

knowledge put her in the perfect position to train new employees of the records division.

Ms. Peterson's meticulous attention to detail and hard work have earned her the respect and admiration of her co-workers. Her passion for baking also made her a very popular member of the department; she frequently shared broccoli quiche and cupcakes with her colleagues.

Vera Peterson graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in San Francisco and received her Associate Degree in criminology from City College of San Francisco.

She and her husband of 28 years, John, live in Montara. They have one daughter, Tiffany.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the devoted service of Vera Peterson to the residents of Daly City. Her high standards and exemplary commitment to the community will be a difficult act to follow for any future records clerk.

TRIBUTE TO MARIESSA FLYNN

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Mariessa Flynn, upon her retirement from my Somerset district office following three decades of service.

"Resa" has been my right hand on many issues impacting constituents of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District over the last 30 years. However, she found the greatest joy in serving thousands of veterans of our U.S. Armed Forces, assisting them with everything from financial struggles to replacing lost war medals. Countless veterans visit my Somerset District Office each year, because they know they have a friend in Resa Flynn, who will go to every length to help them in their time of need. Resa's loyalty, passion and persistence will be missed as she enters retirement.

Outside my Congressional office, Resa has served as a long-time leader for the Pulaski County Republican Party and the Pulaski County Lincoln Club. She has always led with a strong voice, stout convictions, and has been a tireless advocate for many worthy community projects across the region.

Resa is also a talented crafter and uses her spare time to crochet the most beautiful afghans for families and friends in the Somerset area. She is also a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mrs. Mariessa Flynn, upon her retirement from my Somerset district office following three decades of service.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Resa Flynn on her retirement, as we also commend her for 30 years of service to the people of southern and eastern Kentucky.

MARQUIS ALEXANDER, FUTURE  
COMMANDER OF TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY'S CORPS OF CADETS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African American to become commander of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets. Currently Marquis is a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in International Studies.

HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT TAMU

The history of African-Americans at Texas A&M University dates back to the founding of the institution. African-Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act in 1866, which established the A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African-Americans worked at A&M as laborers, maids, custodians and various other support staff; however they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty.

The history of African-Americans at A&M has been shaped by decades of racial segregation, quiet desegregation, and attempts to redress historical wrongs. It has been filled with lifelong struggles and determination to fulfill a dream which was accomplished when A&M opened the doors in 1963 to African Americans. The past 37 years have been a continuing struggle by African-Americans and A&M to ensure that the dream is kept alive.

The first African-Americans joined the corps in 1964. The first female cadets came a decade later. In A&M's centennial year, Fred McClure won election as body president, making him the first to be equal to that of Corps Commander and Aggie Yell Leader.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights is a subject that cannot be ignored or taken lightly, even in this day of progressive movement toward tolerance. We must not lose sight of the continued need for civil rights. We must not relax our initiatives which build greater racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance. While I believe that there is still work to be done on the issue of civil rights and hurdles to overcome, we cannot ignore the progress that has been made as the result of decades of hard work, diligence, the sweat and tears of many of our country's civil rights trailblazers. This is evidenced by an increase in the numbers of minorities attaining leadership positions in the private and public sectors for example: Ken Chenault, an African American who currently serves as the CEO of American Express; Ursula Burns, who became the first African American woman to serve as Chairman and CEO of Xerox a Fortune 500 Company; and Antonio Perez, the first Latino American to serve as CEO of Eastman Kodak Corporation to name a few.

BACKGROUND ON MARQUIS ALEXANDER

He is the oldest of 10 children and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Mr. Alexander is currently a Corporal in the Marine reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the Corps. Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of

having the most graduates to enlist in our nation's armed forces when compared to other nonmilitary academies.

Marquis Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston! And our city is proud of his achievements. Marquis has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so "gung-ho" military that he participated in Texas A&M's Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received his letter of acceptance to Texas A&M University.

Yet, true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and spent a year and a half on active duty. He subsequently reverted from active duty status and is serving the remainder of his enlistment commitment in the Marine Corps Reserves. He re-applied for admission to Texas A&M in 2009 and was promptly accepted.

He was selected following a rigorous review process in which a host of cadets are considered when leadership selections are made each year. Soon he will assume duties as cadet colonel of the corps, the 2,100 member organization's top leadership position, also known as corps commander, and one of the three top positions on campus, along with that of student body President and Yell Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Alexander for aiming high and continuing to strive above and beyond his primary goals of joining the military. He is a mentor and guiding light to those who know him. I congratulate Mr. Marquis Alexander on his achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
GOLF DAY

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 18 as National Golf Day. This is a day where the leaders of the golf industry are able to meet with members of Congress and discuss the continued growth and importance of the sport.

Of course golf is not just a sport. The golf industry generates over \$76 billion annually in economic activity, and sustains over 2 million jobs. The golf industry has a direct and substantial impact on the economy, jobs and tax revenues in communities across this country. Through this growth, golf is no longer the exclusive sport of the privileged, the wealthy, and the upper class. The industry has become more democratized, and people of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds are able to participate.

I applaud the golf industry for its commitment to environmental sustainability. As technology advances, golf course architects and landscape engineers are able to design and maintain courses that are economically viable and environmentally friendly. For example, technological advances have made it possible to employ more efficient irrigation techniques using recycled water.

In my home state of California there are over 900 golf courses, generating an average annual revenue of \$15.1 billion. California's gorgeous courses are huge tourist magnets and provide 160,000 jobs for Californians. I