution has killed not just one man, but has decimated an entire nuclear family. After 22 years of struggle, Davis's mother died in the spring, her son

was killed by the state of Georgia in September, and now her daughter has died. Correia was a brave and courageous woman who was her brother's most stalwart advocate for clemency. She was an angel of mercy who sacrificed her health to win her brother's life.

For a state which could have used its power to do what is right, the outcome is tragic. But for the Davis family, if it had to be this way, it is an elegant ending. God has finally accomplished what the state of Georgia could not. In his mercy he granted their prayers to be all together again—happy, healed and whole. They leave us the lessons of their lives and a legacy of struggle that strengthened a movement for repeal of the death penalty in this country. I send my deepest condolences to the Davis family and to Martina Correia's son, who needs our support in this time. May God richly bless you for the sacrifice you as a family have made in the long, hard struggle for justice in America.

CAMP ASHRAF IN IRAQ

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the clock is running down for the 3,400 residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq. I share the concern of many of my constituents and others across our country and around the world for the status of those living in Camp Ashraf. It is my fear that if the Iraqi government follows through on their threat to shut down the camp that we could be facing a monumental human rights tragedy. I have joined many of my colleagues in calling for access to the camp by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It is indefensible that UNHCR has not been given access to those in Ashraf. This in itself seems to be a violation of international human rights law.

It is imperative that the government of Iraq revoke its year end deadline for the closure of Ashraf. UNHCR must be provided sufficient time to process each and every one of these individual cases. Regardless of the State Department's position concerning the legal status of MEK, the department has both a moral and legal responsibility to do everything in its power to ensure that UNHCR is provided access to the camp.

It is my hope that when Prime Minister Maliki visits with President Obama, that he will agree to remove the December 31 deadline for the closure of Camp Ashraf. There is still time to avoid a catastrophe and the Secretary of State should act with the assurance that decisive action will have the support of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ANN CHRISTOPHER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mary Ann Christopher, who, after 29 years of service, will depart her posi-

tion as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, Inc. to assume the same position at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Her dedication to the well-being of New Jerseyans in need deserves this body's recognition.

During her decade long-tenure as CEO, Mrs. Christopher spearheaded a geographic expansion which transformed the agency from a two-county provider to a statewide organization. Mrs. Christopher led the development of a continuum of services, including home-health care, hospice care, community-based prevention and outreach initiatives, clinics for the poor and school-based health care. In recent years, she skillfully steered the organization through a myriad of federal and state policy changes, directed a second capital campaign that resulted in the agency's new, modern headquarters, and launched a name change and comprehensive branding initiative.

Mrs. Christopher is a leading national voice on a wide range of health care issues. She regularly interacts with decision makers on Capitol Hill, and in Trenton to develop legislative and regulatory policies to enhance the quality of health care for New Jersey citizens. Her public policy work has included advancement of public-private partnerships to address the growing nursing shortage, expansion of telehealth services, ensuring adequate reimbursement for Medicare home-health care, and improving Medicaid care programs strengthening her state's human services system for the most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing and thanking Mrs. Mary Ann Christopher for her 29 years of service to New Jersey and her dedication to providing healthcare to those in need.

THE ATTAİN ACT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Achievement Through Technology and Innovation Act of 2011 (ATTAİN).

Given the challenges facing job seekers in our current economy, technology skills are now more critical than ever. As a nation, we need to prioritize technology literacy, and it should begin with our educational system.

Whether students are preparing for college or planning to go straight into the workforce, we must provide them with the high tech skills employers and the economy demand. Obtaining these critical skills is of particular concern to low income and minority students who are falling further behind their higher income peers in terms of 21st century college and workplace skills.

Not only has technology literacy become a critical life skill, but studies show technology also has a tremendous impact on student learning. In this era of ever shrinking school budgets, overcrowded schools and over-extended teachers, technology provides an opportunity to improve academic outcomes for our students.

