

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting:

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my support for the Sportsmen's Heritage Act, H.R. 4089. This bill would improve access to public lands for our hunters, fishers, and recreationists. By passing H.R. 4089, we will ensure that public lands will continue to be used and enjoyed by sportsmen across the country.

While many of us support H.R. 4089, I do have reservations about some of the bill's details. Specifically, titles I and II of this bill require new procedures for approved closures of public lands. Federal land management agencies currently have a process in place for closures that includes public notice, review, and approval at the local, state, or federal level depending on the individual situation. I believe these decisions are best made by local land managers who are uniquely familiar with the lands, the people, and the potential hazards. I am concerned that adding additional closure approval steps by people removed from the local areas will delay, or even discourage, closures that are based on sound science, and for the safety of the people and protection of the environment.

I also believe that hunting, fishing, and recreation are often compatible with the goals of public lands, including wilderness designation. However, there are some activities that are not. Oil and gas development, mining, logging, and motorized vehicle use outside of designated areas counter the goals of current wilderness management. In addition, these activities also run counter to the intent of H.R. 4089 by further restricting sportsmen's access. These restrictions on activities in Wilderness Areas should be explicitly stated in the bill and should not leave any room for misinterpretation.

Finally, I am discouraged to see the incorporation of an amendment to H.R. 4089 that would undermine the ability of the President to designate National Monuments under the Antiquities Act. This is a process that has protected some of our most precious national treasures and cultural heritage sites. I agree that local support should be weighed heavily when considering National Monument designations, but additional legislative road blocks are unnecessary.

I commend my colleagues in the House for supporting sportsmen's access to public lands, and I hope to see their enjoyment continue in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. We need to keep public lands open when

feasible, while also allowing for closures in a timely manner if it is in the best interest of public safety or environmental protection. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues to make sure these concerns are addressed as H.R. 4089 moves forward.

COASTAL KIDS PRESCHOOL

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible community effort in Maine at the Coastal Kids Preschool in Damariscotta.

The program at Coastal Kids began in 1995, and has since become a community staple, welcoming any child regardless of income or special needs.

Their hard work and dedication to quality and equitable education has given them a place of honor within the community. Which is why when they had to expand in order to better meet the needs of the community, stakeholders from all over the mid-coast came together.

On April 23, 2012, the Coastal Kids Preschool will formally unveil their new facility. With the help of many businesses and USDA Rural Development, an opportunity for a head start in life has been afforded to more children. I applaud this effort and wish the teachers, students, and parents all the best in their new home.

HONORING KAYLA COX

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Kayla Cox is a senior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

The definition of democracy is a government by the people with the component of majority rules. The United States of America has an altered version of democracy known as a representative democracy. The model according to which our government

functions allows the opportunity to be as close to a democratic government as possible with such a large population. Many question what the importance is in being involved in the political process. Being an active participant in politics is necessary to protect the interests of this diverse nation and is a demonstration of respect for our country.

America is composed of people from all backgrounds; including ethnicity, economic level, religious, and moral. Each person forms their opinions based on their previous experiences. This diversity and privilege to form our own opinions is a core value of our nation. If people were to choose not to express their opinions, whether it be through voting or various other means, then policies would not be as diverse. The government would start to represent the minority of the population, and would be run by the people for which that minority voted.

The United States was built upon the belief that people should have certain freedoms that cannot be taken away. Many individuals and groups have worked vigorously to mold our country into the desirable place it is today, and to extend those rights to more of the American population. In addition, they have worked to influence the extension of those rights to foreign countries. Americans have sacrificed their lives to give us the life of freedom we enjoy today. Participation in politics has shaped policies that, in turn, have improved the lives of fellow Americans. This participation can take many forms ranging from something as simple as making an issue known to coordinating with other people to directly influence elected representatives.

Although some people may believe that they cannot make a difference by voting or raising awareness on an issue, the proof that they can lies in the stories of the one's who did. Political Participation is vital to the policymaking process because the voices of the American people matter, and they are the key to maintaining this country's standards that have been set by those before us.

OBSERVING WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense respect that I rise today in remembrance of the many men and women who have lost their lives in the workplace and to honor those who have fought tirelessly to improve conditions for workers throughout the United States. On April 28, 2012, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and union members nationwide will once again gather in various locations in observance of Workers Memorial Day. The great men and women of America's unions will pause to pay tribute to the many workers whose lives have been lost, and the millions who have become ill, due to accidents and unsafe conditions in the workplace. They will also reinforce their commitment to improving conditions for future generations to come.

• 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.

In the United States today, an average of twelve men and women per day go to work and never make it home to their families, having lost their lives due to an accident in the workplace. Unfortunately, many of these accidents could have been prevented. Under outstanding leaders such as AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, Indiana AFL-CIO President Nancy Guyott, and Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor President Dan Murchek, AFL-CIO union members have continued the flight of their predecessors to ensure that the lives lost were not in vain.

Since the passage of the landmark Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the unions of the AFL-CIO have been instrumental in a movement toward the Act's goal that all American workers would have the right to a safe workplace. The AFL-CIO and its unions are to be commended for their contributions to the passage of OSHA and many of the subsequent laws and regulations involving workplace safety. It is because of the organization and demands of labor unions that employers and the government have acted to improve the quality of life of the American workforce.

In Northwest Indiana, the steel industry has played a vital role in supporting our local communities and stimulating the economy. On April 26, 2012, in accordance with Workers Memorial Day, United Steelworkers members will pay a special tribute to their fallen comrades whose lives have been cut short in the workplace. These fine men and women will forever be remembered by their devoted colleagues and a grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in observance of Workers Memorial Day, and in remembering the many workers who have lost their lives on the job, while honoring the hardworking, loyal men and women of America's unions who have taken up the struggle to improve safety conditions in the workplace. The great men and women of our unions are the finest representation of America's workforce, and I am proud to represent the many dedicated men and women of labor unions throughout Northwest Indiana. Their unwavering commitment to their fellow workers is to be admired.

CONGRATULATING MARK DAHLBERG FROM THE VILLAGE OF GRANTSBURG ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 43 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable contributions made by Mr. Mark Dahlberg, a retired Trustee for the Village of Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

Mr. Dahlberg has served the public at the local government level for a total of 43 years—as Village President (1995–2009), and twice as a Trustee (1969–1995, 2009–2012).

During his time in office, the small northwestern Wisconsin Village of Grantsburg has seen unprecedented economic growth. Today, this town is considered to be the main manufacturing hub in Burnett County. With Mr. Dahlberg's facilitation, tax increment financing

and the expansion of water services became effective instruments allowing local industries to grow and expand. Mr. Dahlberg's top priority had always been increasing economic development and job creation in Grantsburg.

These accomplishments made by Mr. Dahlberg in Grantsburg illustrate an ideal relationship between the public and private sector. He has shown that government can work with business to create the environment necessary for sustained economic growth and development, even during difficult economic times.

I commend and thank Mr. Dahlberg for all of the years he has served the public, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes to him on the occasion of his retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of one of the darkest chapters in human history, the Armenian Genocide. Today, April 24, marks the 97th commemoration of the first genocide of the 20th Century where Ottoman Turkish authorities ordered the systematic annihilation of more than 1.5 million Armenians. The Armenian Genocide was carried out from 1915 to 1923 through massacres, deportations, and death marches where hundreds of thousands were herded into the Syrian Desert to die of thirst and starvation. Sadly, to this day this chapter of history has yet to be admitted by the Government of Turkey.

Many international observers, including then Ambassador and later U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, witnessed the nightmare firsthand and reported detailed accounts of the atrocities to their governments. Respected organizations and eminent scholars and historians agree and recognize the Armenian Genocide, including the Elie Wiesél Foundation for Humanity and the renowned International Association of Genocide Scholars. Their judgments are supported by 53 Nobel laureates who signed an open letter to the Government of Turkey on April 9, 2007. I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a listing of those Nobel laureates.

Mr. Speaker, the historical record is clear and the Armenian Genocide is a tragic fact. It must be acknowledged and remembered so that it will never be repeated.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I know that the refusal of modern-day Turkey to acknowledge one of the worst examples of man's inhumanity in the 20th Century haunts survivors of the Armenian Genocide, as well as their families. As a Member of Congress from California, which is home to more Armenian-Americans than any other state, I believe this is not only an affront to the memory of the victims and to their descendants, but it does a disservice to the United States as it seeks to stand up for the victims of violence today.

The issue of recognizing the Armenian genocide and helping the Armenian people is neither a partisan nor geopolitical issue. Rather, it is a question of giving the Armenian peo-

ple the justice they deserve. In doing so, we affirm the dignity of humankind everywhere.

It has been said that "all it takes for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing." This is one of the reasons I am proud to have joined with so many of my colleagues in co-sponsoring the resolution affirming the occurrence of the Armenian genocide throughout my career in Congress. I will continue to do for as long as it takes.

In recognizing the Armenian Genocide we do not seek to persecute any person or state; we seek to build a path that will lead to reconciliation between Armenians and Turks. And in doing so, we will remain true to our nation's highest aspirations for justice and peace. It was President Lincoln who called upon the "better angels of our nature" when he said in his Second Inaugural Address that all Americans should "do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian Genocide has been officially recognized by 42 states. These States have gone on public record rejecting any claim or assertion that denies the occurrence of one of history's worst crimes against humanity. I believe it is time for us to join these nations in that endeavor by passing H. Res. 304, the "Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution."

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the millions of silenced voices and interrupted lives of those Armenians who perished between 1915 and 1923 in the genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire.

LIST OF 53 NOBEL LAUREATES URGING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Peter Agre, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2003); Sidney Altman, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1989); Philip W. Anderson, Nobel Prize, Physics (1977); Kenneth J. Arrow, Nobel Prize, Economics (1972); Richard Axel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2004); Baruj Benacerraf, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1980); Gunter Blobel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1999); Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize, Physics (1992); Steven Chu, Nobel Prize, Physics (1997); J.M. Coetzee, Nobel Prize, Literature (2003); Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Nobel Prize, Physics (1997); Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Prize, Peace (1976); Robert F. Curl, Jr., Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996); Paul J. Crutzen, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1995).

Frederik W. de Klerk, Nobel Prize, Peace (1993); Johann Deisenhofer, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1998); John B. Fenn, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2002); Val Fitch, Nobel Prize, Physics (1980); Jerome I. Friedman, Nobel Prize, Physics (1990); Donald A. Glaser, Nobel Prize, Physics (1960); Sheldon Glashow, Nobel Prize, Physics (1979); Roy J. Glauber, Nobel Prize, Physics (2005); Clive W.J. Granger, Nobel Prize, Economics (2003); Paul Greengard, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000); David J. Gross, Nobel Prize, Physics (2004); Roger Guillemin, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1977); Dudley R. Herschbach, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986).

Avram Hershko, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2004); Roald Hoffman, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1981); Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Prize, Economics (2002); Eric R. Kandel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000); Aaron Klug, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1982); Edwin G. Krebs, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1992); Sir Harold W. Kroto, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996); Finn E. Kydland, Nobel Prize, Economics (2004); Leon M. Lederman, Nobel Prize, Physics (1988); Anthony J. Leggett, Nobel Prize, Physics (2003); Rudolph A. Marcus, Nobel Prize,

Chemistry (1992); Daniel L. McFadden, Nobel Prize, Economics (2000); Craig C. Mello, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2006).

