EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. SCOTT NEIN

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my longtime constituent and friend, Scott Nein, upon the recognition by his colleagues as the Industry Person of the Year.

This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the improvement of the insurance industry and the independent agency system. Scott is being honored because of his advocacy for independent insurance agents as well as his hard work and selfless effort that contributed to making the merger between the Independent Insurance Agents and the Professional Insurance Agents a reality in Ohio.

Scott Nein is a great leader. First, in the Ohio House and then in the Ohio Senate, he was able to make an impact for our State, and represented his constituents well during his time of service. This man is equally as impressive when it comes to his management and impact within the insurance industry. Throughout his career, he has worked well with diverse groups of people including: clients, consumers, constituents, insurance agents, and elected officials. Scott made ''reaching across the aisle'' an art form for the betterment of our citizens.

I am very proud to call Scott Nein my close friend and for that I express my most sincere congratulations. His drive is unparalleled, and his devotion to serving others is inspiring. I am certain his shining example has encouraged others to follow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAYLA HARRISON

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize a native of my district, Ms. Kayla Harrison, on winning the gold medal at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Kayla made Olympic history by becoming the first American to win a gold medal in judo. Her years of dedication and hard work have clearly paid off. She has been committed to achieving excellence which can be seen by her many accomplishments. Kayla won the Junior World Championships in 2008, was runner-up at the 2009 Junior World Championships, and in 2010 won the Senior World Championships. These results require a consistent effort day in and out.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I proudly salute Ms. Kayla Harrison, on her Olympic victory. She worked incredibly hard to win an Olympic gold medal and will forever be remembered as the first American to win gold in judo.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Continuing Resolution (H.J. Res. 117) to fund the federal government through March 2013.

This bipartisan spending bill staves off the devastating costs recommended by my Republicans colleagues and instead continues the funding levels for the operations of federal agencies at last year's levels. I am pleased that this measure extends the services on which New Jersey families rely such as Small Business Administration, SBA, loan guarantees, Veterans Administration, VA, disability claims, and natural disaster relief. It preserves the necessary funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP.

This compromise is by no means perfect, however. I am disappointed that this measure does not take any steps to invest in innovation, improve math and science education, make college more affordable, or help grow industries such as biotechnology and clean energy. I regret that this bill freezes the pay of hardworking federal employees who have already had years of pay freeze. Under this spending bill, no new programs will be funded. Unfortunately, this means that none of the important new programs—such as anti-distracted driving campaigns—authorized in the recently passed MAP–21 transportation bill can begin.

IN HONOR OF MR. BERNIE REIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great citizen of Connecticut, Bernard ''Bernie'' Rein of Manchester, Connecticut who passed away last week at the age of 90. Bernie, along with his brother Bob and sister-in-law Betty, started Rein's New York Style Deli in Vernon, Connecticut in 1972. The Reins came from a New Jersey deli family, and started Rein's in Connecticut when they realized how much they missed good New York City deli food. He was raised in Union, New Jersey and was an all-state orchestra drummer during high school. Following graduation, Bernie served as Corporal in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Over the past 40 years, Rein's Deli has served thousands of Connecticut residents and passing travelers from its location on the Hartford Turnpike. Known for its 'sour pickles' and its fresh deli sandwiches, Rein's has a devoted following in the Vernon community by serving ''food that feeds the soul and warms the heart.'' The reputation of the deli has grown steadily over the years and became a magnet for the travelers en route between New York City to Boston (and vice versa). On any given day, the parking lot in north central Connecticut is packed with cars bearing license plates from New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts. The workforce has steadily grown and has a solid staff of loyal, long time cooks, waiters and waitresses that now constitute the second largest private work force in town.

Even during this period of impressive growth, the top notch kosher quality of the food has sustained and the atmosphere is still friendly and caring. A big reason for the latter, is that over the years Bernie has been a constant presence, visiting with patrons, telling stories and jokes and always sharing his abiding love for jazz. I personally enjoyed many such exchanges as a regular lunchtime diner and like everyone else, always got a kick out of his quirky good humor. Bernie Rein's legacy is not just that of a devoted husband and restaurateur, but also of an engaged and involved citizen in his local community.