I had the opportunity to see this first hand at the LA School for Global Studies in my district. This school seamlessly integrates tech-

nology in the classroom and I was amazed to see students that were previously low performers academically and at risk of dropping out of school, engaged and eager to learn. My visit underscored the promise that initiatives like the ATTAİN Act hold for closing the student achievement gap.

The ATTAİN Act amends the current "Enhancing Education Through Technology" program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to better target federal education technology resources to raise student achievement, ensure high quality teaching and improve our education system while ensuring our students are college and career ready and prepared to compete in the digital economy.

The bill authorizes up to \$1 billion in annual funding to train teachers, purchase education technology hardware and software, and to support student technological literacy.

Under the bill's provisions, if Congress appropriates more than \$300 million annually for ATTAİN, 60% would be used to purchase new technology and train teachers on how to effectively use these new tools.

The remaining 40 percent of ATTAİN funds would be distributed through competitive grants that encourage schools to undertake comprehensive, technology based reform initiatives that have been proven to increase student achievement.

However, should Congress appropriate \$300 million or less for this program annually, the Secretary of Education would allocate the entirety of the funding to conduct a competition and award grants to those states with the most promising initiatives to improve K-12 education through the use of technology. This provision is intended to ensure that there is adequate funding to impact student outcomes during lean fiscal years.

It is my hope that through this competition states and districts across the country will be compelled to evaluate their technology use and work to integrate it effectively throughout all classrooms, and especially those that are currently underserved by education technology.

Mr. Speaker, we know that when teachers are properly trained and schools are properly equipped with technology, students are engaged, eager to learn, and ultimately better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I believe that the ATTAİN Act is integral to our continued efforts to deliver all students the world class education they expect, need and deserve. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL B. MITCHELL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Sergeant Michael B. Mitchell, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service, with 23 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Michael started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the City of South San Francisco for six years. On September 5, 1988, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, Michael worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Traffic, and Investigations. In 1998, he completed the distinctive Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)—Robert Presley's Institute of Criminal Investigation (ICI) certification course with a specialty in homicide investigation.

Michael was promoted to Police Corporal on September 8, 2000, and served in Patrol, Youth Services, and earned a City Manager's Commendation in 2003 for his contribution and dedication to the City of Fairfield Driver's Training Program. On January 5, 2007 Michael was promoted to Police Sergeant and supervised teams on Patrol and then the Traffic Unit beginning in 2008. As the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, he stepped in and assisted city management by filling the gaps and acting as a Police Lieutenant and managing Patrol Operations when needed. In 2009, he earned the California Office of Traffic Safety's Award of Excellence for his outstanding motivational and leadership skills. His guidance and efforts dramatically increased the successful implementation and completion of traffic safety activities in the City of Fairfield.

Michael has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Michael B. Mitchell continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB NICKELSEN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60 years of outstanding public and volunteer service of my fellow Oregonian and friend, Mr. Bob Nickelsen. I would like to celebrate and pay tribute to Bob's loyal service to my hometown of Hood River, Oregon and to pay tribute to a man who embodies the selfless spirit of service to others.

In 1951, Bob first joined the West Side Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter. In 1961, Bob was appointed fire chief of the department, a position that he held until 1980. During his tenure as fire chief, the West Side Fire Department expanded its services by erecting a second firehouse, which now bears his name. Under Bob's guidance, the fire department also began dispatching first responder personnel to aid emergency medical calls with the Hood River Ambulance Service.

For the past 30 years, he has also served as an elected member of the West Side Fire District Board of Directors. To this day, Bob continues to put himself in harm's way as a volunteer fire fighter. His leadership allowed this small rural volunteer fire district to stay in step with current developments in the fire

sciences and provide the professional level of support that the community so richly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Nickelsen's civic responsibilities do not end at the firehouse doors. He was a commissioner for the Port of Hood River for over 15 years and has served on numerous local agricultural boards and committees. He was previously recognized as the Hood River Valley's "Orchardist of the Year." As a leader within the local farming community, Bob has contributed much of his time and effort to the economic development of Hood River and the Columbia Gorge.