Robert C. Merton, Nobel Prize, Economics (1997); Marshall W. Nirenberg, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1968); Sir Paul Nurse, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2001); Douglas D. Osheroff, Nobel Prize, Physics (1996); Martin L. Perl, Nobel Prize, Physics (1995); John C. Polanyi, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986); Stanley Prusiner, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1997); José Ramos-Horta, Nobel Prize, Peace (1996); Richard J. Roberts, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1993); Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize, Literature (1986); Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize, Peace (1986); Betty Williams, Nobel Prize, Peace (1976); Kurt Wüthrich, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2002).

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARCI
McCARTHY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, the public safety of our citizens is the foremost priority of our government; and

Whereas, Ms. Marci McCarthy has given and continues to give exceptionable and distinguished service by providing guidance, protection and leadership in protecting our public and private sectors in cyberspace; and

Whereas, Ms. McCarthy gives of herself to insure that our Nation can foster greater professionalism in the Information Security Industry; and

Whereas, the issue of cybercrimes is of historical importance, and the work of Ms. McCarthy enhances the efforts of our homeland security and local law enforcement agencies; and

Whereas, Ms. McCarthy gives of herself daily without any need for praise and fame, while serving valiantly and making us proud; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Marci McCarthy for her leadership and service to our District and the Nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim March 13, 2012 as Ms. Marci McCarthy Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 13th day of March, 2012.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to remember the genocide against the Armenian people. Although the generation that experienced these atrocities has passed, their suffering has been prolonged by the continued efforts to silence their cries and deny that a genocide occurred.

When words can help bring comfort to those who suffer, silence isolates and inflicts pain. When time marches forward and history becomes more distant, silence erodes the memory of those who were lost. When affirmation

and recognition could prevent such a tragedy from being repeated, silence allows the perpetrators of genocide to assume their actions will meet neither obstacle nor objection. Thus, the ongoing efforts of the Turkish leadership to silence discussion of the Armenian genocide inflict yet another cruelty.

We owe it to the victims of the Armenian genocide, the survivors and their descendants to resist such censorship. That is why I am an original cosponsor of H. Res. 304, a resolution to reaffirm the United States historical record on the Armenian genocide and our own government's bold role protesting the atrocities as they unfolded.

Genocide is not a unique feature of the 20th century, a momentary aberration of human morality. Genocides have continued to occur in the 21st century, and today, we are reminded of our moral obligation to speak out and take action to stop such atrocities and the immense repercussions of our choices.

Today, we will not be silent.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANIE
BELL WILSON STEWART

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mrs. Janie Bell Wilson Stewart, who passed away recently at the age of 76. As an educator, loving mother and wife, and faithful member of her church, Mrs. Stewart was an exemplary member of her community. I would like to take this time to express my deepest condolences to everyone who knew Mrs. Stewart, especially her family and friends.

Mrs. Stewart was born on April 15, 1935 in Waynesboro, Georgia. Six years later, she moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, attending Walker Elementary School of Broward County Public Schools. A vivacious student, Mrs. Stewart was the first to receive a scholarship from the Zeta Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. This scholarship paved the way for her to attend Florida Memorial University, then called Florida Normal College, where she graduated in 1958 with a degree in Education and later became a teacher.

While in college, Mrs. Stewart gave back to her community through her work with the Zeta Rho Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and continued her alliance with her sorority well after she graduated, becoming a golden soror for her service of over 50 years to the organization. This dedication to her sorority and alma mater earned her the Fountain of Excellence Award from Florida Memorial College (University) decades after she graduated.

It was also during college that Janie met her future husband, Milton Stewart, to whom she was married for 48 years. Together, they raised a son and one of their nieces, whom they treated as their own daughter. As a teacher, Mrs. Stewart helped countless children. Her devotion for both her students and career was evident in her long workdays, recognitions for her exceptional teaching, and friendships with other educators.

Always passionate about knowledge, Mrs. Stewart received her Master's in Administra-

tion and Supervision from Nova Southeastern University while holding a job as a teacher. With her graduate degree, Mrs. Stewart went on to become a principal. She served dutifully in this role at three different Broward County elementary schools. Mrs. Stewart continued to serve as a mentor for other teachers and maintained a presence in her former students' lives even after her retirement. Her thirty three-year career as a teacher and principal touched the lives of innumerable children and colleagues in South Florida.

Aside from her family, career, and sorority, Mrs. Stewart was also devoted to her faith. She was a member of First Baptist Church Piney Grove for 69 years, having joined in 1943. There, she served as the Director of the Red Circle of the Society of Missions. Even with her numerous activities, Mrs. Stewart still found time for fun. She enjoyed golfing and received the Palmview Women's Golfing award in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Mrs. Janie Bell Wilson Stewart whose commitment to education, her students, family, and the community will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Stewart's family during this most difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA S.
LANGE FOR HER OUTSTANDING
CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Linda S. Lange. I am honored to recognize Ms. Lange for her Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award nomination. Ms. Lange was nominated for her service as a civil service employee with the United States Air Force, Business Operations Division, 711th Human Performance Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, from 15 December 1975 to 30 April 2012.

During her 37 years of federal service, Ms. Lange displayed superior performance with her loyalty and commitment to the mission at hand. During her tenure in the AFRL, Ms. Lange was given high visibility jobs such as leading Inspector General Unit Compliant Inspections, directing all logistical and protocol functions for the Scientific Advisory Board reviews, and coordinating and managing all activities for the \$293M BRAC MILCON ribbon cutting. Her involvement in this level of activities demonstrates the confidence her leadership had in her ability to perform independently and to meet all expectations.

Ms. Lange's expertise and experience are truly noteworthy and will be greatly missed. Her outstanding performance culminates a long and distinguished career that reflects her commitment and service to our community and nation.

Thus, with great pride, I recognize Linda S. Lange for her long-term commitment to the United States Air Force and I would like to extend best wishes for the future.

MARKING TWENTY YEARS SINCE
THE START OF THE BOSNIAN
CONFLICT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this month marks 20 years since the start of the tragic conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In remembrance, 11,541 red chairs lined the main street of Sarajevo during the first week of April, one for every man, woman and child killed in the beautiful Bosnian capital of Sarajevo when it was a city under siege by militant Serb forces in the surrounding suburbs and hillsides.

Like the memorial in Srebrenica commemorating the genocide three years later in which 8,000 people, mostly men and boys, were slaughtered by forces under the same overall command, the chairs were a sober reminder of how horrific and senseless the violence in Bosnia truly was. They are also a reminder of the international community's complicity in these crimes by its own inaction, when it had the means to intervene and save lives.

The result of the delayed response to aggression against Bosnia plagues the people of that country today. The realities of the conflict, including the ethnic cleansing, were accommodated by compromises in the Dayton Agreement needed to restore peace. While necessary then, today these compromises have allowed political leaders like Milorad Dodik in the entity of Republika Srpska to block at will progress on reforms needed for the county's stability, prosperity and integration. While I welcome positive developments which have taken place in Bosnia in recent months, above all the formation of a new government, it remains disappointing that movement forward is so painfully slow. The people of Bosnia, regardless of their ethnicity, certainly deserve better.

Today those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide continue to be prosecuted at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague, or in the war crimes courts of the countries concerned. This effort is important and warrants international support until the last crime is prosecuted.

Justice alone, however, cannot bring closure to Bosnia's war victims. That is why I introduced a few weeks ago H.R. 4344, which among other actions supports the work of the International Commission for Missing Persons in locating and identifying persons missing as a result of conflicts and supporting the investigation of genocide and mass atrocities. It is also why I now repeat my call made last year for a permanent memorial to be established at the site of the Omarska concentration camp in northeastern Bosnia, so that the survivors of the crimes associated with the ethnic cleansing of that region of the country may also have a place to remember those lost. Such memorials also serve as bulwarks against forces which try to excuse, minimize and even deny the crimes that took place.

As Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission for most of the 20 years since the Bosnian conflict erupted, I have chaired dozens of hearings and introduced numerous pieces of legislation which have

helped to document the atrocities, shape policy responses, and assist in post-conflict recovery. I have also visited the country on numerous occasions. I can assure the people of Bosnia that I and my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission will continue to work for their human rights and the democratic, prosperous future they deserve.

CROSS WALK COMMUNITY
OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible effort in Maine, the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry in Naples.

In a time of such need the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry has been tireless in its efforts to help its neighbors in Western Cumberland County. Twice a month they gather to help residents in the towns of Naples, Sebago, Casco, Bridgton and Harrison with free meals and food boxes. They do this not with a large budget, but with a very dedicated set of volunteers.

Maine is a state that has struggled with food insecurity and the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry is making a small step in eradicating hunger in Maine. Neighborhood efforts like this demonstrate Maine's unbreakable community bond in our fight against hunger in Maine today.

CONGRATULATING JEAN RONNING
OF ASHLAND, WISCONSIN, ON
BEING NAMED THE 2012 PERSON
OF THE YEAR BY THE ASHLAND
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community accomplishments of Jean Ronning of Ashland, Wisconsin, who has been named the 2012 Person of the Year, by the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce. Jean and her husband, Eugene, have owned and operated the Neighborly Bar for over 28 years.

Mrs. Jean Ronning is well known throughout Ashland as an active member in the community and served in many different roles including: President of the Ashland Softball League, and the Ashland Volleyball League; coordinator for events in Ashland such as the King of the Bay Snowmobile Drag Races, the Green Bay Packer Parade, the Ice Fishing Contest; and hostess for benefits at the New Day Shelter, the BRICK Food Shelf, the Ashland Snowmobile Club, and the Relay For Life Cancer Fundraiser. Additionally, Jean is the recipient of the 2010 New Day Shelter's Pasageways to Peace Award.

Overall, Jean is well known for her honorable service to aid those in need by genuinely providing emotional and financial support within the Ashland Community. Her savvy business skills, outgoing personality, and sense for

leadership have allowed her to develop a volunteer support network that helps spearhead community initiatives.

Thanks to the community contributions of outstanding citizens like Jean Ronning, Ashland is rightfully known by many as "Lake Superior's hometown". I ask that my colleagues join me today to express our appreciation for Jean's community leadership and congratulations for receiving Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Person of the Year award.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AMELITO
ENRIQUEZ

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Amelito Enriquez who has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Dr. Enriquez, a Professor of Engineering and Mathematics at Cañada College in Redwood City, California, is one of nine individuals to receive this prestigious award and he will serve as a resource for federal efforts to develop the national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and research sector.

During his 17 years at Cañada College, Dr. Enriquez—or Dr. E as his students like to call him—has demonstrated his commitment to increased participation and success of minorities and women in science, mathematics and engineering.

He has secured over \$10 million in federal and state grants to develop programs such as COMETS, Creating Opportunities for Minorities in Engineering, Technology and Science. COMETS allows students from two-year colleges in San Mateo County to intern at the NASA Ames Research Center for a year and prepares them to be competitive once they transfer to a four-year college.

The Summer Engineering Institute is a two-week program at San Francisco State University for high school students interested in engineering and for community college students already studying engineering who hope to transfer to a four-year college to finish their degrees. The Bridge to Engineering for Veterans program helps veterans to transition from military to engineering careers.

The students of Dr. Enriquez adore him because he is making a difference in their lives. They wrote the letters of support that led to his nomination for the presidential honor. Dr. E understands the importance of encouragement and mentorship. He grew up in the Philippines with what he calls a "me-too complex." As the youngest son, he wanted to be whatever his older siblings or cousins wanted to be, but they told him he couldn't. He recalls thinking that the more people were saying that he couldn't do something, the more he wanted to do it.

