

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKING REPRESENTATIVE HINCHEY FOR HIS SERVICE TO NEW YORK STATE AND AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of my colleague and fellow New Yorker, Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY, who will not be seeking reelection. As members of the New York Congressional Delegation, I have seen firsthand the contributions MAURICE has made to the people of the 22nd Congressional District, New York State and our entire nation.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Congressman HINCHEY rose from humble beginnings to serve in both the New York State Assembly and the House of Representatives. As an important member of the Appropriations Committee, Congressman HINCHEY has created good paying jobs, invested in New York and America's infrastructure, protected middle-class families, championed for local farmers and has been a great protector of our environment.

I wholeheartedly thank Congressman HINCHEY for his service, leadership and friendship. He has shown inspiring strength and resolve in battling cancer while upholding the highest level of commitment to his constituents and country. I wish Congressman HINCHEY both health and happiness during the next chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING WILL TRAVIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman PETE STARK, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize Will Travis, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) of 17 years, as he retires after 42 years of public service.

Will "Tray" Travis, holds a Bachelor of Architecture and a Master of Regional Planning degree from Pennsylvania State University. From 1970 to 1972 he served as BCDC's first Bay Development Design Analyst, after which he spent 12 years with the California Coastal Commission, holding a number of positions, including heading the agency's offshore oil drilling permit staff, directing its public access program, and overseeing its budget and ad-

ministrative functions. He returned to BCDC in 1985 as Deputy Director and was later appointed Executive Director in 1995.

Travis has written many articles on coastal issues, has provided advice on coastal matters to other states and nations, and has been a university lecturer throughout North America. He was appointed Chairman of the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee, which administered a multimillion dollar settlement fund to settle claims resulting from a 1988 oil spill. In that capacity, he spearheaded the public acquisition of 10,000 acres of privately owned salt ponds along the northern shoreline of the San Francisco Bay in one of the largest coastal wetland restoration projects in California's history.

Over the years Travis has been a tremendous leader in protecting San Francisco Bay while balancing the difficult roles of conservation and development. He has established himself as a leading advocate for a regional strategy to address climate change and sea level rise in the Bay Area. My colleagues and I, as well as over 7 million residents in the Bay Area, owe him a great debt of gratitude for protecting our quality of life.

Travis was the 2009 recipient of the Jean Auer Environmental Award and is a member of the National Research Council Roundtable on Climate Change Education. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, the EcoAdapt Climate Change Adaptation Innovation Center, the Executive Management Committee of a Joint Policy Committee of four regional agencies, the Community Advisory Board of KB Home Corporation and Friends of One Bay Area. Furthermore, Travis is a member of Lambda Alpha, the honorary society for the advancement of land economics, he has chaired a special committee established by the City of Berkeley to work with the University of California to develop a new plan for downtown Berkeley, and has served on the project team of "Saving the Bay," a public television documentary film.

Mr. Speaker, we invite this chamber to join us in honoring Will Travis for his tireless and dedicated service to the people of California and the San Francisco Bay Area. We also join his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating him on a successful and fulfilling career at BCDC and wishing him well on his new initiative as a senior policy advisor for the Bay Area's Joint Policy Committee.

SECOND TIME AS SWEET AS FIRST FOR NORTHERN GUILFORD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for the second consecutive year, a high school located in the

Sixth District of North Carolina has captured a Class 3-AA state championship. The Northern Guilford Nighthawks won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state championship, defeating Boiling Springs Crest, 31-7, on December 3, 2011.

Northern Guilford scored first but only had a six point lead going into the second half. Nineteen unanswered points, in the third quarter was too substantial for Boiling Springs Crest to overcome. "I know I get credit," Northern Guilford Coach Johnny Roscoe told the Greensboro News & Record, "But it's the assistant coaches and the players. They're the ones who really do it, and I can't say enough about them."

The Northern Guilford Nighthawks finished their season with a 14-1 record and went undefeated, 7-0, in league play. The NCHSAA offensive and defensive players of the game were Nighthawks Daniel Downing and Scooter Mooney. T.J. Logan received the game's Most Valuable Player award with a five touchdown performance. None of these accolades would have been obtained without the hard work and determination from teammates Tre Purcell, Cameron Harris, Brett Welch, Austin Hoke, John McBeth, Ryan Dirks, Nick Jones, Austin Coltrane, Mark Mitchell, Avery Cooper, Shaquille Fields, Burney Sindab, Justin Timmons, Chris Ripberger, Malik Parker, Robert Willcox, Rory Bergen, Bernard Sindab, T.J. Ruff, Trip Dunn, Trevon Cooper, Frankie Lollis, Ryan Johnston, Trevor McKee, Austin Simmons, Max Klietsch, Tripp West, Blaine Jones, Eric Hong, Josh Steele, Kamen Smith, Chris Forlano, Trevor Beck, Rashad Martin, Sam Parker, Andrew Keen, Bryan Iddings, Taylor Rumley, Molick Scott, Josh Moore, Alex Hasler, and Carlos Williams.

The Nighthawks could not have achieved the state championship without the leadership of Head Coach Johnny Roscoe and his outstanding staff, including J.R. Troutman, Brian Thomas, Lee Meekins, Ben Hepler, Justin Davis, Todd Sharp, Tim Bagamary, Richard Burton, and Chris Shaffer. In addition, those aiding the title hunt were Stacy Come (Cheerleading), Ed Kimbrough (Band Director), Ashlyn Thomas and Jenna Livingston (Video), Britt Thomas (ball boy), Kirstin Shepperson (Team Physician), Justin Ollis (Trainer), Kalyn Wadsworth and K.T. Song (UNCG Athletic Training Interns), Mercedes Wigglesworth, Sydney Monroe and Taylor Phillips (Student Trainers), Perry Johnson (Manager) and a special thanks to Mrs. Jane Roscoe.

Congratulations are also deserved for those who supported the football program at Northern Guilford throughout its successful season including Principal Will Laine, Assistant Principals Doug Foutty, Kris Vecchione, and Travis Ward, as well as Athletic Director Brian Thomas.

Once more, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Northern Guilford High School football team, along with the faculty, staff and students for their championship season. While everyone remembers the first time they achieved a

• 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.

major accomplishment, the Nighthawks proved that the second time is as sweet as the first.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2012, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 12.

Had I been present for rollcall 12, on agreeing to H. Res. 522, providing for consideration of H.R. 1173, a measure to repeal the CLASS program, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING MARION GRAY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marion Gray on being named Knight of the Legion of Honor by France. In the course of his service in World War II Marion Gray became the first Franklin County man to be wounded on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

Throughout our nation's history, courageous men and women have selflessly fought time and again to secure our liberty. Marion Gray is one of those courageous men.

A true patriot, Sergeant Gray enlisted one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Gray then was sent to Camp Roberts to learn Combat Intelligence. He later transferred into the Medical Corps which allowed him to serve his country with the education in pharmacology and pre-medicine that he gained at The Ohio State University.

As a combat medic, Sergeant Gray travelled as part of the 29th Division of the 116th Regiment to the beaches of Normandy, where he was part of the first wave to land on D-Day.

Sergeant Gray's regiment was one of the hardest hit and during the course of that day Gray was injured twice. Thankfully, he survived but had to spend 30 days recovering in a hospital in South Hampton, England before being returned to his original company. He later went on to help liberate St. Lo, France, and served admirably until the end of the war in Europe.

It is because of the sacrifices made by Marion Gray and those he served with, that we continue to enjoy the freedoms that we do today. I am deeply thankful for Sergeant Marion Gray's heroism and sacrifice, and I congratulate him on earning the Knight of the Legion of Honor.