On December 10, the West Side Fire Department will once again honor Bob with a banquet on his behalf I invite my colleagues to join me in praising Bob Nickelsen for 60 remarkable years of dedicated public service, his numerous contributions to his community, and for his outstanding character as a citizen of Hood River.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "the first requisite for a good citizen is that he should be willing and able to pull his own weight." Bob continues to far surpass this noble standard.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011.

While I support sensible restrictions on dangerous substances, I am concerned about the unintended consequences this bill could have on medical research. This bill has the potential to make these kinds of substances extremely difficult for researchers to obtain. In fact, many researchers have expressed concern that the list in this bill is too broad and would restrict their ability to conduct important experiments.

Additionally, this legislation would bypass the scientific and medical review process that is in place for adding substances to Schedule I. Making decisions without scientific review is problematic.

It is important to note that states are free to make decisions regarding these kinds of substances. I supported the reasonable step New Jersey took when it banned the synthetic drugs known as "bath salts" this summer.

Since this bill would bypass scientific review and could hinder much-needed research, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ETHEL MACLEOD HART SENIOR CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center, a popular gathering location for Sacramento's seniors. It is a great pleasure to recognize the center's 50th Anniversary, as it

has provided a positive environment that enhances and affirms older adults' dignity and promotes their independence. As the Hart Center's supporters and patrons gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the center's leadership and service to the Sacramento community.

The Sacramento Senior Center was formed in 1961, and was later renamed the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center in honor of Hart's generous legacy to the city's senior community. From its earliest beginnings, the center has helped to foster a welcoming environment that supports older citizens' interests and needs, a place in which senior citizens feel a connection to each other and receive validation from the wider community.

Over the last fifty years, the Hart Center has provided a wide variety of recreational and health services. The center's programs include flu clinics, legal workshops, the Friendship Café, computer classes, and a hearing impaired club. In addition, the Center's staff publish a monthly newsletter called the Hart Cornerstone that announces community events, and provide fitness classes that promote physical exercise and encourage healthy aging. The Hart Center has also partnered with a number of organizations to meet the needs of local seniors, including the Gray Panthers, Older Women's League, Sacramento Senior Legal Hotline, California Health Advocates, Social Security, the Franchise Tax Board, and many others.

As a member of Congress, I have had the privilege of visiting the Hart Senior Center on numerous occasions. Earlier this year I had the opportunity to speak at an Older Women's League monthly meeting at the Center, and talk about legislative proposals that affect Sacramento's senior community. Additionally, last summer the Hart Senior Center hosted a Social Security 75th anniversary party where we celebrated the program and reflected on its importance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center on its 50th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hart Center's role of providing the community with much needed services.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 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 \$15,046,397,725,405.16. We've added \$10,244,992,550,110.88 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. S.
THOMAS GAGLIANO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas Gagliano, founder of the Jersey Shore Partnership. On December 14, 2011, members of this organization will gather to celebrate Mr. Gagliano's 80th birthday. Throughout his professional career, Tom Gagliano has demonstrated outstanding dedication to his community and trade. His services are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Tom Gagliano is founder and former President of the Jersey Shore Partnership, Inc., a nonprofit coastal advocacy organization, active in Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Jersey Shore Partnership has been instrumental on a national, state and local level for funding beach replenishment projects along the 127 miles of the New Jersey coastline. Mr. Gagliano's leadership has remained a catalyst in the organization's ability to maintain an active role in initiatives unique and important to the Jersey Shore community. Mr. Gagliano is also the Chairman of the Jersey Shore Partnership Foundation and remains a key figure in the organization's success. The Foundation was instrumental in creating the \$25 million per year "Shore Protection Fund", allowing the federal government to proceed with multiple beach replenishment projects throughout the state. Mr. Gagliano and the Jersey Shore Partnership remain an integral part to maintaining the health and beauty of New Jersey's shore region.