Dr. Enriquez wanted to be a priest, a basketball player, but eventually found his calling when he studied Engineering at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. He earned his B.S. in Geodetic Engineering in 1984. After a six-month stint with a large company, he started his own business with friends, taught at his alma mater and then

moved to the United States. He received his M.S. in Geodetic Science from Ohio State University, Columbus in 1989 and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine in 1994.

While looking for teaching positions, Dr. Enriquez discovered the community college system which, he says, appealed to him because the larger universities wanted professors to focus on research while he wanted to focus on teaching. He started teaching at Cañada College in 1994 and almost immediately started securing grants. In his view, bringing in money is just another way to help students succeed.

Dr. Enriquez is the chair elect of the American Society of Engineering Education, Pacific Southwest Section; the vice chair of the American Society of Engineering Education, Two-Year College Division; and a member of both the California Engineering Liaison Council and the California Mathematics Council Community Colleges.

He has received numerous best paper awards from the American Society of Engineering Education, the Hewlett-Packard Excellence in Technology for Teaching Award and the League of California Community Colleges Out-Of-The-Box Thinkers Award, among others.

When Dr. E is not mentoring students and inventing programs, he enjoys music, weight lifting, hiking, and reading.

He and his spouse David Childers live in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Dr. Amelito Enriquez, an exceptional teacher, mentor, and engineer who has opened the hearts and minds of thousands of students to the world of science, math, and engineering.

HONORING IRENE COFIE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Irene Cofie is a senior at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

A JUST OVERSEER

Every man needs a leader: a mentor who will regulate that person's decisions while also serving as an overseer by making sure every decision formulated by the individual is civil and doesn't hold the potential to cause mayhem. In this sense, we as men, have the government as our leader to verify

that the decisions we take are astute and will not result in culpable consequences for the majority. Thus, a government's ideal role can best be described as an equitable overseer of men.

As an overseer, a government should remain open-minded to its citizens' desires and rights. Many governments follow a precept, in hopes of maintaining consistency in laws and regulations within their nation. This precept also limits a government's susceptibility to popular demands that are irrational. For example, in America, our government acts on the precept of securing freedom and civil liberties to its citizens, as established by the United States Constitution. Yet, even though the government of America vigilantly manages citizens' affairs through laws, the American government doesn't aggrandize its power over Americans through cruel tactics. However, in many communist countries, the government enjoins its citizens to do exactly as they command and as a result, many citizens of such nations lack the natural rights they deserve. Therefore, even though the role of a government is to serve as an overseer to its people through laws and rules, it is highly important for a government to not be straitlaced in its governing style. A government should instead regulate the masses to make sure that chaos doesn't erupt, while still granting citizens their natural liberties.

Governments' main concern should be providing a safe environment for citizens while assuring that citizens' freedoms are protected and mandated appropriately; thus, freedoms given to one will not counter the civil rights of another. Even though it is up to government to oversee the protection of the masses, citizens primarily have a higher influence in governing their own actions. As a result, citizens should act to control their behavior in society, instead of receiving condemnation by government in order to enable them to live virtuously. In other words, citizens do not need a "big brother" government to certify that they do not abuse drugs or alcohol. Rather, the axiomatic truth stands that citizens of any government are entitled to behave maturely and govern themselves as individuals.

It is common for citizens to complain that the role of government is too big and extensive. Ultimately though, the fault of this conflict belongs to citizens because it is the responsibility of all citizens to take care of themselves through moral reasoning and laudable ethics; we as citizens, should be caretakers of our own distinct lives. In turn, the government can maintain an efficacious nationhood, through enforcement of logical precepts as an overseer of the masses, not necessarily the individual. In conclusion, the government serves as a protectorate of everyone within its country, making sure that peace and order are maintained through laws and regulations, in benefit of the majority.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In 2010, my colleague, Congressman HONDA, introduced H. Res. 1316 to designate this month as a time to recognize the contributions of Asian Ameri-

cans and Pacific Islanders to the United States. As an original co-sponsor, I reaffirm my commitment to address the concerns and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

The 37th Congressional District of California, which I am honored to represent, is home to one of the largest Asian constituencies in the nation, including large communities of Filipinos, Samoans and Cambodians. In fact, my district is home to the largest Cambodian population in the United States and the second largest Cambodian population in the world outside Cambodia. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and represent my constituents' interests. The month of May was chosen to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage for two significant reasons. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and on May 10, 1860, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. The transcontinental railroad transformed our nation and could not have been completed without the inclusion of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the challenges and adversity that Asian Pacific Americans have experienced, many have forged ahead and made significant contributions to this great nation. History was made with the election of President Obama, the first president to have such significant personal ties to the Asian Pacific community. President Obama spent his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia. Also, one of President Obama's first guests to the Oval Office was the prime minister of Japan, Taro Aso.

This year, the U.S. Census Bureau has released data revealing that the Asian population now represents 6 percent of the total American population. This community has grown faster than any other racial group in the United States at four times the national average. Asian Americans are making significant contributions to the economy and own over 1.5 million businesses, employing 3 million people. The buying power of Asian American communities has also grown dramatically, increasing by 89 percent between 2000 and 2009 from \$269 billion to \$509 billion.

This month, however, also causes us to reflect on some challenges that remain for Asian Pacific Americans. For instance, immigration and language policies continue to disproportionately affect Asian Americans since they are more likely than any other racial group to be foreign-born. Harsh immigration policies and language barriers, therefore, limit many individuals' ability to integrate into American society and access important services. Along similar lines, Asian Americans are twice as likely as non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans to have not seen a doctor in the past five years, and Asian Americans are also more likely to be uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to recognize the achievements of this incredibly diverse community while also addressing their policy concerns. Nevertheless, I have much hope for the future because Americans are working together, hand-in-hand, to ensure the equality and advancement not only of their community, but of all communities.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans this year and for years to come.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER OF FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, ICCF, its board of trustees, and members as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. ICCF is a non-profit religious institution in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley which is dedicated providing spiritual empowerment and support to Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Through their work and educational endeavors, ICCF has been an asset to our community and a true reflection of the rich diversity in our nation.

Since its inception, ICCF has promoted instruction and dialogue in hopes of establishing understanding and harmony among persons of all faiths. An active participant and leader in interfaith collaboration, activities, and discussion, ICCF hosts a number of activities and programs designed to fulfill its goals. ICCF has developed diversity training seminars to provide insight into Islam and the local Muslim community. For example, in 2005, after consultation with Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer, ICCF began providing diversity training to police officers in an effort to increase awareness and knowledge of cultural differences. In 2007, ICCF, the California Health Department, and the Marin Abused Women's Services Center led two training seminars to discuss and advocate the prevention of domestic violence.

In addition to its cultural diversity training efforts, ICCF has also served our community by providing family support services. In partnership with Child Protective Services, CPS, ICCF has ensured that children who are removed from their homes because of safety concerns are able to maintain their cultural norms and traditional practices.

ICCF has worked tirelessly to improve the well-being of our entire community. They have worked with Fresno's Poverello House, an organization that serves the hungry, homeless, and destitute, to collect food and distribute it at schools and homeless areas. Additionally, they have joined efforts with the Marjaree Mason Center, a widely recognized non-profit center for victims of domestic violence, to educate and empower some of our Valley's most vulnerable residents.

As one of the premier faith and culture centers in Central California, ICCF has welcomed students and faculty from a number of educational institutions, including Fresno State, University of Phoenix, Fresno City College, as well as local school districts. Often, visitors learn about the teachings of Islam, women in Islam, as well as Islamic perspectives in areas related to anthropology, sociology, and economics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and recognizing ten years of worship, leadership, and community involvement. The Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno accurately reflects the best of what America has to offer—diversity, understanding, and service.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. Since We the People began in 1987, more than thirty million high school students and ninety thousand teachers have participated in this valuable program that promotes a deeper understanding of the constitutional principles that shape and guide our nation, and instills a sense of civic responsibility in young people.

We the People is an instructional program that enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. Through the program, students discover the relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in present day terms. The We the People program is directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act. This is a program Congress should continue to support.

Teams qualify for the National Finals by prevailing in their regional or state competitions. The national competition is held through a series of simulated congressional hearings, during which students testify as constitutional experts before panels of judges acting as congressional committees. The program enjoys the active participation of members of Congress, as well as support from educational, professional, business, and community organizations across the nation.

This year, more than fourteen hundred students from every part of our country will take part in the National Finals here in Washington. The competition will test students' knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, showcasing their intelligence, determination, and teamwork.

I want to recognize the 24 exceptionally talented and hard working students from Saipan Southern High School in the Northern Mariana Islands, who return to the Finals as repeat regional champions. They have spent many long hours studying and preparing for the competition. Working together and striving for excellence are defining traits of this team. I congratulate them and their teachers and coaches, and wish them all success in this year's We the People competition.

Let me acknowledge each student by name: Ms. Maria Louise Gabriela Atrero; 1Mr. Rufino Aquino, Jr.; Ms. Angelica Awa-Ao; Ms. Akioni Nadine Babauta; Ms. Chelsea Marie Bartolo; Ms. Vanessa Rome Bartolo; Ms. Yunika Mae Biado; Ms. Rachel Nadine Borja; Mr. Don Marshall Davis Cabrera; Ms. Yoon Jae Chung; Ms. Teri-Sue Corpuz; Mr. Derick Dela Cruz; Ms. Jinky Marie Kintaro; Ms. Ji Won Lee; Ms. Allysha Hillary Lloren; Mr. Edward John Manibusan; Ms. Momoko Belle Nishikido; Mr. David Kido Paek; Ms. Rina Park; Mr. Seong Jin Park; Ms. Christine Maebelle Roque; Ms. Christina Marie Sablan; Mr. Mike Aries Vargas; Mr. Keisuke Yoshida.

I would also like to acknowledge the remarkable work and guidance by the team's coordinator Mr. Andrew Golden, coaches Justice John A. Manglona, Deanna Manibusan

Manglona, and Charlotte Sanders, student coach Carmen Borja, and Public School System representative Stephen Smith.

HONORING THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC (GLAA)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Washington, DC institution, which I have the distinct honor and pleasure representing in this body, that has been a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, people: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC, GLAA.

GLAA has, since its founding in April 1971, remained a respected and tireless advocate for political freedom for the District of Columbia and for equal rights for its residents.

GLAA continues in the vanguard of efforts to strengthen enforcement of DC's landmark Human Rights Act of 1977.

GLAA, by working with coalition partners, DC officials and the wider public, implemented a well-crafted plan of grass-roots action and education that helped achieve marriage equality in the District.

GLAA fights to ensure that LGBT residents are treated fairly and respectfully by DC agencies, from the police and fire departments to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to the DC public schools.

GLAA pushes for effective public health strategies and accountability in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

GLAA has rated all DC Mayoral and Council candidates in every election since the establishment of home rule, and uses a system noted for its fairness and nonpartisanship.

GLAA provides leadership in coalition efforts on a wide range of civil rights issues, from family rights to condom availability in prisons and public schools to police accountability.

GLAA activity opposes federal restrictions on the District's budget that adversely affect LGBT people.

GLAA enhances its outreach by maintaining a comprehensive website of LGBT advocacy materials, the GLAA Forum blog, and the DCGayEtc.com news aggregator.