HONORING MORTIMER SULLIVAN

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas: Mortimer Sullivan is a resident of Erie County and is married to Maryanne Calella. They are the proud parents of two children, Mark and Michael; and

Whereas: In 1954, Mortimer graduated from the University of Buffalo where he earned a degree in Psychology and completed Western New York's first college-accredited certificate-granting law enforcement training program. He also was the first commander of the University's Air Force ROTC Corps of Cadets; and

Whereas: After graduating from College he reported to active duty in the Air Force, and later served in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Mobilization Reserve Program from which he retired in 1987; and

Whereas: Colonel Mortimer Sullivan earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army and Air Force Commendation medals, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross during his service; and

Whereas: Mr. Sullivan was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1964; and

Whereas: Rising to the rank of Lieutenant, Mortimer is a founding charter member of the Erie County Sheriffs Scientific Reserve with 40 years of service; and

Whereas: For 25 years, Mortimer Sullivan chaired the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York Committee on Constitutions and Cannons and received the Bishop's Award for Ministry of the Laity; and be it further

Resolved, That we pause in our deliberations to honor Mortimer Sullivan for his dedication and service to the Erie County Sheriff's Department and our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER PENNSYLVANIA STATE REP. TERRY VAN HORNE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a selfless community leader, accomplished lawmaker and skilled statesman. Former Pennsylvania state representative Terry Van Horne died on Monday, January 30, 2012, at the age of 65. Terry was a gentleman who used his talents as a legislator to enhance the lives of the people of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley. He was known as an independent-minded public servant who never allowed partisan politics to stand in the way of doing what was best for his constituents. Terry's unwillingness to compromise his core convictions for the sake of political expediency gained him the love of his constituents and the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Terry began his principled and distinguished career in public service on the Arnold City Council in the late 1970's. From there, he went on to represent Pennsylvania's 54th House District for nearly 20 years. By all accounts, he was a dynamic, yet congenial legislator who could defuse even the bitterest of political scuffles with his quick wit and radiant smile. After leaving office in 2000, he worked as a consultant and practiced law before returning to public service in 2007 to serve as

municipal manager for Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, a position he held until February of 2009. Just this past December, Terry was hired by the Arnold Council to be its new city clerk.

While tragedy cut his life short, Terry will be remembered not for how he died, but for how he lived—as a steadfast champion of the people.

Mr. Speaker, who can explain why great men like Terry are taken from us prematurely? The reality that Terry will no longer be able to pursue his life's passion of public service is truly a tragedy for everyone who calls the Alle-Kiski Valley home. I hope that his wife, Jacqueline, and all of his family and friends find comfort in knowing that Terry's legacy will continue to inspire generations of public servants to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF MARY CLARE HIGGINS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of former Mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts, Mary Clare Higgins. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Mary Clare Higgins was the eldest girl among her six siblings. Mayor Higgins later settled in Northampton in the late 1970s where she followed in the footsteps of her father and became involved in local politics.

Ms. Higgins' first involvement in local government came in 1990 when she was appointed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Massachusetts Housing Authority. Distinguishing herself through her various roles in municipal government, Ms. Higgins was first elected to the Northampton City Council in 1994 and later as president of the council in 1998. Since her election as mayor in 2000, Ms. Higgins has dually served as President of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association and was a member of the Municipal Finance Task Force of Metro Mayors Coalition.

During her tenure as mayor, Ms. Higgins has served as an advocate for the preservation and expansion of Northampton in the twenty-first century. With her initiative for growth within the community, Mayor Higgins saw promise in the development of Hospital Hill and the ongoing preservation of open space throughout the city. Her accomplishments as mayor have been recognized by a number of local, statewide, and nationwide organizations for her distinguished service.

Mary Clare Higgins has been an important part of the history and the further advancement of Northampton in the years to come. She in her role as a civil servant has placed her responsibility as a municipal leader first. Her contributions to the well-being of those whom she had the privilege to represent for over a decade is a testimony of the quality of leadership Mayor Higgins has displayed. I am honored to have known Mary Clare Higgins and I offer her my warmest regards and wishes for her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 13 RECIPIENTS OF
THE CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ, FREE-
DOM MEDALS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 13 recipients of the Camden County Freedom Medal. In 2001, this high honor was created to pay tribute to those who reflect the ideals and beliefs held by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The honorees of this esteemed award are exemplary citizens who have made momentous contributions to their community in a variety of ways. These individuals have not only dedicated themselves to bettering their community, but have also worked selflessly to bring together people of different backgrounds, cultures, and creeds.

This award is unique in that it does not honor people only in one area of service, but rather highlights individuals who have made significant contributions to society, each in their own way. Recipients of this year's award have done everything from establishing a college preparatory program for minority students, to founding an environmental program, to creating a 5K race in honor of a fellow Marine killed in action, to providing free health and education classes, among many other accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate all of the recipients of this year's Freedom Medal: Atnre Alleyne, Nasim Badat, Roger W. Barker, Lori Braunstein, Sister Helen Cole, Hardon H. Durrani, James E. Hannold, Linda Holscher, Melinda Kane, Mary Lamielle, Thelma Lenore Long, Robert Morrell, and Larry and Trudy Painter. I join the county in paying tribute to these 13 individuals and I thank them for helping carry out Dr. King's legacy with tireless dedication.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association MOFGA on their 40 year anniversary.

Committed to the Maine tradition of local, family owned agricultural businesses which produce some of the healthiest agricultural goods available, Abby McMillen began organizing membership for what would become MOFGA in 1971. The organization initially served as a forum where organic growers could learn from each other and perfect their trade. By 1972, MOFGA was certifying organic farms using standards laid out by Rodale Organic Garden. Today, the association has grown to include 6,000 members and nearly 350 certified farms.

MOFGA is also one of the most active groups in the state. The association runs nu-

merous educational, apprenticeship, and charitable programs that connect Maine's organic growers with each other and communities around the world. Their quarterly published news paper, The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, is one of the nation's leading information sources on organic agriculture and sustainable living practices. What's more, the annual Common Ground County Fair hosted by MOFGA has become one of the state's most anticipated events each year. Thousands of people are drawn to the town of Unity from all over the country to enjoy live entertainment and meet with local farmers, vendors and artisans.

MOFGA has demonstrated itself to be an invaluable resource for Maine growers and consumers who are interested in learning about healthy food and environmentally friendly farming methods. These agricultural practices are beneficial to public health, the environment and Maine's economy. Additionally, the association annually reviews farms and food processors to ensure that food labeled as organic truly lives up to that standard.

I wish MOFGA continued success in working with farmers, gardeners and families all across Maine to promote healthier and more nutritious eating options.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association on the 40th anniversary of its founding.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
RICHMOND TOWNSHIP SUPER-
VISOR GORDON FUERSTENAU

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On February 17, 2012, family, friends and neighbors of Mr. Gordon Fuerstenau will gather at the Richmond Township Hall to celebrate his dedicated and honorable record of public service. In total, Gordon has served the Township of Richmond located in northern Macomb County for an impressive 27 years, having first been elected as the Clerk in 1984 and then appointed to the position of Supervisor in 2003 which he held until 2011.

As a former township supervisor myself, I can personally attest to the hard work, long hours and steadfast commitment it takes to efficiently operate and manage the day-to-day business of a township. The job can be difficult at times, but the rewards far outweigh any roadblocks faced along the way. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of seeing the work you have accomplished to improve the community in which you live. Ultimately, you know you are making a positive difference and enhancing the quality of life for the generations to follow.

Gordon's resume includes a long list of accomplishments demonstrating his leadership skills and impeccable integrity. He has served on the City of Richmond's Wellhead Protection

Team which helped protect drinking water utilized by area residents. He also was a key player in fostering the amicable relationship with the City of Richmond through his work with the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, and triumphing key environmental issues to help maintain the rural setting that is especially unique to Richmond Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to properly acknowledge Gordon Fuerstenau's strong record of outstanding and invaluable public service to Richmond Township. I commend him on this very special occasion and offer my best wishes on many more successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK SCAROLA
ON HIS DEDICATION TO HELPING
END HOMELESSNESS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it heartened me to learn that Jack Scarola was recognized by the Lord's Place for his work in the fight against homelessness in the West Palm Beach area of Florida. Jack is a partner in a prestigious West Palm Beach law firm who has supported homeless persons in the community since he moved to the area over 30 years ago. He was a founding member of the Lord's Place, an organization I am proud to represent in my Congressional district that is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness through engagement, housing, education, and employment programs. He still is active with the Lord's Place, just having finished serving as chairman of their Board of Directors and having served on the Board for more than 20 consecutive years. I appreciate the work that he has done, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for his commitment to serving the community.