Mr. Gagliano is a lifelong resident of Jersey Shore, currently residing in Red Bank, New Jersey. He is a proud alumni of Brown University and earned his law degree from Georgetown University. Mr. Gagliano has also admirably served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1956. He is a member of the New Jersey Bar and served as senior partner of his own law firm, located in West Long Branch, New Jersey until 1989. Mr. Gagliano was elected to the Oceanport Council in 1967. He also served as Monmouth County Surrogate from 1971 through 1976. Mr. Gagliano was first elected to the New Jersey Senate in 1977 and was re-elected three times, serving as Minority Leader and Ranking Member of the Transportation and Communications Committee. Governor Tom Kean appointed him Executive Director of New Jersey's NJTRANSIT Agency. In 1990, Mr. Gagliano was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve as commuter rail representative to the Commission on Railroad Retirement Reform, which he humbly accepted. In 2001, Mr. Gagliano ac-

cepted a position as Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs at EPS corporate headquarters, the position he currently holds to this day.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mr. Thomas Gagliano as members of the Jersey Shore Partnership gather to celebrate his 80th birthday. His outstanding service as an elected official and founder of the organization exemplifies his whole-hearted dedication and commitment to serving the resident of the Jersey Shore and New Jersey.

H. RES. 364, NAMING HVC-215 THE
GABRIEL ZIMMERMAN ROOM

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 364, a bill designating room HVC-215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Room."

Almost one year ago, a gunman ruthlessly opened fire on a crowd attending one of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' "Congresswoman on the Corner" events at a local supermarket. That day is one of this body's greatest tragedies, and we will forever remember the 13 wounded, including Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the 6 individuals that lost their lives.

Today, we have the opportunity to remember one of those individuals who was taken from us, Gabriel Zimmerman, the Director of Community Outreach for Congresswoman GIFFORDS. Gabriel's position was to enable the Congresswoman to interact closely with constituents, organizations and citizens throughout southern Arizona. Indeed, he had devoted his life to public service.

By dedicating HVC-215 as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Room," we are not only commemorating the first congressional staffer in history to be killed in the performance of his official duties, but we also are memorializing the value of civic participation which Gabriel Zimmerman exemplified in his life.

Gabriel, at the age of thirty was engaged to be married. He was known to be a kind, hard-working person respected throughout Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Eighth Congressional District.

He graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2002 with a degree in sociology and then went on to graduate from Arizona State University in 2006 with a Masters in social work. Gabriel continued his passion for civic service as a social worker assisting troubled youth prior to joining Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff.

None of us in this body will forget Gabriel and all those who were brutally and senselessly murdered that day.

The naming of a room in the Capitol Visitor Center will forever memorialize this young man whose commitment to public service and idealism we should all hope to emulate each and every day. We must continue to fulfill our promise of improving and supporting our communities and our country, as Gabriel so honestly believed we, the Congress, should.

IN RECOGNITION OF U.S. MARSHAL
PETER J. ELLIOTT ON THE OC-
CASION OF RECEIVING THE 2011
OHIO STATE BAR FOUNDATION'S
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I rise today to recognize U.S. Marshal Peter J. Elliott of the Northern District of Ohio, on receiving the Ohio State Bar Foundation's Outstanding Program Award on behalf of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program. The Award is given annually to an organization and its leadership for programs that promote access to, and generate improvements in, the Ohio criminal justice system.

I am pleased to recognize Marshal Elliott's tireless efforts and commend him on the success of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program, which he created after Cleveland police officer Wayne Leon, a family friend, was killed by an individual being served an arrest warrant.

Since 2005, Fugitive Safe Surrender has brought thousands of fugitives in over 25 cities across the nation to surrender. The idea of having fugitives surrender in a safe haven, such as a church, has been one key to the program's success.

In 2010, between September 22nd and 25th, Fugitive Safe Surrender brought in a national record of 7,431 fugitives at Mount Zion Church in Oakwood Village, Ohio. The Fugitive Safe Surrender program was authorized by Congress in July 2006 and signed into law in 2007, after being introduced by the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones and former Senator Mike DeWine. It is believed to be the first program of its kind in the nation. I am very proud that this program was created in the Northern District of Ohio by my friend, U.S. Marshal Peter Elliott, and congratulate him on receiving the well-deserved Ohio State Bar Foundation's Outstanding Program Award in recognition of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program.