On April 26, GLAA will hold its 41st Anniversary Reception honoring this year's recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Burgundy Crescent Volunteers, The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, Ruby Corado, Jeri Hughes, Will O'Bryan, and Jeffrey D. Richardson.

Burgundy Crescent Volunteers was founded in 2001 as a source of LGBT volunteers for gay and gay-friendly non-profit organizations in the District, Maryland, and Virginia, and brings LGBT singles and couples together for volunteer activities that are social in nature. The group, a non-profit, has over 5,000 members, who have provided over 100,000 volunteer hours to the community. Their good efforts have ranged from doing yard work for GLAA's founder, Frank Kameny, to pruning the cherry trees at the Tidal Basin.

The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, SMYAL, was founded in 1984 to promote and support self-confident, healthy, and

productive lives for LGBT and questioning youth ages 13–21, as they transition from adolescence into adulthood. SMYAL is the only Washington metro area service organization dedicated solely to supporting LGBTQ and questioning youth. The staff and volunteers concentrate on five activities: Life Skills and Leadership Development; Counseling and Support; Health and Wellness Education; Safe Social Activities; and Community Outreach and Education.

Ruby Corado has been a transgender rights activist in DC for over 15 years, focusing on the Latino community in the areas of health care, HIV, human rights, and immigration. She has been tireless and outspoken in defending and assisting transgender people, demanding justice for brutalized and murdered sex workers. She has been at victims' hospital bedsides, at meetings with police officials, and at crime scenes, and has organized vigils, bringing her own experience as a Latina transwoman to bear in promoting the interests of this at-risk community in our city. Ruby has worked as a program manager for Whitman Walker Health, Transgender Health Empowerment, and Latinas En Acción, a group she has led for many years.

Jeri Hughes has persistently and doggedly pressed the District government to increase its employment of transgender people. Her efforts led Mayor Vincent Gray to direct the Department of Employment Services to conduct Project Empowerment job training for transgender citizens. Her efforts to highlight violations of the DC Human Rights Act by the Department of Corrections have led to ongoing efforts by the city and activists to improve the treatment of the city's transgender inmates and detainees. Jeri Hughes helps transgender people every day in her job at Transgender Health Empowerment.

Will O'Bryan is Managing Editor of Metro Weekly, which he joined in 2005 as a community reporter. He previously served as a news reporter and arts editor for the Washington Blade, and as a media liaison for a nonprofit health organization. Prior to that, he was arts and entertainment editor for Just Out, the Pacific Northwest's premier LGBT publication. Will is an unwavering advocate for coverage of the entire breadth of the LGBT community, especially those who are often neglected. In his biweekly column, "Stonewall Baby," he personally engages issues affecting our entire community. He exemplifies the quiet, unheralded commitment of the many people who do the vital work of building community.

Jeffrey D. Richardson is Director of the Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, where he has taken the initiative to connect activists with key agency staff and get results. His tireless efforts have ranged from advocacy within the government to supervising young LGBT interns. He brings to his job the empathy and service-oriented approach that he developed in his career as a social worker. In his prior post as president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, he was a steady leader who worked amicably and productively with GLAA and other advocacy groups and this year's recipients of its Distinguished Service Award.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance.

HONORING MAYOR JOE AFFRONTI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti. In addition to representing the City of Temple Terrace, Florida, Mr. Affronti has also been a strong advocate for Project Gratitude.

Project Gratitude was founded in 2006 by David Lefavor, a retired military chaplain and has been championed by Mayor Affronti. Its mission was to provide military chaplains returning from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan with a three-day complimentary visit to Tampa, Florida. During their stay, the chaplains and their families would visit area attractions including Busch Gardens, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Kennedy Space Center, and local restaurants.

In addition to his loyal support of Project Gratitude, Mayor Affronti enjoys community support in this endeavor from individuals, businesses, and Veterans' Service Organizations including: American Legion Post 152, Suncoast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Tampa Navy League, Busch Gardens, Kennedy Space Center, Lupton's Catering, Chamber of Commerce of Temple Terrace Florida, Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Marriott Towne Place, Hilton Garden Inn—North Tampa, the Marine Corps League of Florida, as well as the Major Samuel Woodfill Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) in Dayton, Ohio.

Due to the drawdown of U.S. military forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, Project Gratitude's mission will conclude with its last reception on April 25th in Temple Terrace, Florida having provided a total of 75 Chaplains and their families with a 3-day "R & R" in appreciation for their service and sacrifice for God and Country.

As Vice Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, it is truly my honor to recognize Mayor Affronti for his dedication to this program and the cause of improving the lives of those who so selflessly gave to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL STAFFORD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carol Stafford, a dear friend and an indefatigable health professional who for 39 years has dedicated her life to nursing and caring for the poor and those in need in San Mateo County. She retired as a triage nurse at Willow Clinic in Menlo Park on March 17, 2012 after a remarkable career that has touched the lives of thousands of county residents.

For almost four decades Carol brought life saving care to patients in the emergency room at San Mateo County General and she spearheaded comprehensive procedures for treating victims of sexual assault at a time when most hospitals had few protocols. She chose to work in facilities (Chope Hospital and Willow

Clinic) that treated the neediest and most vulnerable members of society because she believed that all patients deserve the highest level of medical care, regardless of economic circumstances. One of her patients described her as the nicest person he had ever met, but Carol treated all people the same way—with the utmost kindness, compassion and respect.

On June 10, 1973 Carol graduated from the College of San Mateo with an associate degree in nursing. The next day she started her career working nights on the medical surgical floor at Chope Hospital, which is now San Mateo Medical Center. Two years later she moved to the emergency room and by 1981 she was promoted to Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department. While she was working full time she returned to college and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at California State University at Long Beach.

Back then police had limited protocols for dealing with victims of sexual assault. Often times, assault victims were taken to emergency rooms for a rape kit, but no counseling would be offered. Carol decided she wanted to change that and worked with the emergency room physician manager, the police department and the board of supervisors to develop comprehensive treatments for survivors of sexual assault.

At the time, I was on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and worked with Carol to develop these new standards. Policies and procedures were implemented to train staff. There was always someone on call who knew exactly how to treat victims of sexual assault with both counseling and support and Chope Hospital emerged as a model and a leader in handling rape cases. Over time, the program evolved into the Keller Center for Family Violence Intervention, a nationally recognized program that provides victims of child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence with comprehensive medical, emotional, social and legal support.

Carol has strong ties to the Bay Area. She was born in San Francisco and grew up in San Carlos. At age 15 Carol's father passed away. Her mother went to work to support the family, demonstrating qualities of strength and independence. All three sisters graduated from college and went on to have successful careers. Carol's younger sister, Denise Raabe, is the Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney and her middle sister, Gail Raabe, served as San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner.

Carol is a life-long Giant's fan and a baseball fanatic. Growing up, she posted 8-by-10-inch photographs of the entire San Francisco Giants team in her bedroom. To this day, she has season tickets. Carol's devoted husband of 41 years, George Stafford, her sons Paul and Joseph and her daughter-in-law, Courtney Stafford, will now enjoy more quality time with Carol. It's important to note that even as demanding as Carol's nursing career has been, she has always put family first and was home most days when her boys came home from school.

Though Carol has retired from a wonderful career, she will continue to play a vital role in our community and she will certainly have a friend in me for life.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Stafford has dedicated her life to assisting people in need. I ask that the House of Representatives to join me in

commending her for her extraordinary selflessness and service.

CONGRATULATING THE MISSION SHARYLAND RATTLERS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mission Sharyland Rattlers varsity soccer team of Sharyland High School in Sharyland, Texas on winning the UIL Class 5A state boys soccer championship. The Sharyland Rattlers boys' soccer team victoriously ended a long season on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown, Texas.

A crowd of more than 750 fans watched the Sharyland Rattlers team win 3–2 in a shootout to defeat Katy Morton Ranch. In their long 31–3–3 winning season, this outstanding boys' soccer team proved that hard work, dedication, and skill are the perfect recipe for champions. These high school soccer players were led to the championship title through the tireless leadership of their Head Coach Reveriano Hernandez. I congratulate the educators and leaders of this superb team. Key players in the team include Most Valuable Player during the Championship game Jesus Olivarez and Jorge Medina, Most Valuable Player Defensive during the Championship game. Parents, faculty, family, friends and former students traveled to the championship game to support and encourage the boys' soccer team. This championship marks an accomplishment and proud occasion for the team, school and those who attended the game to show their support.

Sharyland High School is part of the Sharyland Independent School District. It was Sharyland's first time playing at the UIL state tournament and has now set a pace for winning tradition as the school's first state soccer championship for Sharyland High School. The Sharyland Rattlers have been recognized for setting the area record for 31 (wins) 3 (ties) 3 (loses). With the motivation to bring home the state championship the team devoted 18 hours a week in training and practiced diligently during Christmas and Spring Break.

I am honored to praise the accomplishments of Sharyland, Texas' home team, the Sharyland Rattlers boys' soccer team as the Class 5A boys' soccer state title champions. Congratulations.

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM

HON. CHELIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate those in my State being honored with Governor's Award for Volunteerism. The following Maine people and organizations have showed exemplary commitment to donating their time and energy to help others:

Volunteer of the Year Julia Brown, Service-Learning Practitioner Donna Vigue, Out-

standing National Service Volunteer Elisabeth Lohmueller, Youth Volunteer Julia Brown, Corporate Volunteerism honoree Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Outstanding School District Sanford, and Outstanding Nonprofit Volunteer Program Trekkers.

In a cynical world that calls us to believe no one does something for nothing, these volunteers and thousands more like them continue to give us hope and belief in each other's goodness.

HONORING KATELYN MOODY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Katelyn Moody is a sophomore at Deer Park High School in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

In life each person is responsible for finding his or her own happy ending. This also suggests that we walk a path in our life with our happiness. The pursuit of happiness as we have come to phrase it in our own government. Within our pursuit of happiness, we are not only one, we are a unified nation, who has withstood the best of times and the worst of times, who has come to the rescue when no one else will take a stand. A unified nation who is not made of one, but made of many. For our country depends on those who are in pursuit of America's happiness and therefore citizens must stand for what is right and what is just. Our first step to pursue our country, the United States of America's happiness is to step forward and become involved in the political process.

It is of vital importance that each and every person is involved in making decisions for our country. If we are a nation who will stand for nothing, we will fall for anything. The citizens must be the strong hold of our country and hold our ground. For instance being involved in the political process is a citizen's duty and responsibility. Citizens must be aware of current events in the world and how that one situation could impact us locally, nationally, and globally. It is imperative for one to know what is going on in your country for you to be able to form decisions about what is right and what is just. Knowledge is valuable and can reveal to us what is best for our country. If a person isn't involved in our country's political process it shows a lack of interest in what is best for America and its people. If we lose sight of how our country was based on the ability to make choices that benefit our government and its inhabitants, we have lost our patriotism. Our country is only as good as it's citizens collective efforts.

They say character is what you do when no one is watching. From my standpoint, I interpret this as we can't only take part in the political process when it is important to us, but we must take part in the political process at all times because it is important to every American. Americans' beliefs, ethics, morals and values are illuminated through our choices and our political standpoints. Our voices should not be silent echoes ringing through our nation, but should envelop the nation with our prevalent concern. Our voices will be heard, but the choice is ours to speak up. Speaking up shows our character and who we each are and what we believe in. It unveils how we should be constant participants in America's political process. If we all stand together for what we believe in and what are values are, how could our country go wrong? We can't prevail with only some participants, everyone must participate to guarantee our freedoms and our pursuit of happiness.