The Lord's Place recently honored Jack with the Ending Homelessness Award. During the award ceremony, a 1983 radio broadcast featuring the organization's efforts was played. Although the clip was a distant memory, Jack instantly remembered giving the interview. It was early in the movement to help the homeless, and he and some other volunteers were collecting donations on the steps of a local church. Jack was surprised at the community's support for their cause. Since that time, he has worked to turn this support into a community-wide effort to help other people.

For over 30 years, he has helped to make the Lord's Place fight against homelessness in Palm Beach County. In 2010, the Lord's Place supported over 500 homeless men, women, and children. Jack played a critical role in building this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jack Scarola for receiving the Ending Homelessness Award from the Lord's Place. He is truly a selfless individual that has dedicated his life to helping those in their greatest time of need.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise in recognition of the historic International Day of Human Rights and the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that passed on December 10, 2011. It was a day that recognized the momentous efforts made in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly which declared that the citizens of the world have basic and essential human rights. This effort was in reaction to the immediate aftermath of the crimes against humanity in World War II. This noble accomplishment made by the international community established the fundamental freedoms of humankind and worked not only to cultivate, but also continuously protect international peace.

The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights signified an international commitment to preserving and building the foundation of human rights, which serves as an enduring resolve for advocates around the world. 2011 was a historic year that recognized the momentous actions of global protestors trying to rid themselves of tyranny and move towards democracy. Met with forceful and dangerous opposition, these protestors stayed the course and fought for what they believed in.

In June of 2011, I met with Iran180, a multi-cultural and multi-faith organization established with the goal of addressing the human rights violations and aggressive pursuit of nuclear weapon development. I, alongside several members of the New York delegation presented an award to Mr. Ahmad Batebi, a student who was involved in the July 1999 protests against the Iranian government at Tehran University. He was arrested, tried in closed-door proceedings, was sentenced to death and spent eight years being tortured in prison until his escape in 2008. Since then, Batebi serves as the chairman of Cyber Dissidents where he continues to advocate for human rights and democracy.

Mr. Batebi is an inspiration to all people, especially to those living under oppressive circumstances. We have to stand up and fight for what we believe in order to achieve freedom and liberty without living in repressive conditions.

The uphill struggles to promote and protect human rights have been expanding in my beloved district, from the efforts of the NAACP, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, Alianza Dominicana, and several other outstanding organizations that continue to be a cornerstone in my Harlem community for people who would otherwise not have the essential civil liberties of participating in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in expressing the utmost gratitude towards the work of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the numerous organizations that fight diligently for to pre-

serve our fundamental principles of humanity. We must work tirelessly to ensure that all Americans and around the world exercise the same basic human rights.

HONORING NOVELEAN "MOTHER" HARRIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Novelean "Mother" Harris of Richmond, California, who passed on January 11, 2012 at the age of 95. Mother Harris was a deeply religious and caring woman who fed and clothed the unfortunate and those in need, and a pioneering business owner in her community.

Mother was the second child born to the late Charlie and Lillie Turner on Thursday, June 15, 1916 in Bernice, Louisiana. She came to know Christ at an early age when her family moved to El Dorado, Arkansas, and joined the New Bethel Baptist Church. Later, Novelean married the love of her life, the late George H. Harris, and had two sons, James and George, and a daughter, Carolyn.

George moved his family to Richmond, California, in 1943 to seek better opportunities. Soon afterwards, George and Mother joined North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, under the late Reverend F.W. Watkins, where they were active participants in their church and their community. George opened one of the first successful insurance businesses in Richmond. He was also one of the first African Americans to serve on the Contra Costa County Grand Jury. With the goal in mind to also own a business, Novelean enrolled at the Charm Beauty School in Oakland, obtained her state cosmetology license, and opened the first African American owned beauty salon in North Richmond. She later established Novelean's Beauty Salon on the Southside of the city where she mentored and trained other women to become licensed cosmetologists. At the time of her death, Mother Harris held one of the oldest business licenses in the City of Richmond.

Mother Harris served in many capacities at North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, but she will be most remembered for running the church's Soup Kitchen. Mother Harris never turned away a hungry person. She and her volunteer staff provided nutritious meals to countless people and ensured that the needy received a bag of groceries and clothes. She ministered to the homeless who came to eat. Each day at noon, Mother Harris would stop whatever she was doing to lead a prayer. Her passion for feeding the hungry extended beyond her service in the church. Mother Harris often prepared large pots of soup in her own kitchen and delivered meals to the homes of seniors and the disabled.

Mother Harris was a strong pillar in her city. She encouraged others in the community to vote and supported the campaigns of many who sought elected office by giving advice, raising contributions, and feeding candidates in local, state, and national elections.

The City of Richmond declared May 5, 2007, "Mother Harris Day" in honor of her

contributions to the community. A bench was dedicated to her outside of North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church. Mother Harris was a life member of the Richmond Branch NAACP and was a founding member of the Cosmetology Organization of the Greater Bay Area.

Simply stated by Mother Harris, "God gave me a vision early in my life to reach out and help those in need." She leaves a legacy for us all to follow.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering sincere condolences to her children, family, and friends.

WORTH THE WAIT FOR PAGE PIRATES FANS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the saying that good things come to those who wait can be applied to the fans of the Walter H. Page High School football team. Page fans have been waiting since 1985 for their football team to capture a state championship. The Pirates completed a 15-0 perfect season with the title win, on December 3, 2011. I would like to take this time to recognize Page High School's football team, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, for winning the Class 4-AA state championship. The Page Pirates defeated Garner High, 35-21, in front of more than 10,000 fans at BB&T Field in Winston Salem.

The Pirates took the lead in the second quarter and never looked back. "Our kids believed they were supposed to be here, and I believe they not only deserve to be here, but to win it, and we did," Page Coach Kevin Gillespie told the (Greensboro) News & Record. The program's undefeated 15-0 record solidifies both his and the player's beliefs.

Garner High began to gain momentum and cut the lead to seven points in the third quarter, but Pirates quarterback, James Summers answered with a 54-yard touchdown on the very next play. This display of athleticism and determination earned him the game's Most Valuable Player award. All members of the Page football team contributed to the perfect season, including Jalen Gavin, Carter Stanley, Jonathan Lynch, Kysung Young, Brian Spain, Jarvis Small, Orlando Hatfield, Blake Hickman, Carter Greene, Jordan Putnam, Thomas Little, Christian Cranford, Marcus Demery, Ed Britt, Ryan Jackson, William Henry, Savon Wall, Shedrick Pate, Drew Rogers, Devonta Hooker, Kahlil Wilson, Evan Roer, A.J. Capel, Shaun Workinger, Grant Brewer, Eric Kelly, Justin Smith, Tim Wharton, Lorenzo Featherston, DeAnthony Brooks, Chance Maness, Ventura Anthony, Jacob Green, Anthony Hope, Chris Hamrick, Arrius McCain, David Jennings, Jaxon Cummings, Jonathan Smith, Kemp Young, Andrew Lamore, Dishon Stewart, Isaiah Towns, Rasheen Wall, Lewis Jones, Alex Alvarez, Matt Mayfield, Tevin Morrison, Chris Mosley, and Tommy Laughon.

Credit must be given to Head Coach Kevin Gillespie and his staff including Norman Weeks, Gordon Hagen, Todd Halkyer, Cody Page, Wilson Helms, Chris Ferguson, Kevin Harris, Earl Sams, Jesse Britt, Malcolm

Parker, Mark Raynor and Russell Mills, for the success and growth these young men accomplished this season.