You see, our founding fathers put forth an insurmountable effort to guarantee our freedom and our pursuit of prosperity. We must ask ourselves, to what extent will our generation rise to protect those same rights for another strong hold, another upcoming generation. We must speak up, show what we stand for, and let the character of America be unveiled. We must not sit like ducks thinking to ourselves, "Oh well, they can handle it, they will surely speak up" because if they don't, our strong hold is no longer and we will show our lack of interest in our political processes which protect freedom and the pursuit of a full and prosperous life. And, without those things we would be left in an abyss of nothingness. It is shown here how important taking part in political processes proves to be and the consequences of not doing so. Remember, the choice is ours to speak up. American's are responsible for finding our own happiness and to continue pursuing this, no matter the cost.

IN MEMORY OF DELORES A. PARKS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the late Delores A. Parks, a woman who spent her entire life tirelessly caring for her community. Mrs. Parks passed away in her sleep on Sunday, April 15, 2012. She was 77.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Mrs. Parks was blessed with many gifts and talents, but her greatness came from her dedication to the community. She is truly a hero of mine. Mrs. Parks was a generous, warmhearted and loving woman who always went the extra mile to support her neighbors.

I know the difference one person can make because I am a witness to the impact of Mrs. Parks' extraordinary career of service to others on the lives of ordinary boys and girls and men and women. There is much wisdom in the ancient proverb that says if you catch a person a fish, you feed him for a day; if you teach a person to fish, you will feed her for a lifetime. Mrs. Parks was a great lady but what makes her truly special is her commitment to serving others altered for the good the trajectory of thousands of lives.

Mrs. Parks first answered the call to serve as a daycare provider, a field she worked in for 53 years. She later founded the Compton Family Day Care Association, which provided instruction to others on how to become daycare providers. She took pride and much joy in her work, offering meals to the children and their families and planning sporting events, field trips, and church activities. Her hard work and joyfulness undoubtedly transformed the lives of these young children and her community as a whole.

Faith and love for the Lord played a large and constant role in Mrs. Parks' life. She was raised as a devout Catholic, and she later became a licensed missionary for the First Church of Deliverance under the late Elder O.D. Russell. In 1997, she became a member of King's Dominion Life Center under the leadership of her son-in-law, Bishop T.A. Moore.

When remembering the life of Mrs. Parks, I cannot help but call to mind this scripture: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:8-9). Truer words were never spoken. Mrs. Parks reflected these words in her manner and deeds, and she served as an example of the selflessness and kindness we should all strive to display in our own lives.

Mrs. Parks was preceded in death by her loving husband of 38 years, Willie M. Parks, and by her daughter, Katrina E. White. Left to cherish her memory are her children Emerson Mims, Parris Parks, and Donna Moore (Bishop T.A.); grandchildren Huber White, Eboni Galloway, Ferrante Manning, and Breana Moore; great grandchildren Kameron White, Huber White, Kutura White, Akhella White, and Taylor Bibbs; brothers Carl McDonald and Rickey McDonald; and a multitude of relatives, neighbors, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sympathies to Mrs. Parks' family. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. They have lost a beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother. The community Mrs. Parks served for more than a half century mourns the loss of a hero. I mourn the loss of a dear friend and role model.

On this sad occasion, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence to honor the memory of Mrs. Delores A. Parks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 170 (to provide an extension of Federal-aid high, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund) when I meant to vote "no."

I would like to correct for the record that I wanted to vote "no" on rollcall vote 170.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes in the House of Representatives between April 16th and 18th. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 152 for H.R. 3001, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 153 for H.R. 4040, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 154 for H. Res. 614, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 155 for H. Res. 614, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 156 for H. Res. 614, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 157 for H.R. 1815, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 158 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 159 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 160 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 161 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 162 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 163 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 164 for H.R. 4089, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 165 for H. Res. 619, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 166 for H. Res. 619, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 167 approving the Journal, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 168 for H.R. 4348, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 169 for H.R. 4348, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 170 for H.R. 4348, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 171 for H.R. 2453, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CELEBRATING MURIEL "MANNY" TUTEUR

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my friend and role model, Manny Tuteur and to wish her a very, very happy 90th birthday.

There are some people who seem bigger than life—whose accomplishments make you pause to wonder how one person could achieve so much. Manny is one of those people.

It's almost impossible to catalogue all the accomplishments in her life.

She's a veteran. During WWII, Manny served in the Women's Army Corps and received training at the Parachute Training School.

She's a problem solver and a teacher. She worked as a caseworker for the Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare and taught preschool at Jewish Community Centers.

And she has been a fighter for working men and women for over 70 years, starting as a

milling machine operator at the U.S. Steel South Works plant in Chicago and going on to work at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union where she started the Amalgamated Day Care and Health Center. She directed that Center from 1969 through 1983.

Manny is a natural leader—who has served on the Chicago and Central States Joint Board of ACTWU, co-chair of the Coalition of Labor Union Women's National Child Care Task Force and a member of CLUW's National Executive Board.

I have relied on Manny for sound advice and inspiration for years—and I'm not the only one. Manny has advised the National Implementation Task Force of the White House Conference on Families, the Illinois Women's Agenda, and Women for Economic Justice. Manny's extraordinary work has been recognized by many—induction into the Chicago Women's Hall of Fame, the National Council of Jewish Women's Hannah G. Solomon Award, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women's Florence Criley Award are just some of her awards.

Manny's life is not just committed to social and economic justice, but to her family. The love of her life was Charles, her husband of 63 years. She adores her children, Peter and Judy, and her 13-year-old granddaughter Rebecca. Manny's legacy includes not just her record of improving workers' rights, women's rights and human rights, it also includes her family and her many friends whose lives she has touched and made so much better.

Manny turns 90 on May 17th—and, now living in Laguna Hills, California, she continues working to make the world a better place. Whether it's registering voters, fighting against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, demonstrating with striking grocery store workers, or speaking out in support of Roe v. Wade, Manny continues to lead a life of activism. At a die-in protect recently to fight cuts to Adult Day Health Care. Manny said at the protest, "I'm fighting to the very end. I'm fighting for the rights of people to have a decent quality of life."

Manny, I love you and thank you for your friendship, and hope you will continue to organize for justice for many years to come.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE APRIL 24, 2012 EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, eighty-six Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation have travelled to our Nation's capital. Accompanied by twenty-seven volunteer guardians who have also served our country in uniform, they have travelled to Washington, DC to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many if not all of the Iowans who will be here today, this will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be there when they see their memorial for the first time and to personally thank each of them for their service to our Nation. They truly are Iowa's, and our Nation's, heroes.

I proudly have in my office a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the stone

that built the World War II Memorial. That piece of marble, just like the memorial that it built, reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation that, when our country was threatened, rose to defend not just our Nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that are the foundation of our great country. They did so as one people and one Nation. Their bravery and resilience still inspire us today.

The sheer magnitude of what they accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed has stood as an inspiration to every generation since. The Greatest Generation did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our Nation. Their patriotism, service, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our Nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome Eastern Iowa's veterans to our Nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

HONORING MARIN COUNTY FIRE
CHIEF KEN MASSUCCO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a passionate and dedicated public servant. Marin County Fire Chief Ken Massucco retired at the end of March 2012 after a career of nearly four decades protecting our communities.

After a year volunteering with the Kentfield Fire Protection District, Chief Massucco joined Marin County Fire Department in 1974. He rose through the ranks as Fire Lieutenant, Senior Captain, and Battalion Chief before being appointed Fire Chief in December 2001 by the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Massucco maintained a special connection with the residents he served in unincorporated Marin County, and with the firefighters and office staff responsible for keeping our communities safe. In a Department that includes more than 80 full-time and 60 seasonal workers covering a broad and geographically diverse region, it was the care and leadership of Chief Massucco that ensured strong partnerships with the public.

I was especially impressed to see Chief Massucco's work as a lead member of the team that battled the Angel Island fire in October 2008. Marin County firefighters spearheaded a difficult effort to save invaluable cultural and historical treasures, including the Angel Island Immigration Station, which is recognized as a National Historic Landmark and a part of the California State Parks. All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Massucco and the Marin County Fire Department for their efforts to ensure the survival of this unique site.

Chief Massucco also brought his leadership to other public safety initiatives, and his work was recognized beyond our County. He assisted firefighters in emergencies across California as an Operations Section Chief within

the Incident Command System, and in 2009 he was recognized by the California Fire Chiefs Association as Fire Chief of the Year. Chief Massucco also led our County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, which offers emergency services not only in Marin County, but also to partners across the country in need of additional responders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Chief Massucco for his contributions to Marin County. He has set an admirable standard for compassionate and responsive public service, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING PASTOR JOHNNIE ROLAND, SR., WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of World War II Veteran and Civil Rights Activist, Pastor Johnnie Roland Sr., as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Born the son of sharecroppers, Pastor Roland was drafted into the United States Army on November 28, 1942.

Johnnie Roland Sr. was born and remains a lifelong resident of Coffeeville, Mississippi. He married the late Leida Rounsaville Roland and from this union, 14 children were born. His oldest and only son, Johnnie Roland Jr., served in the Vietnam War.

Johnnie Roland served in World War II from 1943 to 1945. Roland and three others from Yalobusha County, Mississippi, Tommy Dudley, Walter Lee Martin, and Ulysses Kee were inducted into the Army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

After about eleven months of ammunition training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, he and the 619th Ordnance Ammunition Company, shipped out of New York City and arrived in Liverpool, England. On June 6, 1944, Roland boarded a landing craft late in the day and remained anchored in the English Channel surrounded by danger on all sides. There he waited to land on the Normandy Beach, about 3 days after D-Day.

For the next several months he advanced through France, Belgium, and Germany loading and unloading ammunition on and near the front lines of battle. On November 29, 1945, he was honorably discharged from Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Roland was awarded the Nameo Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal for his superior performance and dedication in the United States Army.

After his honorable discharge from the United States Army, Roland returned to Mississippi. Pastor Roland answered his call to ministry in 1960, and served as pastor of the Pine Grove Baptist Church from 1962 until August 2009. Pastor Roland was very active in the Civil Rights Movement working with other local advocates to integrate the local segregated school systems, marching front line in sometimes very hostile situations.

During the boycott of the local school system, Pastor Roland was one of a very few

who stood strong by keeping his children out of school for one whole year. Eventually, the school systems were integrated and he was able to see his children receive a quality education within an integrated public school system. Pastor Roland's most recent accomplishment is his eight year service on the Coffeeville Board of Alderman.

According to Pastor Roland, though he has accomplished many things within his lifetime, his greatest has been the honor to vote for and see America's first African American President, Barack Obama elected into office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Johnnie Roland Sr., a decorated World War II Veteran and Civil Rights Activist for his dedication and service to this country and the state of Mississippi.

HONORING KOMAL LUTHRA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Komal Luthra is a sophomore at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT

The government plays a major role in our lives. It governs us and tries to keep the country running in a smooth manner even though there may be conflicts taking place with other countries. The government is there to serve the people. For example, currently, our country is facing some financial challenges, still the government is making efforts to help those without jobs and find ways to cut spending. Not only does the government play a major role in our lives, but we also have the opportunity to be involved. We must realize that we do not have to be politicians or government officials to be involved.