Additionally deserving credit is Principal Marilyn Foley, Athletic Director Rusty Lee, Nikki Kennedy (Trainer), and Jeremy Godwin (Statistician).

They may have waited 27 years, but winning with a perfect record was worth the wait. Again, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Page High School football program, along with the faculty, staff, students and supportive community for their championship season.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB
OF COLUMBUS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Columbus for its centennial year of providing exceptional, "Service Above Self," and for truly living up to its motto throughout these past 100 years.

The Rotary Club of Columbus was chartered on March 5, 1912, as the 38th club in Rotary International. Ever since that time, Columbus Rotary has contributed a great amount to the Columbus area. In 1919, the Rotary helped to organize the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, now known as Easter Seals. The Rotary established Camp Enterprise in 1967 to teach the Free Enterprise system to teenagers, and the program went on to become a model for Clubs across the country. In 2003, the Rotary was especially instrumental in establishing the Rafiki Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. Columbus Rotary projects continue today and include important programs and initiatives like Adopt-A-School, Homeless Family Foundation, and annual scholarships to local students.

Without the hard work and selfless contributions of Columbus Rotary and its members our great city would not have the vibrancy and sense of community that it does today. I offer my congratulations to Columbus Rotary on its 100 years, and I look forward to many more years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100 YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS
OF AMERICA

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the one hundred year anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, this organization has cultivated courage, confidence, and character in young women and girls across the Nation. It is the largest organization for girls in the world and includes 3.2 million scouts today. Through volunteering, community service, adventures, and, of course, cookie sales, these young women have become the emerging leaders of our world today.

Girl Scouts participate in a wide variety of services and projects, from science and tech-

nology based activities to programs focused on financial literacy and understanding. Campaigns launched by the Girl Scouts in the past have included action against bullying and awareness of eating disorders. The highest achieving scouts even get the opportunity to apply for a Capitol Hill internship.

The organization is undeniably an American institution committed to developing women leaders, and thus the hundred year mark comes with much celebration. In honor of this century of service, 2012 has been designated "The Year of the Girl," and the projects we will see are ambitious, eclectic, and simply inspiring. As a Nation, let us recognize the astounding efforts of the organization and continue to support the Girl Scouts of America.

IN MEMORY OF ALEX BLEVINS

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Alex Blevins, a devoted father and husband, and the Executive Director of the Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA organization.

Alex leaves behind his wife Alice and their two beautiful children, Harper and Charlie. Their father was a man who spent years working as a determined advocate for children in need, particularly those who were abused and neglected. On behalf of my wife Pat and myself, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to the Blevins family.

Alex dedicated much of his professional career to Kentucky CASA's mission of providing leadership and support for local CASA organizations that recruit and train volunteers to serve abused and neglected children as court appointed special advocates. Through statewide advocacy of the CASA mission and the provision of training, support and resources, Kentucky CASA partners with National CASA, local programs and others to serve as a powerful voice in a child's life.

Alex had an unbridled compassion for abused and neglected children. He worked diligently on their behalf as part of Kentucky CASA for nearly eight years. He assisted local chapters and worked to increase the number of counties in the Commonwealth with CASA volunteers to ensure more children benefit from this important service.

Alex graduated from Centre College in 2003. He served on the Kentucky Court of Justice's Improvement Project Advisory Board and National CASA's Inclusion and Diversity Committee, as well as Public Policy Co-Chairman for Kentucky's Blue Ribbon Panel on Adoption and Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering my friend, Alex Blevins. Kentucky is a better place because of Alex and his outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth. His leadership and compassionate advocacy on behalf of children will be sorely missed.

HONORING MR. OFIELD DUKES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER II and my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Ofield Dukes. A trailblazing public relations titan known far beyond the communications world, Ofield Dukes will be remembered as a civil rights champion, an inspiring educator, a skilled mentor, and a trusted advisor to the world's most prominent leaders. With his passing on December 7, 2011, we look to Mr. Ofield Dukes' political legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born in Rutledge, Alabama, Mr. Dukes graduated with a degree in journalism from Wayne State University after having been a journalist while serving in the United States Army during the Korean War. He soon made a name for himself as an award-winning writer for the Michigan Chronicle and, in 1964, Mr. Dukes was hired as Deputy Director of Information for President Lyndon Johnson's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. Within two years, he had become communications adviser to Vice President Hubert Humphrey. In 1969, Dukes founded Ofield Dukes and Associates (ODA), one of the most enduring and successful public relations firms in the country, specializing in minority, African-American, African, and political affairs. ODA elevated the profiles of artists, business people, students, Civil Rights heroes, Members of Congress and Presidents, alike.

During an era still marred by the scourge of racism and segregation, Mr. Dukes utilized brilliant public relations strategies to galvanize support for the Civil Rights movement and to get out the vote in the African-American community after the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Moreover, without his tireless work, the CBC would not be "the conscience of the Congress" it is today. He was the organizer of the first CBC dinner, and a CBC Foundation Board member for 14 years. His vast political experience and guidance helped expand the CBC from its original 13 Members of Congress in 1971 to 43 Members today.

Mr. Dukes also orchestrated the 1981 national march on Washington, D.C. to make the birth date of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national holiday.

Furthermore, Mr. Dukes brought the wealth of his experience to the classroom, spending over twenty years as a professor at Howard University and nearly a decade at American University. It was there that he instilled young minds with the powerful public relations tools necessary to create new generations of social justice. Renowned for his professionalism, teaching prowess and strong sense of loyalty, Ofield Dukes encouraged hundreds of African-American students to enter the field of public relations. He was a gatekeeper for African-American reporters needing access to the White House for every Democratic administration since the 1960s, a founding member of the Black Public Relations Society of Washington, D.C., and the first African American to receive the Public Relations Society of America's Gold Anvil, the industry's highest honor.

For over four decades, Ofield Dukes' career and influence spanned CBC milestones ranging from their boycott of President Nixon's State of the Union address to demand White House recognition in 1971 to his articles celebrating the CBC's 40th anniversary in 2011, under the historic leadership of President Barack Obama. He was a friend to the CBC every step of the way, and the Congressional Black Caucus could not have asked for better guidance and company.

Therefore, the Congressional Black Caucus salutes and honors the life of this outstanding man, while mourning the loss of an incredible partner in the pursuit of justice and equality. The great Ofield Dukes and his masterful contributions to the success of progressive and talented leaders throughout the world have helped to change the course of history. His legacy and light will forever live on, and he will be deeply missed.

THE 37TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY
LABOR AWARDS RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most devoted and proficient workers in Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication during the 37th Annual Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Memorial Park in Highland, Indiana, on January 31, 2012. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. Ray Kasmak, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, was this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Kasmak was honored for his many years of service and his exceptional contributions to the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana.

The Democratic Members of the Indiana House and Senate received the Service to Labor Award for their tireless efforts to assist organized labor with improving the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana.

Randy Palmateer, Business Manager, Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was presented with this year's Union Label Award for his unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through social, civic, educational, and political endeavors.

United Steelworkers Local 6787 accepted the Community Services Award for its members' exemplary service to the community and the enhancement of the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana, as demonstrated by their countless hours of volunteerism and charity work.

For his outstanding leadership skills and dedication to assist working Americans through trying times, Rich Trumka, President, American Federation of Labor—Congress of

Industrial Organizations, received the Leadership Award.

Roger Jachna, Jr., of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, and William Beck, of Pipefitters Local 597, received the George Meany Award, an honor bestowed upon them by the Boy Scouts of America.

Mike Summers, former Business Manager of Ironworkers Local 395 and former President of the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The exceptional service he has so generously provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. His dedication and commitment are representative of the values we cherish in Northwest Indiana.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women in America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

RECOGNIZING CECIL NOBLES

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Cecil Nobles, the much celebrated Sheriff of Long County, GA, and a pillar of his community.

Cecil Nobles was born on February 21, 1935 in Long County, GA, to Raymond Elliott and Minnie Baxter Nobles. Raised in Long County, he was educated in Long County schools and graduated from Ludowici High School in 1953. After high school, Mr. Nobles earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's degree in Education from Georgia Southern University.

Soon after graduation, Cecil Nobles began teaching in the Long County school system from 1959 until 1969. During that time, he also served as an Assistant Principal and as the elected Coroner of Long County from 1962 through 1968. Mr. Nobles made a remarkable impact within the realm of education when he taught one of the first integrated classes in Southeastern Georgia.

Forever dedicated to Long County and public service, Cecil Nobles rose to become the longest serving Sheriff in the State of Georgia and the second longest serving Sheriff in the United States. During his eleven terms as Sheriff and two terms as Coroner, Mr. Nobles was always known for his tireless dedication to public service, his commitment to law enforcement, and his love of his family and friends throughout Long County and beyond.

Sheriff Nobles was part of a vanishing tradition in Georgia of long serving, old school sheriffs. In many ways he ran Long County. If you wanted something done with one phone

call, you dialed his number and his influence did not end at the county line. Using his extensive Rolodex, which may have not been a rolodex, but it certainly was not an email list, of elected officials, and agency heads, he always knew just who to call. He fought for everything as if it was the last chance between Long County's survival and its bankruptcy. He secured funding for countless projects and his legacy in South Georgia will be long lasting. Most importantly he never forgot a friend and frequently used two words that have become rare in politics: 'thank you.' In turn today we thank him for his service. I was proud to call him a friend.

WAR MEMORIAL PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 290, the "War Memorial Protection Act," of which I am a proud cosponsor.

H.R. 290 will allow religious symbols to be included as part of a military memorial established or acquired by the U.S. government. This follows past legislation which led to the federal government's acquisition of Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial from the city of San Diego in 2006.

First erected in 1913, the cross on top of Mount Soledad has been a fixture of San Diego for nearly a century. In 1954 the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial was rebuilt and dedicated as a lasting memorial to the dead of the two world wars and the Korean conflict. It is a symbol of the community's respect and honor for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their nation and liberty.

I am a proud defender of the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial. Our Founding Fathers made sure the government did not impose one religion on all people. They also believed religion plays an important role in public life and individuals should be able to freely practice what they believe.

That is why it is so important to pass the War Memorial Protection Act. This bill does not favor one religion over another and it does not make any exclusions. This bill seeks to ensure that religious symbols can also be part of war memorials honoring our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, again I urge passage of H.R. 290.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH GRADE
CLASS AT WHITE OAKS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IN BURKE, VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth grade class at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke, Virginia for their foresight, charity, and patriotism. Recently, these students collected seventy-six dollars and donated it to the United States Treasury to go towards paying down our nation's skyrocketing debt.

At a time when our national debt is over \$15 trillion, these fourth graders have realized we must manage down our debt and get our fiscal house in order. Their selfless contribution towards tackling this problem is a promising sign that the future leaders of our country realize that Washington's out of control spending is growing at an unsustainable rate. Just as any family or business must do, Washington must live within its means so that future generations have the same opportunity to earn success that has always made America so great. I only hope that Americans—young and old—can follow the example set by this remarkable group of young students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in applauding the fourth graders at White Oaks Elementary School for their selfless contribution towards managing down our national debt.

REMEMBERING BING WELCH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the passing of Mr. Bing Welch, city councilman and community leader from Richmond, Indiana.

Bing Welch was born in Tennessee and later attended the University of Tennessee. After serving in the 40th Armor Division in Korea for more than two years, Bing settled in Richmond. There he was employed by ALCOA as a tool designer, but later transferred to North Carolina and Kentucky before settling in Richmond once again in 1969.

His 37-year tenure at ALCOA was marked by several notable accomplishments and opportunities, such as product development of plastic soft drink bottles and pull-tabs on cans. By the time he retired, he was a member of the 25-Year Club and had traveled across the country representing ALCOA in product liability lawsuits.

In the mid 1970s, Bing decided to become more active in the community which he loved so well, and he was appointed to fill a vacant At-Large position on the Richmond Common Council. He would go on to serve on the council, including time spent as president, for an astonishing and admirable 22 years. Bing's legacy of leadership also includes service on the boards for the Richmond Sanitary District, the Parks and Recreation Department and Richmond Power and Light, where he spent time as chairman. Additionally, Bing was a member of the Corridor North Commission that planned the development of U.S. 27 North.

The Richmond community remembers Bing as a man of character who loved God, his family, his community, and his country. He was known for his incredible leadership, honesty, commitment, and integrity. Bing's focus was always on the interests of the people he served, and during his long career in public service and in business, he made Richmond a better place. He and his wife founded the Concerned Citizen coalition, and he also helped start the Jerry Lawrence Memorial Golf Outing.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife of 57 years, Patricia; as well as his daughter

Kristi; son Brian; grandchildren Morgan, Blaine, Jessica, and Nathan; and his many nieces, nephews, and other extended family. May God comfort Patricia and Bing's entire family with the assurance of His grace and with the assurance of the gratitude of the people of Richmond whom he served and loved.

“WHAT'S THE REAL DEFENSE BUDGET?” BY MALLORY FACTOR

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article on behalf of Mallory Factor expressing his opinion regarding the need for transparency with respect to the different roles of our military.

“WHAT'S THE REAL DEFENSE BUDGET?”

[By Mallory Factor]

The new Congress won the election by promising to cut spending, and unsurprisingly the defense budget is on the table for the first time in more than a decade.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently announced \$78 billion in defense spending cuts over the next five years, including reductions in troop levels for the Army and Marine Corps. These types of cuts suggest that the military is working to become leaner and more efficient. Still, many Americans and congressmen are calling for deeper cuts.

Not counting the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Defense budget is expected to be \$553 billion in 2012, up from \$549 billion in 2011. That outlay currently represents 19% of the entire federal budget and over 50% of U.S. discretionary spending; cutting it would go a long way toward reining in government spending. But before further slicing the military budget, Congress must reconsider the military's mission and what activities it should undertake.

The purpose of a large standing army is to provide for our national defense. In essence, the defense budget is an insurance policy that protects the U.S. against threats from other nations and groups. But in recent years a growing percentage of that budget has been spent on activities that don't involve traditional national defense. These include nation-building, policing foreign nations, humanitarian missions and ferrying executive- and legislative-branch leaders and their attendants around the globe. While these activities may be tangentially related to our standing in the world, they do not enhance our war-fighting capabilities; rather they relate more to the success of our foreign policy than to our national defense.

This increase in nondefense missions has been accompanied by a dramatic shift from war-fighting to nation-building. The official White House website now describes the function of the Department of Defense as to “protect national interests through war-fighting, providing humanitarian aid and performing peacekeeping and disaster relief services.” Is war-fighting just one among the many functions we want our military to perform?

Rightly or wrongly, we give our military these various assignments because we don't want to pay someone else to do them, and other government entities currently can't. Yet just because our military can do these jobs doesn't mean that it should. Indeed, these assignments shift focus away from the military's core missions: keeping America safe and winning wars.

Right now it is difficult for Congress to determine how much money is spent on protecting the U.S. The “military” budget gives an exaggerated impression of the cost of our national defense. When Congress adds burdens to the military, direct costs like fuel, food and relief supplies may be calculated and expressed in the budget.

But these items are just a small part of these missions, and the larger costs get buried. These hidden costs include recruiting and training extra troops, purchasing and servicing additional equipment, additional layers of bureaucracy, and maintaining and enlarging bases, none of which are separated out in the budget as relating to nondefense missions.

The military's nondefense activities may or may not be warranted, but their total costs must be transparent. If Congress does not consider these costs separately, traditional defense missions and essential equipment upgrades will be crowded out.

America is a compassionate nation and would surely engage in humanitarian activities even if their true costs were known. But why charge these costs to the defense budget and then hide them? Only by demanding that the military budget be limited to legitimate defense activities can Americans know how many dollars we are actually devoting to our national security.