There are so many ways one can get involved in the political process. One can vote, voice his or her opinions, and inform others about issues that our country is facing. It is important to stay updated with the issues we are facing as a country and how we can slowly deliver the message and work together to make a difference. It is like a chain reaction. For example, in recycling programs, an individual cannot enforce recycling because it is a group effort to spread the word in the society to save our environment. We can also get involved by contacting an elected official or candidate via phone or email, visiting or attending political meetings. We can take part in demonstrations, protests, boycotts, or marches to have our voice heard. This presents the fact that as citizens we have a lot of freedom and many opportunities. The issues being faced in the economy, education systems, technology, and environment cannot be solved unless we get involved.

When we vote, we take our country's figure in our own hands by voting for the best candidate. It is important that we elect the person who represents our country with good moral, values and care for the common people of this country. Every vote counts when it comes to choosing the best candidate to be our president because he or she will be deciding and leading our country's future for the next four years or more.

We have a democracy which gives us the right to speak our mind in political words. This right is given to us in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution. For example, if an individual faces a challenge where his or her rights are being violated, he or she should come forward and bring the issue up to a government official. Elected official should help one find a way to solve it through creation of new laws, establishment of new programs or explore other options to preserve the individual's rights. A democracy includes all the people and it is incomplete if only a fraction of the people is representing the whole population. Men, women, elderly and even young adults should actively participate. Even though children may not be able to vote they should still be aware of government so as they grow up, they are prepared to represent the country.

In conclusion, by being politically active, we learn to become motivated, hopeful, and optimistic. It is our right as citizens to practice "freedom of speech" and stand up and speak for our country. It shows confidence, determination, and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM HUENING

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tom Huening for his three decades of service to San Mateo County. As controller, county supervisor and community college district trustee, Tom has advocated for taxpayers throughout his career in public service.

Tom has had successful careers in the military, the airline industry, real estate and public service. The common threads running through all of them are hard work and his hunger to learn.

Tom was born in Chicago and grew up in Mount Prospect, Illinois as the son of an oil-burner servicemen and one of 12 children. He learned early on that the best way to overcome weakness is to confront it directly. Tom admits to having a fear of public speaking, yet he earned his Bachelor of Arts in speech from De Paul University in 1965. Right after he graduated, he joined the Navy for five years and was trained as a jet fighter pilot. His service in Vietnam made him experience the harsh realities of war, but he also credits that time for developing leadership skills, self confidence and skills as a team player.

After his military service, Tom became a pilot for TWA and moved his family to San Jose which is when he first involved himself in politics. The city of San Jose and Caltrans were planning on turning a part of the Guadalupe River into a concrete channel to make room for the Almaden Expressway crossing. Tom and his neighbors formed a neighborhood association—with Tom as president—fought the idea and won. Caltrans and the city shored up the sides of the river and even built a bike path underneath the expressway. Re-

flecting on the success, Tom told a reporter from San Jose Magazine that it was his first taste of politics and what it can do for the common good.

While he was still a TWA pilot, Tom started the transition into his next career, real estate. He worked for Coldwell Banker and then in 1977 started his own business, Huening Investment Company, where he fixed up dilapidated commercial buildings. Along the way, he returned to school and earned an MBA from Pepperdine University and a bachelor of law degree from La Salle University. He is an inactive member of the California Bar Association and served as an arbitrator and mediator with the American Arbitration Association.

In the late 70's, Tom transitioned from the private sector to public service. He was a Trustee on the San Mateo County Community College District from 1981 until 1986 and a member of the San Mateo Board of Supervisors from 1987 until 1998. Tom authored the original San Mateo Countywide Transportation Expenditure Plan which provided the county with 20 years of dedicated transportation funding for infrastructure and public transit improvements. He also is part of a leadership team who was responsible for bringing BART to Millbrae and SFO.

Tom has led many initiatives to improve the well being and quality of life of residents, for example the county's smoke-free workplace ordinance, the requirement to label alcoholic beverages with warnings about fetal alcohol syndrome, the extension of popular trails, and the launching of charter schools to improve the performance of academically struggling schools.

In 1998, Tom was elected San Mateo County Controller and re-elected for four consecutive terms. As a fiscal conservative, he believes that his office "should be lean and responsive and add value to the County at the lowest taxpayer cost."

In addition to the contributions to San Mateo County, Tom served as President of the Bay Area Auditor-Controllers Association and on the Executive Committee of the State Auditor-Controllers Association. He has served the national Government Finance Officers Association on their Committee for Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting, their Economic Development and Capital Planning Committee and the Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy.

Tom is a member of the San Mateo Rotary, the Commonwealth Club and the Bay Trail Steering Committee.

He is the proud father of four daughters and grandfather of nine grandchildren. In his well deserved retirement Tom will enjoy spending more time with them and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor my friend Tom Huening for his tireless dedication to our community on this day of his retirement as the San Mateo County Controller. He is an extraordinary person who possesses the qualities of a businessman, a humanist and a visionary. San Mateo County is a more efficient and better place because of his outstanding work.

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate a solemn occasion of deep personal significance. Today marks 97 years since the infamous episode in which the Ottoman Empire began rounding up and murdering Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. By 1923, some 1.5 million Armenian women, children and men were dead from a systematic campaign we now know as the Armenian Genocide, or Great Crime. Their lives ended in the most brutal ways imaginable, subjected to death marches, burnings, rape and forced starvation. Some 500,000 Armenians who did survive—my own grandparents among them—were forced into exile.

Like others whose families experienced this tragedy first-hand, I did not first learn of the Armenian Genocide in history books. I learned about it from my own Grandmother as she recounted the murders of priests and her flight from the only home she knew.

We must be clear: There is no doubt to the fact that the Armenian Genocide took place. There is no credible historian who can dispute it, and there is no evidence that detracts from its horror and magnitude. What's missing is a moral clarity as penetrating as the facts themselves, and a willingness in this House and in our government to acknowledge the Genocide.

The consequences of surrendering the moral high ground on Genocide denial are manifest and tragic. Since 1915, we have witnessed the same tragedy again and again. In 1939, Adolf Hitler is said to have asked, in justifying his awful crimes, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" In the Holodomor in Ukraine, the killing fields of Cambodia, the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, the red clay hills of Rwanda, and now, today in Darfur—genocidal crimes continue. We must acknowledge the Armenian genocide for our collective future, for those who suffer around the world today, and to honor the memories of those who died.

Each time this question arises, there are those who demand we once again sweep history under the rug for political convenience, calling what began 97 years ago anything but Genocide. My response is simple. The systematic extermination of an ethnic group is Genocide, and we insult ourselves and degrade our values when we claim otherwise.

I hope we use this solemn occasion to redouble our support for a more honest appraisal of the facts. So much of who I am is informed by my Armenian heritage, including the moral grounding to demand the truth. As we pray today for those who died, let us also work toward an open and just acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide, the truth, and a strengthened commitment to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again.

TWITCHELL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the 90th anniversary of Twitchell Technical Products—a thriving business in Southeast Alabama.

Mr. E.W. Twitchell founded E.W. Twitchell, Inc. nine decades ago. First established in Unionville, Connecticut, the company later relocated in 1930 to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1945, the company settled in Dothan, Alabama, where its headquarters remain today. To date, Twitchell provides jobs that support nearly 300 families around Dothan. In our area, this company is a staple in the local economy and a cornerstone of the local community.

Mr. Speaker, without question, the number one issue that affects our nation and my home state of Alabama is the health of our economy and the ability to create new American jobs. I am especially aware of this fact from the many discussions I have had with small business owners and employers throughout the district. I was privileged to recently have such a discussion with representatives from Twitchell last month.

During a time when too many employers have been forced to shrink their workforce or even close their doors, I was encouraged to hear about Twitchell's achievements. Through innovation, Twitchell achieved success by changing and adapting to the needs of the market. Mr. Speaker, that is what the free market is all about. Free from government interference or unnecessary regulation, private companies adjust to the demands of the market and remain competitive. When that happens, both employees and consumers benefit.

For example, four decades ago the company acquired a local yarn extrusion venture that specialized in PVC coated yarns. The yarn weaves into a fabric used for everyday products, such as screens, athletic goods, and outdoor furniture. The fabric continues to be Twitchell's best selling product, keeping the company in high-demand as it is one of only two manufacturers of PVC coated yarn and woven products in the U.S.

Here in Congress, we regularly discuss the many barriers that prevent job creation, such as costly federal regulations that stand in the way of private sector growth. We are working to repeal these burdensome federal rules. We want to encourage small business owners who work hard to invest in their employees and their products, not discourage them. The House of Representatives has passed nearly 30 pro-growth jobs-bills to reduce the mountain of federal regulations that limit an employer's ability to create jobs. We should never forget: government does not create jobs; the private sector does.

An economy built to succeed is an economy that is built on a foundation of small business entrepreneurship. Operating on the principles of persistence, innovation, and hard work, Twitchell is a model of American enterprise. It is a privilege for me to stand here today to honor the legacy of Twitchell and to recognize the many dedicated employees who have made the company a success through the years. I congratulate them for reaching this

milestone, and I look forward to the centennial celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Twitchell on its 90th anniversary and in wishing the company many more decades of success.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Kyle Holysz for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kyle led the construction and installation of reusable garden boxes for local nursing homes. Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Kyle has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL
OLYMPICS' SOUTH BAY AREA
GAMES

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting event that took place in the 37th Congressional District this past weekend: The Southern California Special Olympics' South Bay Area Games. The games took place on Saturday, April 21 at the Veterans Park and Sport Complex in Carson, California.

As a once aspiring Olympic athlete myself, I have always supported the Special Olympics and their goals. The Special Olympics of Southern California provides year-round sports training and competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, all at no cost to the athletes or their families.

The Special Olympics, however, serves a deeper purpose than simply recreation and competition. Special Olympic athletes gain the opportunity to develop physical fitness and athletic skills, create relationships with other athletes and community members, and demonstrate the courage to achieve their dreams. Within the Southern California chapter alone, there are nearly 11,600 athletes and 15,000 coaches and volunteers. These numbers illustrate the popularity and far-reaching impact of the games.

The Special Olympics were first started in 1963 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver as a camp to provide people with intellectual disabilities with physical fitness and sports. Five years later, she organized the first International Special Olympics games, and athletes around the world have competed ever since. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the Eunice Kennedy

Shriver Act, which will authorize funding for sports, health, education and employment programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the hard work of the athletes and volunteers of the Southern California Special Olympics. I know the people of California will continue to support the games and be inspired by the dedication of those involved.

REGARDING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

It was 97 years ago today that over 1.5 million men, women, and children, almost 75 percent of the pre-war Armenian population, were brutally exterminated by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman authorities arrested and later murdered over 250 Armenian political, intellectual, and religious leaders in Istanbul, beginning a horrific and systematic campaign to wipe a 3,000 year-old community from the face of the earth.

Armenian members of the Turkish armed forces were separated from their units and placed into labor battalions, where they were either worked to death or murdered. In Armenian villages throughout Turkey, adult males were singled out for execution, while the remaining women, children, and elderly inhabitants were then forced to march without food or water to the Syrian Desert. En route they were set upon by the Ottoman Security Service's "Special Organization," which consisted of released convicts and was created specifically for the purpose of carrying out ethnic cleansing. In the end, of the 2.1 million Armenians residing in Turkey at the start of World War I, only 100,000 would survive to see the end of hostilities.

And yet, despite clear evidence that genocide occurred, many officials today refuse to even to use the word genocide when referring to this incident. By equivocating, they not only dishonor the victims of this atrocity and their descendants, they increase the chance that other crimes against humanity are met with similar equivocation.