Some military leaders have privately estimated that if these nondefense-related activities were eliminated or given a separate budget, defense spending could be substantially reduced and at the same time the military's war-fighting capabilities increased. Given this uncertainty, before any additional cuts are made to military spending, Congress must demand transparency with respect to the different roles of our military.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 12 on H. Res. 522, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “yes” when I should have voted “no.”

A TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF JACK KING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my California delegation colleagues Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FARR, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACA, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CHU, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CALVERT and Senator FEINSTEIN, to pay tribute to Mr. Jack King on the occasion of his retirement from the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more than 35 years, Jack King has worked on behalf of our nation's farmers and ranchers to ensure that they have a voice in our nation's capital. His passion for agriculture has made him a strong and effective advocate

for the American Farm Bureau Federation and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin taught Jack the value of hard work, and the important role agriculture plays in America—specifically when it comes to feeding and clothing our families and supporting our economy. Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Jack began his career in agriculture with the university's cooperative extension office. Jack then went on to work for the Wisconsin Council of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. In 1973, Jack ventured west and joined the California Farm Bureau Federation as assistant manager of the information division.

Jack expanded his work with the Farm Bureau, and in 1985, he became news services director for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Based in Illinois, Jack managed internal and external communications and often worked in conjunction with the Washington, DC office to ensure that legislators were connected with farmers and ranchers. In 1994, Jack returned to California to serve as manager of the California Farm Bureau Federation's National Affairs Division. He served as a direct link between farmers, ranchers, and Members of Congress.

Jack's tremendous contributions and dedication can be measured in a number of ways. Notably, Jack made approximately 200 trips to Washington, DC. His deep commitment was based in his belief that legislators needed to hear directly from farmers and ranchers in order to understand their contributions and the difficulties they face. Specifically, Jack has been dedicated to working on comprehensive immigration reform, natural resource regulations, and renewable energy.

Of course none of these accomplishments would be possible without the love and support of Jack's wife, Mary Ann; their sons, Carl, David and Bryan; and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Jack King's enthusiasm and work ethic. His devotion and loyalty to our nation's farmers and ranchers make him a source of pride for our community, state and nation. We thank Jack for his work on behalf of farmers and ranchers in California and all across the country, and wish him well in retirement.

REMEMBERING THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 I was part of a delegation, organized by Christian Solidarity International, that visited Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, I saw horrible conditions: doctors operating without anesthesia using only a stiff dose of cognac; land mines planted by the retreating Azeri army which resulted in injury and amputation of limbs of women and children as well as soldiers and people living in hazardous partially bombed-out apartment buildings in the cities and in lean-tos among the debris of demolished villages.

Upon my return, I urged Congress not to forget the long-suffering people of Nagorno-Karabakh. And I rise today to do the same.

In 1921, Joseph Stalin, then the commissar for nationality affairs in the Transcaucasia Bureau of the Communist Party, declared Nagorno-Karabakh to be an autonomous region controlled by Azerbaijan as part of his divide and rule strategy. Historically, the majority of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh has been Armenian and the people have always had close ethnic, religious and familial ties with Armenia.

In the years leading to the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Karabakh Armenians petitioned in 1987 for inclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh in the state of Armenia. In 1991, they petitioned for independent state status. To date, the situation remains unresolved.

Shortly after the break-up of the Soviet Union, Armenians in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh endured great hardship, including pogroms in Sumgait (February 1998), in Kirovabad (November 1988) and in Baku (January 1990).

A January 19, 1990, New York Times article described the Baku pogrom as a "massacre." That same article also pointed to the violence in 1988, when, "armed Azerbaijanis rampaged through the town of Sumgait and slaughtered 32 people, mostly Armenians."

These horrific acts of targeted violence are as deplorable today as they were more than two decades ago. Tragically, tensions remain high in the region. A January 16 Bloomberg article reported that, "Azerbaijan is buying up modern weaponry to be able to regain control of the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region quickly and with few losses should peace talks with neighboring Armenia fail, President Ilham Aliyev said."

Such acts of aggression would have a devastating impact. It is critical that the U.S. works toward a lasting, peaceful and democratic solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE ON ERNEST SALGADO, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to a great leader and role model Ernest Salgado, Sr. Ernest, the eldest member of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians passed away on January 23, 2012 at the age of ninety-one.

Ernest was born on the Soboba Indian Reservation, in Riverside County, California. He attended high school at Sherman Indian High School, where he was an outstanding athlete and played on the championship baseball team.

When Indians became citizens in 1924, Ernest was the first of his tribe to fill out the U.S. census form. Ernest served his country honorably as a soldier in the Army, where he had an expert shot, having picked up the skill from deer hunting with his grandfather. During World War II, Ernest participated in the landing at D-Day in 1944 and would later pass on the value of service to ones country to his son, Richard who served in the Vietnam War.

After serving his country, Ernest served his tribal community by working at Sherman Indian School and by serving on the Soboba

tribal council during the 1970s. During his time on the Soboba tribal council, Ernest provided great leadership in rebuilding his tribal community and has fostered understanding and respect for Native People in everything that he did. His son Robert Salgado Sr. would later serve on the Soboba tribal council as Chairman of the tribe. As a young man, I have the privilege of knowing Robert and meeting the Soboba Tribe during baseball games on reservations. In my time spent with them, the Soboba tribe always welcomed me and treated me like family.

Ernest is survived by his children, Ernie Salgado Jr., Robert Salgado Sr., Richard Salgado Sr., Lorraine "Raina" Maciel, Francie Diaz and Rose Salgado; his brothers and sisters, Nella Salgado Heredia, Frances Bentiste Arres, Alice Bentiste Helms, Henry "Sonny" Bentiste and William "Billy" Bentiste, as well as a loving family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto City Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer and are with Ernest's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Ernest Salgado, Sr.

HONORING PFC JUAN MEZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commitment and sacrifice of PFC Juan Meza. Mr. Meza served in Company B 399th Infantry Unit during World War II from October 1944 until March 1946 and demonstrated great bravery and dedication as a soldier for the United States Army.

Mr. Meza was born December 15, 1925 in Laredo, Texas. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Europe. During his service, he was wounded twice in combat and remained in-country until 1946 after a cease fire was declared. By March 1946, Mr. Meza was honorably discharged. When Mr. Meza returned to Laredo, Texas, he married Antonia Galvan and together they raised six children. After serving in the Army, he dedicated more than 35 years of service to U.S Customs and Border Protection and retired happily in Laredo.

Mr. Meza is very proud of his time and experiences while serving in the military. Experiences that are only unique to an American hero and veteran are those that he can recall as if it were yesterday. One specific memory beckons Mr. Meza to a cold New Year's Eve day in 1944, when he outwitted a band of German soldiers at a listening post in France and his actions led to saving the lives of several Americans and Allied troops. Every scent he smelled, every sound he heard and every color he saw that day is imprinted in his memory. At 86 years of age, he tells the story with passion and no details are left out when he was triumphant against the enemy for the lives of his brothers and freedom of the nation.

During Mr. Meza's time in the Army he showed great courage and by using his intelligence, knowledge and common sense he not only survived a tremendous war, he also helped young soldiers like himself return home

to their families and loved ones. He is a highly decorated veteran. His awards include the World War II Victory Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, EAME Theater Ribbon and Two Bronze Service Stars, Purple Heart, One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and a Distinguished Unit Badge. He was also nominated for the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military honor that can be awarded to a member of the United States Army for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize Mr. Meza's accomplishments and faithful service to our country. His hard work and valor have truly impacted many lives and our community. Thank you.

APPLAUDING THE FORTUNE
SOCIETY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fortune Society on their continued success. I recently had the honor to support the Fortune Society's partnership with City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice in their effort to provide technical assistance and training to other reentry services organizations. Thanks to their hard work, countless more inmates will transition back into my community with the prospect of a better life.

Under the excellent leadership and vision of Chairperson Ms. Betty P. Rauch, the Fortune Society is doing far more than providing those who have dealt with the harsh realities of incarceration. Their advocacy inspires them and gives them the means to live a positive life in which they can become valuable and contributing members of our society. Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate the Fortune Society on the numerous grants they were recently awarded.

For over 40 years the fortune society has been working with people with criminal records. Today they serve approximately 3,000 men and women annually at three primary New York City-area locations including West Harlem in my Manhattan Congressional District. Thanks to their dedicated and experienced staff of professionals, the Fortune Society is able to successfully offer: Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), drop-in services, employment services, education, family services, health services, housing services, substance abuse treatment, transitional services such as the Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (R.I.D.E.) program, recreation, and lifetime aftercare.

I look forward to seeing all that the Fortune Society accomplishes in the coming year. I will continue to serve them proudly and support them in their great cause.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

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 \$15,356,140,493,616.06. We've added \$10,554,735,318,321.78 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.

HONORING JOHN S. CZYSCON FOR
HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. ARMY
DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a very special veteran for his service to our nation during World War II.

Mr. John S. Czynscon was a member of the United States Army and served in the Pacific Theater. Mr. Czynscon was in harm's way numerous times and involved in serious combat. His heroism and bravery were recognized through his awards: the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze battle stars and arrowhead attachments.

Mr. Czynscon served as a Technician Fifth Grade, with the Second Battalion 188th Glider Infantry during his service to the Army. He joined the Army in 1943 and was honorably discharged in 1946 after providing honest and faithful service to this country.

Mr. Czynscon will turn 92 this spring and he lives in New York Mills, New York. It is a privilege and an honor to have veterans like Mr. Czynscon residing in the 24th Congressional District. His service to our country should always be a great source of pride. To serve one's nation is among the most noble and selfless acts available to man, particularly during times of war. Thank you, Mr. Czynscon. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Technician Fifth Grade John S. Czynscon, United States Army, for his service and sacrifice during World War II on behalf of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRIS
TURNERY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a lifelong educator and political activist. Chris Turney passed away in December at the age of 60. Chris dedicated her life to the education of children. Chris was a music teacher for 34 years, and spent the

last 20 years of her career teaching at Lincoln Junior High School in Skokie, Illinois. Ms. Turney, as she was known by her students, shared her passion and love for music with many students over the years. She played a variety of musical instruments including the piano, flute, piccolo and guitar. She frequently used these instruments in her classroom. Most importantly, Ms. Turney inspired hundreds of children to follow their dreams. Ms. Turney encouraged all her students to believe in themselves and their own unique skills and abilities as they moved through life.

Outside of the classroom, Chris was a political activist fighting for a better education system. Chris was a lifelong Democrat and very active in the National Education Association (NEA). She was president of the Skokie-Morton Grove Education Association, was the Region 36 Chair of the Illinois Education Association, and eventually became an NEA State Director. As a State Director, Chris was frequently on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress. Some of Chris's favorite moments in her life were shaking hands with President Clinton and then Senator Barack Obama. After retiring from her teaching career, Chris continued to be politically active. She served as the President of the DuPage Chapter of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, a position she held until her death. She was an advocate for public education and for better schools for our children.

Chris will be missed dearly by her former students, colleagues, friends and family. She is survived by her life partner of 30 years, James C. Keating, her sisters Judy Goldsmith and Linda Turney, and three nephews. She encouraged all three of her nephews to follow their dreams which they have done. Her oldest nephew Rob Goldsmith is currently an education and labor staffer for Congressman BRUCE BRALEY. Jeff Goldsmith is a very successful musician who has written and recorded numerous songs and albums. Mark Goldsmith, the youngest nephew, is currently an engineering student and baseball player at the Colorado School of Mines. Her memory and influence lives on through them.

Chris's memory will live on through the people whom she inspired for years to come. She was an agent of change to many. If you knew Chris well, she changed your life. Her uplifting, energetic, and positive attitude will be missed and she will not be forgotten.

WARREN BUFFETT'S SECRETARY
NOT SYMBOL OF ECONOMIC IN-
JUSTICE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, billionaire Warren Buffett's longtime secretary has become a symbol in the current Administration's fight over the tax code and economic fairness. While she was the President's chief stage prop in a show of the alleged unfairness of our tax system, this is hardly the truth.

The national media have painted this as a case of the little person paying a higher tax rate than her billionaire boss. Thankfully, Forbes and a few media outlets have researched the facts. By reviewing the Internal

Revenue Service's own detailed tax tables by income level, Forbes has determined she likely makes between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

The national media have not done their homework on Mr. Buffett's longtime secretary. They have misled the American people on the important issue of income taxes and capital gains investments that help create jobs. We need to remind the national media of their obligation to provide the American people with the facts.

DENNIS KELLY—COMMUNITY
BANKER, COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important leaders in the economy of southeastern Massachusetts is about to retire.

E. Dennis Kelly, Jr. joined Bristol County Savings Bank in 1977 as Operations Manager and held various titles before being named the President and CEO in 1993. Mr. Kelly has held this position for the past 18 years, but will retire as the 12th President of Bristol County Savings on March 13, 2012. During his tenure, Mr. Kelly was instrumental in creating the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation in 1996, first serving as President and currently as Chairman.

Mr. Kelly has been a community leader and has made a difference in the lives of many organizations, families and individuals throughout the regions where Bristol County Savings Bank operates. Under his leadership, the Bristol County Savings Bank and the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation awarded \$1.1 million in grants last year and more than \$8.0 million in total to area organizations since 1996. In addition to the significant financial support provided by the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation, he has personally invested his time and expertise to help develop solutions that addressed community needs. In this role, he currently holds leadership positions in various organizations including Chairman of the Depositors Insurance Fund; former President and current member of the Board of Directors of Annawon Council of Boys Scouts of America; Trustee of the Augat Foundation; member of the Board of Directors of the Attleboro YMCA and Capital Campaign Chairman; Immediate Past Chairman and Current member of the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater State University Foundation; member of the Board of Directors of the Taunton Development Corporation; member of the Board of Directors of the Sturdy Memorial Hospital Foundation; member of the Board of Directors of the Old Colony Historical Society; Incorporator of the United Way of Greater Attleboro Taunton; Board Member of FAIR, Friends of Attleboro Interested in Revitalization; Incorporator of the Hockomock YMCA; and Incorporator of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island.

Over the years, Mr. Kelly has contributed his time and talent to many other organizations as well and has held leadership positions in various banking and professional associations including Chairman of the Massachusetts Bankers Association; Chairman of the Massa-

chusetts Bankers Charitable Foundation; former Regional Chairman of the New England School of Banking; President of the Heart of Taunton; President of the Route 44 Businessman's Association; Treasurer of the Southeastern Massachusetts Manufacturing Partnership and President of the Taunton Kiwanis Club. In addition he has also served as Chairman of the Board & Campaign Chairman of the United Way of Greater Attleboro-Taunton; Trustee of Morton Hospital & Medical Center; member of the Rotary Club of Taunton; member of the President's Advisory Council for Bishop Feehan High School and Chairman of the St. Mary's Education Fund Dinner.

Mr. Kelly earned a BA in History Education from Providence College in 1969 and was a graduate of the National School of Banking at Fairfield University.

Mr. Kelly resides in Attleboro with his wife, Michelle. They have two sons Thomas and Robert and three grandchildren, Madison, Chace and Landon.

“OCCUPY WALL STREET . . . NEXT STOP, ATHENS?” BY MALLORY FACTOR

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article on behalf of Mallory Factor expressing his opinion regarding the need for significant reforms and spending cuts in spite of the social unrest they may cause.

“OCCUPY WALL STREET . . . NEXT STOP, ATHENS?”

[By Mallory Factor]

In the past few weeks Americans have watched with interest, bemusement and anger as protests and sit-ins on Wall Street have sparked similar demonstrations around the country. With vague goals of combating corporate greed and calls to rectify all manner of social and economic inequality, this movement seems, to the press at least, to capture a mood of deep discontent among the American people.