Indeed, before sending the "Death's Head" SS units into Poland with orders to "kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children," Adolph Hitler is reported to have commented to his generals, "who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?"

When we fail to fully acknowledge that genocide was perpetrated against the Armenian people in 1915, it becomes a little easier to do the same today when we see similar atrocities unfold in Bosnia, or Rwanda or Iraq or Sudan.

Last week the world commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day as people everywhere gathered to renew our collective pledge to "Never Forget." Today we gather for a similar purpose as we remember the first genocide of the 20th century. We recall the suffering of the Armenian people 97 years

ago and endeavor to ease the pain of their descendants not only out of sympathy for what they have experienced, but to remind ourselves that we must never allow it to happen again.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. IRENE DUPLESSIS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Irene Duplessis of Worcester, Massachusetts who turns 100 years old on May 1, 2012. Irene is an active woman who enjoys spending time with her family, playing bingo, and participating in Elder Summit Care. Today, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Mrs. Irene Duplessis a Happy 100th Birthday!

APRIL 23 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Turkish-Americans and Turkish people throughout the world are commemorating April 23 as National Sovereignty and Children's Day and I happily join them.

On April 23, 1920, during the War of Independence, the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation of a new, independent, and secular Republic, born from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk openly declared that it was absolutely necessary to form a government that would be the "destiny of the country" governed "by the determination and will of the Turkish nation as expressed in the Grand National Assembly."

President Atatürk dedicated April 23 to the children of the country to emphasize that they are the future of the new nation.

Following the victory over invading forces and the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne on July 24, 1923, Atatürk began to create the first predominantly Muslim secular, pluralistic, and westward-looking democracy. Over the next eight years, Atatürk embarked on ambitious and sweeping reforms in education, women's rights, and the judicial system. Today, Turkey stands as a model for other countries looking to shed their past and join the international community of democratic countries.

Every year, the children in Turkey celebrate this National Sovereignty and Children's Day as a national holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances in all fields in large stadiums watched by the entire nation. Among the activities included on this day is one in which the children send their peer representatives to work with state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, and provincial governors all work with children in their offices. These children, in turn, sign executive

orders relating to educational and environmental policies. On this day, the children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss matters concerning children's issues.

The importance of April 23 as a special day for children has spread to the international community. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) decided to recognize this important day as International Children's Day.

Congratulations to the country of Turkey on the occasion of National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-seven years ago, the government of the Ottoman Empire started a ruthless and systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people. Beginning with the targeted execution of 300 Armenian leaders, this intentional attempt at extermination ultimately claimed the lives of over 1.5 million people and forcibly exiled another 500,000.

And despite these chilling numbers and a clear historical record of fact, there remains a failure to acknowledge this vast human tragedy for what it truly is: genocide. That is why it is essential that we continue to speak out and solemnly commemorate the Armenian Genocide. Accordingly, I am proud to support a resolution this session of Congress that affirms the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide and honors its victims and survivors.

By acknowledging this dark chapter of human history, we help protect against the possible creation of a violent culture of impunity. We cannot allow past acts of evil to be erased from our collective consciousness if we are to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to take time today to remember and honor the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN DANA CHAN, D.D.S

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Steven Chan. Dr. Chan was recently installed, on March 30, 2012, as the 38th President of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Chan is a Pediatric Dental Specialist and has practiced in Fremont, California for over twenty-eight years. With a patient base of thousands, he has helped two generations of patients grow up with healthy, beautiful smiles.

The mission of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is to serve the membership

and the public by advocating for the optimal oral health of infants, children, and adolescents. Dr. Chan is well suited to lead the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry. His education, professional expertise, experience, academic positions, hospital appointments, professional honors, professional association memberships, leadership skills, and community service are outstanding.

Dr. Chan's professional honors include Fellowships in the American College of Dentists, Academy of Dentistry International, American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, Pierre Fauchard Academy, and the International College of Dentists.

He received the Citizen of the Year Award from Citizens for a Better Community and the Southern Alameda County Dental Society's Douglas R. Franklin Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Chan has served in numerous leadership positions within the California Dental Association and the American Dental Association. He holds significant professional association memberships related to dentistry and is also a member of the American Society of Association Executives.

Dr. Chan has not only distinguished himself in his profession but also continues to be a prominent force in community service. He has served in leadership positions in the South Bay Chinese Club Scholarship Foundation, Citizens for a Better Community, Fremont Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Foundation, Fremont Library Commission, Washington Hospital Foundation, Ohlone Community College and has engaged in numerous civic activities to support the City of Fremont.

Dr. Chan has truly been a leader of Organized Dentistry—having served as President of the California Dental Association and now as President of his specialty, Pediatric Dentistry. He has worked to improve the quality and access to oral health for all individuals as well as advocating for the dental profession.

I am confident Dr. Chan will be a dynamic leader of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry and I offer my congratulations and best wishes to him.

TRIBUTE TO TELACU FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF LATINOS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and ask Congress to recognize June 8th as TELACU Scholars Day.

The TELACU Education Foundation was established by TELACU in 1983 to respond to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino Students. As the largest community and economic development corporation in the United States, TELACU is a pioneering institution committed to service, empowerment, advancement and the creation of self-sufficiency within the Latino community.

Realizing the high dropout rates for Latino students, the TELACU Education Foundation responded by investing in our youth through education to create a strong future for our country. TELACU began its efforts to reverse high dropout rates among Latino students by

providing monetary support and counseling for first generation and low income students. The TELACU Scholarship Program is an exemplary program that helps students realize their dream of a college education by providing scholarships and supplemental support.

Although TELACU understands that financial assistance is a vital component for college students to achieve academic success, it also recognizes the underlying challenges many young adults face including socioeconomic factors, family responsibilities, cultural identity, and financial solvency. Students who are the first member of their families to pursue a college degree often must make their own academic support system in order to achieve their dreams. TELACU understands these challenges.

For nearly three decades, the Education Foundation has worked to remove the formidable barriers that often prevent Latino youth from achieving academic success and providing them with professional role models and academic support. The TELACU Scholarship Program provides its youth not only with monetary assistance, but with the counseling, leadership training, and time management training necessary to help students achieve their dreams.

I am proud of the way the TELACU Education Foundation has contributed to the development of our future Latino leaders. Each year, TELACU supports 500 Latino college students and 1,500 middle and high school students. In each program, 100% of the students graduate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor TELACU, the TELACU Education Foundation and scholarship programs like this one, for believing in the dream of higher education for all of America's next generation of leaders. I extend my congratulations to the TELACU scholars and the people who make their dreams a reality as they celebrate the 29th Annual TELACU Education Foundation Scholarship Awards Dinner, Building the Dream, on Friday, June 8th, 2012.

HONORING DAVID GRABILL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Grabill, a lawyer in Santa Rosa, CA, who is receiving the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award from the Sonoma County Chapter of the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). This award is presented annually to a leader who has advanced the cause of social justice in the community.

During his 45 years of practice, David Grabill has represented individuals and groups in civil rights cases not only in our community, but in places like Gary, Indiana; Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; Charleston, West Virginia; and Delano and Escondido, California. He assisted in Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign, represented members of the Black Panther Party in Los Angeles, and worked with the United Farm Workers on union rights. He has also extended his practice to welfare and reproductive rights, Native American legal services, black lung, labor matters, and others, giving his time and expertise to those in need of legal services.

Mr. Grabill grew up in Washington, DC, and attended Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania law school. He met his wife, Dorothy Battenfeld in West Virginia, and, in 1981, settled with his family in Santa Rosa. He served for 14 years as directing attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), working on behalf of California's rural poor.

He soon joined with other attorneys during the Reagan administration to obtain an injunction prohibiting the federal government from detaining any individual merely to investigate her/his immigration status unless they had reasonable grounds to believe the person was not legally in the Country. He also served for many years on the Board of the Sonoma County ACLU Chapter where he provided significant pro bono legal support on various issues.

Today David Grabill specializes locally in cases involving affordable housing and housing discrimination. With the Housing Advocacy Group (HAG) that he started with friends in 1998, he focuses his efforts on creating more affordable housing and combating discrimination against lower income, mostly Latino and African American, residents.

Mr. Speaker, David Grabill has dedicated his life to the advancement of social justice and human rights. Please join me in congratulating him on the Sonoma ACLU's Jack Green Civil Liberties Award.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE APRIL 24, 2012, QUAD CITIES HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great honor of welcoming veterans of the Greatest Generation to our nation's capital. Accompanied by volunteer guardians, these veterans from the Quad Cities have travelled to Washington, DC from Iowa and Illinois to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I am deeply honored to have been invited to join them when they see their memorial for the first time and to have the opportunity to personally thank these heroes.

I am proud to have a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the stone that built the World War II Memorial in my office. Like the memorial that it built, that piece of marble reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation of Americans. When our country was threatened, they rose to defend not just our nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are still humbling and inspiring today.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. They did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our

economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our country. Their patriotism, service, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the veterans on the Quad City Honor Flight to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND OLDER- SHAW'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has spent 50 years serving our local community with great distinction: Reverend Robert H. Oldershaw. Father Oldershaw is a native of Evanston, Illinois, and that is where he continues to make his mark even today.

After being ordained a Catholic priest in 1962, Father Oldershaw worked hard in parishes across Chicago—serving communities in Hyde Park, downtown Chicago and Lincoln Park before landing back at St. Nicholas Parish in his hometown in 1988. Evanston has benefited from his outreach ever since. Father Oldershaw retired in 2006, after almost 20 years in our City. He continues to serve as pastor emeritus at St. Nicholas, and I am happy to say he is a constant and welcome figure in our neighborhood.

Father Oldershaw has made significant contributions to the Catholic Church. For a number of years while working in Chicago he served as the Associate Director for Music of the Archdiocesan Office for Divine Worship. In this role he worked to help parishes across the Chicago area adapt to the then-recent changes stemming from the Second Vatican Council. He has also written a number of articles and pieces of music over the years, and serves as the liturgical editor of *Worship—Third Edition* (GIA Publications)—a hymnal used in Catholic churches across the country.

In 1999 Father Oldershaw was featured in a documentary entitled *A Justice That Heals*. This documentary tells the story of how he brought together and fostered forgiveness between the family of a murder victim and the individual who killed their son. Activities such as these were commonplace for a man who has devoted his life to serving his parish and the community as a whole.

In addition to his parish duties, Father Oldershaw was (and remains) extremely active in the Evanston community. He is involved in a large number of organizations furthering the public good. He served as co-president of the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council (now known as Interfaith Action of Evanston), as a member of the board of directors of St. Francis Hospital, and has spent over a decade as a chaplain with the Evanston Police Department. Each of these roles has left an indelible impact on our local community and we are lucky to have had him working among us for so long.

Father Oldershaw also deserves praise for his social justice work. He is an active member of Priests for Justice for Immigrants, and

he regularly visits detainees at McHenry County Jail. He is also a board member of Solidarity Bridge, whose mission is to heal and empower poor people living in Bolivia through providing critical medical care and support for Fair Trade cooperatives.

On behalf of myself, our community, and a grateful nation, I want to say thank you, Father Oldershaw, for all you have done and continue to do for us.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT (LIFE)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, now that the cherry blossoms have signaled that spring has come, I introduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE), authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Growing problems of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threatens the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition does. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is reducing overweight and obesity, not even the much need Affordable Care Act. The LIFE bill would provide \$25 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from NBC's 'The Biggest Loser' to a steady stream of diet books, startling rates of obesity among adults and children continue in the United States. In 2007, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents, the rates have tripled since 1980. Today, 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The healthcare system and the insurance premium of average Americans are paying the price for this generation. The consequences for kids will follow them throughout their lives if we do not act quickly and decisively. If we are serious about healthcare, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: in the epidemic of overweight and obesity.