But if you think a thousand protesters on Wall Street is a trouble sign for our nation, wait until you see the civil unrest that follows the reforms and cuts to government programs needed to bring our national debt under control. Just look at Greece, where government is being reformed, drastic cuts are being made—and the society is unraveling. In Greece a series of severe austerity measures has been imposed as conditions for recent bailouts by the International Monetary Fund and the other members of the single European currency, the euro. Yet the economy continues to spiral downward.

And with each new round of reforms in Greece, misery and unrest are on the rise. Strikes and angry street protests are a daily occurrence, as unions fight decreases in pay and benefits for their workers, students protest the lack of opportunity and ordinary citizens resist reforms and tax increases. The confrontation with authorities is impeding business and destroying tourism, deepening the crisis further.

Some of that struggle is for naught. The Greek government couldn't reduce austerity measures if it wanted to. Fiscal policy is now out of its hands and likely to remain so for decades, perhaps generations.

And while most Greeks agree the bloated state must be streamlined, they're stiffening their resistance to reform. That's why many in the euro zone believe Greece must default in order to rebuild a more efficient government.

America isn't in that predicament—yet. But there are cautionary lessons to be lifted from the outraged streets of Athens. As the Greek example shows, government largesse is easy to expand but difficult to cut back without inflaming people.

For years our politicians have framed increases to government benefits as compassionate and obligatory. Now all that overspending must be pared back and government programs reformed to curb the federal deficit. But each round of needed cuts and reforms will likely cause misery—in an amount substantially greater than the happiness generated by spending increases.

Behavioral economics, which uses social and psychological factors to predict a population's decision-making behavior, captures this paradox in two fundamental principles.

First, the principle of “loss aversion” explains that people hate to lose something more than they value receiving something. So, even if many Americans don't value existing government programs and spending very highly, they will likely be very unhappy about the loss of those same goods and services.

Second, even if you streamline our government and make programs more efficient, the “endowment effect” predicts that people will still oppose changes to the benefits they receive. This is because people tend to value the goods and services they have more than they do equivalent replacement goods and services. The endowment effect makes it very difficult to exchange existing benefits for new ones and thus to “reform” government programs.

Whether we cut spending and make reforms now or later, course correction will be difficult and even potentially dangerous to our nation's stability. Just look at the resistance of public employees in Wisconsin, Indiana and elsewhere to relatively minor cuts to see how people will contest vigorously any decreases to their benefits and programs.

Behavioral economics teaches us that any time we make changes and reduce government benefits and programs, we can expect people to be very upset about those decisions—and likely resist them. Still, we need significant reforms and deep cuts to put the U.S. on track toward a balanced budget.

Paring back government will undoubtedly cause misery and social dislocation. However, “death” by a thousand small cuts will intensify civil unrest and may produce revolutionary fervor unlike anything we've seen in America in our lifetime. Our nation will be better off by reforming our system radically, in a single dramatic turn, rather than piecemeal—or face something very like the furious streets of Athens.

RECOGNIZING THE 2011–2012 RECIPIENTS OF THE “IN HOPE FREEDOM RINGS FOUNDATION” SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2011–2012 “In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation” Scholarships.

Founded in 2005 by local businesswoman and former teacher Margo Friedman, the In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation (IHFR) provides 2 scholarships, each in the amount of \$10,000, to deserving Fairfax County Public Schools seniors. The scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence, financial need, extracurricular activities, and community service. Due to the generosity of its sponsors, IHFR has awarded \$130,000 to Fairfax County students in just 6 years.

I extend congratulations to the following recipients of the 2011–2012 In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation Scholarships:

Elizabeth Knippler, Chantilly High School
Hanan Awel, Robert E. Lee High School

Fairfax County often is ranked as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. Our exceptional public school system is a significant factor in this ranking and the success of public-private partnerships like IHFR between our local business community and our schools serves to enhance and strengthen not only the educational opportunities for our children but also our community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2011–2012 Scholarship awardees Elizabeth Knippler and Hanan Awel for their accomplishments and in thanking the In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation and their sponsors who have made these grants possible.

RECOGNIZING GLAUCOMA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a founding Member of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus to recognize the importance of promoting awareness for the sight-stealing disease known as glaucoma. Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States, which currently afflicts 2.2 million Americans and over 60 million people worldwide. In addition to affecting the elderly who are commonly at risk, glau-

coma is especially prevalent in black and Hispanic communities. Blacks are 17 times more likely to go blind from glaucoma, compared to whites of similar age.

Glaucoma, one of many eye diseases that can lead to blindness, is caused by damage to the optic nerve that sends images to the brain. The scariest aspect of this condition is that there are no perceivable symptoms or physical signs—hence referred to as the “silent thief of sight.” Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma yet.

Fortunately, glaucoma can be treated early before it worsens by attending regular eye-screenings to detect symptoms. That is why the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a bipartisan coalition since its founding in 2000, is dedicated to advocating awareness and treatment across America. Thanks to the subsequent creation of our active partner in the field, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, 10,000 free annual treatments are conducted nationwide with a percentage referred to follow-up specialists. The Foundation was originally funded by private sector grants, but its success now garners funding from government agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I encourage my fellow Americans to take advantage of free screenings provided by the Foundation across this great nation. In Congress, I will continue to fight potential budget cuts that would obstruct advances in medical research directed at finding a cure for glaucoma.

H.R. 1148—STOCK ACT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge our House leadership to schedule a vote on the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, or “STOCK Act,” filed by my friend and colleague Congressman WALZ of Minnesota. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this common-sense legislation, which would prohibit Members of Congress

from profiting from the nonpublic information to which we are often privy.

It is just plain common sense that we, as Members of Congress, should be held to the same standard as the American people we represent when it comes to insider trading. It is not right when a company executive does it, and it's not right when a Member of Congress does it.

The fact that action has not been taken sooner to clearly prohibit a Member of Congress from acting for personal gain on such information is frankly shocking.

Over the past several months, the American people have been increasingly vocal that enough is enough. It is high time for the Congress to come together to pass this bill and send a strong message that Congress should, and will, play by the same rules as everyone else.

Just as we have passed Wall Street reform in the 111th Congress; we must act now to ensure that the law is crystal clear when it comes to the activities of our own colleagues. Personal financial gain from non-public information cannot be tolerated.

In this very chamber last week, President Obama made special mention of his support for the STOCK Act, calling on Congress to “send me a bill that bans insider trading by Members of Congress, and I will sign it tomorrow.”

Like many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I have received countless calls and emails from my constituents urging the Congress to answer the President's call and bring debate of the STOCK Act to the House floor for a vote.

Congress must waste no time in coming together to pass this bill in a strong bipartisan fashion, and by doing so, restore the American people's trust in the integrity of the system, the democratic process, and their elected officials.

I urge our leadership in the House to respond to the President's call to action by following the Senate's lead in bringing the STOCK Act to the Floor for debate, and to schedule a vote on this sensible and responsible legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for January 2012.

210, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 7

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the outlook for United States monetary and fiscal policy.

SD-608

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Leon Palmer, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Phyllis Marie Powers, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Republic of Nicaragua, Jonathan Don Farrar, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, and Julissa Reynoso, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine bolstering the economy, focusing on helping American families by reauthorizing the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to India, Department of State.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine accessible technology, focusing on challenges and opportunities.

SD-G50

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, and Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, USA, for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general and to be Chief of Engineers, and Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 1904, to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, and the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2009.

SD-366

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice's opinion on internet gaming, focusing on what's at stake for tribes.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

FEBRUARY 15

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine energy and economic growth for rural America.

Room to be announced

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine energy development in Indian country.

SD-628

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Au-

thorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 29

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine strengthening conservation through the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for Veterans' Programs.

SR-418

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 7

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

SD-G50

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program;

with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

MARCH 20

erans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.
SD-G50

MARCH 14

Time to be announced
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine healthy food initiatives, local production, and nutrition.

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

MARCH 22

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.
345, Cannon Building

Room to be announced

SD-G50

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.

MARCH 21
Time to be announced
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Vet-

MARCH 28

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, and Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
SR-418