The LIFE bill seeks to provide the first national strategy by directing the CDC to pursue obesity and sedentary lifestyles in three ways: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct education campaigns to teach the public about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life at worksites and in community settings. This legislation is the min-

imum necessary to address our most important healthcare crisis. Already, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight or obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., and 60 percent of U.S. medical care expenses annually. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the United States was more than \$117 billion in 2000. The CDC highlights a study that estimates the annual cost to be \$147 billion. Currently, it is estimated that between 300,000 and 400,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. National data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor doubling the percentage of overweight youth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, that often begin in children, overwhelm the Nation's health care system.

RECOGNIZING CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to join me in acknowledging the New Year, the year of the dragon.

The Cambodian New Year is one of the major celebrations in the Cambodian culture. This time of year also represents the end of the harvest season and allows farmers to enjoy the fruits of their harvest. The celebration lasts for three days which during this time they spend time visiting family and friends. Each day has a name and activities that honor the elder's for their sacrifice for the younger generation.

I am proud that more Cambodians reside in Long Beach, which is located in my Congressional District, than anywhere outside of the nation of Cambodia. This past Saturday, April 21, 2012, nearly 20,000 people celebrated the Cambodian New Year in El Dorado Regional Park in the city of Long Beach. Long Beach certainly was the place to celebrate Cambodian New Year! I consider the opportunity to celebrate the Cambodian New Year every year as one of the great privileges associated with being a Member of Congress from the 37th Congressional District.

I congratulate the Cambodian-Coordinating Council (CCC) for organizing this especially unique and uplifting event, which is one of the highlights of the spring season every year in the 37th Congressional District. This is especially gratifying to me since as a Long Beach City Councilperson I worked closely with the members of the Cambodian community to ensure the festival continues to be held in Long Beach and know firsthand how the CCC has assisted the Cambodian-American population

to be self-sufficient, productive members of society and to bridge the gaps that exist between cultures, languages, and generations.

I thank the many community organizations and volunteers for their efforts to ensure the success of the Cambodian New Year Festival. Most importantly, I thank the CCC for providing this opportunity to experience and appreciate the people and culture of Cambodia. I Congratulate the CCC on another successful Cambodian New Year Festival and I look forward to next year's festivities.

Happy Cambodian New Year!

U.S. CITIZEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman . . . who has given of herself to her community and family; and

Whereas, Mrs. Eileen Samuel's spirit is present in Birmingham, Alabama for all to see, being a nurse, neighbor and friend; and

Whereas, this giant of a woman was born in Birmingham, Alabama to Mr. Dewey and Mrs. Dellie Barnes on February 6, 1943, she has been on the move ever since as a woman of God; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, her time, her talent and her life; she never asked for fame or fortune just fairness for the people, she was our quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, Mrs. Eileen Samuel led by doing behind the scenes, she encouraged all those around her who wanted to make a difference, be it her children, her elected officials, her neighbors and her church members at Oak Street Baptist Church; she was a virtuous woman, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of her community which in turn uplifted my community in Georgia through her daughter DeKalb County Commissioner Sharon Barnes Sutton; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional Recognition on Mrs. Eileen Samuel for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens throughout the Nation; a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mrs. Eileen Samuel of Birmingham, Alabama is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition"—Mrs. Eileen Samuel, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 10th day of March, 2012.

RECOGNITION OF DAVID HINDERLITER FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE KANKAKEE REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize David

Hinderliter for his outstanding service as the President and CEO of the Kankakee Regional Chamber of Commerce. During his impressive 20 years as the head of the Association, Dave oversaw the creation of many successful programs and organizations, leading to recognition and four star accreditation of the Association by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Dave began his service at the Association as the Ambassador to the Chamber and served multiple terms as the Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee of the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. In this position, he led the effort to create a very successful Illinois Chamber Executive education program.

While Dave's accomplishments as Executive have been many, his service to the Association represents only a portion of his service to the profession and the community. Often deflecting credit for success to those with whom he serves, Dave represents the epitome of leadership, enabling others around him to excel and succeed. In addition to his commitment to the Kankakee business community, Dave also finds time to coach his children's soccer teams and lead his son's Scout troop. He is a devoted husband to Diane Hinderliter, and father to Andrew, Amanda, and Cameron Hinderliter.

Once again, I am humbled to honor Dave for his distinguished service to the Association, the Chamber community, and the people and business owners of the Kankakee Region and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TEREZIA WILSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Terecia Wilson on the occasion of her retirement from the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Since 1984, Ms. Wilson has worked to improve highway safety in South Carolina, and as a result of her extraordinary service, all South Carolinians are safer on our state's roads. She has been an invaluable resource to me and my staff over the years, and we will miss working with her.

Most recently, Ms. Wilson has served as Training, Safety and Security Program Manager for the Office of Public Transit in the Division of Intermodal and Freight Programs for the South Carolina Department of Transportation, SCDOT, managing the statewide Rural Transit Assistance Program. From 1999 to 2007, Ms. Wilson served as Director of Safety at SCDOT. In this capacity, she developed, implemented, and administered roadway and occupational safety programs to improve safety for highway workers and drivers alike, as well as administering management, claims, and toll operations for the agency. Before joining SCDOT, she served at the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, where she, among other responsibilities, coordinated the 402 State and Community Highway Safety Program, managed numerous successful highway safety public information and education programs, and sought and secured millions of dollars in needed funding.

Ms. Wilson's many years of service have produced impressive results. South Carolina's mileage death rate plummeted from 3.7 per 100 million miles of travel in 1986 to its lowest recorded level of 1.65 in 2010. In 2005, Ms. Wilson worked closely with state legislators when they passed primary seat belt legislation; in 2008, South Carolina's safety belt usage rate climbed to 79 percent, the highest rate ever recorded. SCDOT's High Visibility Work Zone Safety Program had dramatic results during its three-year duration from 2002 to 2005, with a 39.2 percent reduction in work zone crashes, a 44.1 percent reduction in work zone injuries, and a 50 percent reduction in work zone fatalities. It is no exaggeration to say that Ms. Wilson's work has saved lives.

Throughout her career, Ms. Wilson has garnered national recognition for her able service. In 1991, she received a Special Recognition Award from the National Traffic Safety Administration, NTSA, for promoting and implementing a statewide education and enforcement campaign. In 1992 and 1999, she received the NTSA's National Award for Public Service. She received the Award of Merit from the National Sheriffs' Association in 1993 for promoting and implementing the Rural Sheriffs' Traffic Safety Initiative. In 2004, she was named the winner of the President's Transportation Award by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Three years later, the "Let'em Work, Let'em Live" campaign, which Ms. Wilson directed, was awarded the National Roadway Safety Award by the Federal Highway Administration and National Roadway Safety Foundation. South Carolinians are proud to see one of our own, so well regarded by her colleagues around the country, and we are fortunate that her exemplary service has been to our benefit.

Ms. Wilson is a proud wife and mother, and I know that she is looking forward to being able to spend more time with her family in retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in congratulating Ms. Terecia Wilson on this well-deserved retirement. I wish her good health and godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 152, 153, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 175, 176. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote Nos. 154, 155, 156, 162, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170, 172, 173, 177.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 177 I inadvertently missed the vote on rollcall No. 177. I intended to vote "no."

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC STATE EMPLOYEES AS- SOCIATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the California Asian Pacific State Employees Association, and their members, as they gather to raise scholarship funds for local high school students. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this generous organization.

The Asian Pacific State Employees Association was founded in 1975 with the goal of assisting its members while they work for the State of California, and to encourage state employees to give back through a variety of community projects. Located in all of the major urban centers in the state, APSEA's members work for a wide variety of California government agencies.

APSEA's annual scholarship dinner raises funds and recognizes numerous young men and women who are involved in rigorous academic studies, dedicate their time to Asian and Pacific Islander causes, or are involved with the Ronald McDonald House Charity. This dinner has provided additional scholarship funds for many local students who are committed to making their community better.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate this fantastic organization, their members, and their annual dinner. They are a shining example of community service and community pride. I am confident that APSEA will continue the tradition of giving selflessly and helping others with their organization and events, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding commitment to their community and their continued work to help students succeed.

STOP DENYING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 97th Anniversary of the terrible period of atrocities committed against the Armenian people by the leaders of the Ottoman Empire and immediate subsequent Turkish government that is known as the Armenian Genocide.

Every year I have been in Congress, I have marked this solemn anniversary remembering the victims of this genocide and the expulsion of tens of thousands of Armenians from their homes and homeland, and honoring the survivors of one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th Century. These survivors and their descendants have helped awaken and teach the world to the horrors of genocide and the necessity of standing up to the forces of denial.

This year, however, Mr. Speaker, I come before this House angry and frustrated by the

refusal of my own government to recognize and identify the events from 1915 to 1923 as the Armenian Genocide. It doesn't seem to make a difference if the White House is occupied by a Republican or a Democrat, no one has the political courage to call the Armenian Genocide by name. I am always told that now is not the right time to take such an action.

When will be the right time, Mr. Speaker? When the last survivor, the last eye-witness to the genocide has passed away? Every year, when I join the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in Worcester, Massachusetts, there are fewer and fewer survivors.

I understand the need for careful political consideration of these matters, but we have waited too long as it is.

It is past time to recognize the Armenian Genocide, by name, Mr. Speaker. I call on the President to do so, now, this year, for the sake of the last survivors of this atrocity and in honor of all of those who perished.

RECOGNIZING THE CHURCH OF ST.
MARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Church of St. Mary in Hampton Bays, New York as it celebrates one hundred years of ministry and worship. I offer my congratulations to the rector, wardens, vestry and congregation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, a beautiful and historic church that stands as a testament to the devotion of its members.

From its modest beginnings in the home of Earl B. Squires in 1912 to its present-day position as the first and most active partner in an outreach program to the East End's homeless, St. Mary's has been a vital part of the community. On March 26, 1912, the Reverend Samuel Centennial Fish conducted the first service in the home of Earl Squires opposite the present location of the church at 165 Ponquogue Avenue.

In 1917, Virginia Taylor Hardy donated the property and present church, nestled amid a grove of oak trees, to serve the population of

Good Ground, a portion of present day Hampton Bays. Its Norman architecture is accentuated by slate and tile floors, varying peaked tile roofs and English oak pews and paneling. The stained glass windows in the baptistery and above the altar are the work of Otto W. Heinigke, one of the foremost stained glass artists in the country. The church building, recognized as one of the most beautiful small churches in America, was consecrated on September 4, 1920 by the Right Rev. Frederick Burgess, Bishop of Long Island. In 1966, the church was granted parish status after 52 years as a mission.

The current rector, the Rev. Bernadette M. Sullivan, is the first woman to serve as the church's spiritual leader. In 2001, the rector volunteered St. Mary's as the first church to commit to participate in the Maureen's Haven Ministry to the homeless. Many members of the congregation have been inspired to become involved. After ten years, more than 30 other churches are participating in the program providing beds, hot food and counseling for more than 252 guests.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such a strong and long-standing congregation in the First Congressional District of New York, and I offer best wishes for the future.