Bernie Rein's legacy is not just that of a devoted husband and restaurateur, but also of an engaged and involved citizen in his local community. Rein's has always been a sponsor of youth sports, food drives, local advertising—any cause that helped people in need and investing in Vernon's future.

Bernie will be dearly missed by his wife, Rae Ruby-Rein, his son and his grandchildren, and all those in Connecticut who frequented Rein's Deli. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Bernie Rein.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ED KEATING CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Ed Keating Center, a Northeast Ohio organization dedicated to helping those who are recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

The Ed Keating Center was founded in 1998 by Jack Mulhall, Phyllis Eisele-Curran and Dennis Eckersley. The Ed Keating Center is named for Edward J. Keating, a legendary sports agent, who conquered his own alcoholism, and is remembered for providing a chance at sober living to the most destitute of those addicted to alcohol and drugs.

The Ed Keating Center is a non-profit organization and sober living facility for those addicted to drugs and alcohol that serves adults

regardless of their financial well-being. It offers a six month in-house rehab program, a three-quarter house program and a work release program for its patients. At any given time, the Ed Keating Center is home to about 150 men and women.

The Center's driving principles are that a chance for sober living should be available to any man or women with a sincere determination to overcome their alcoholism or addiction, without regard for their ability to pay. The Center also survives solely on the donations and support of individuals and organizations who believe in communities helping themselves.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in the important work performed by the Ed Keating Center.

HONORING BERNHEIM ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF ''AMERICA'S PRETTIEST PARKS''

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest on being named one of ''America's Prettiest Parks'' by Yahoo! Travel.

I am fortunate to know firsthand how beautiful this forest is and I am proud that it is located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Bernheim's mission and vision statements, ''connecting people with nature,'' and ''Bernheim will be a nationally treasured leader in ecological stewardship that inspires the exploration of deep connections with nature,'' are profound and true.

Tom Block, a Bernheim Trustee and the great-grandson of founder Isaac Wolf Bernheim welcomed the distinction, calling it ''another branch on Bernheim's growing tree of awards and honors.''

Clermont, Kentucky and the surrounding community are fortunate to have this forest in their backyard. For those of you who have yet to visit Bernheim, I encourage you to do so. You will be overwhelmed by its beauty and peace.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. ALEX M. PETROVIC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to acknowledge the achievements of former Eastern Jackson County Judge, Missouri State Representative, United States Marine Corps Veteran and Sugar Creek resident, Alex M. Petrovic.

Alex M. Petrovic was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 23, 1922, the son of Mildred and Michael Petrovic, and has dedicated his life to serving his country, state, and community. He attended school at Henry Clay School in Kansas City, Missouri, Independence Junior High and William Chrisman High School in the city of Independence, Missouri, and Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri.

The proud father of six, grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of two, Mr. Petrovic was married to the late Frances Diesko Petrovic for fifty-seven years before she passed away in 2001. He served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps from the year 1942 to 1945, working as a landfall technician, making maps for the 2nd Marine Air Wing, and receiving an honorable discharge following his service in the Pacific theatre, in Guadalcanal and Auckland, New Zealand, and Russell Island.

In addition to his military service, he also worked as a railroad clerk for the Union Pacific Railroad, machine operator, foreman, and sales manager for the Injection Molding Company, as a salesman for Busboom Brothers, as a laborer and engineer at the Standard Oil Plant, and a divisional manager at Waddell & Reed.

Alex M. Petrovic served as a Missouri State Legislator from the year 1962 until the year 1966, as a Democrat, representing the area bounded by the Missouri River up until 23rd Street, Blue Ridge, Kansas City, and 71 Highway. During his terms, he promoted the Little Blue Valley Flood Control program, fought to keep open the Central Missouri State University in the face of closure, and helped develop the Truman Sports Complex. Mr. Petrovic played an active and accomplished role in local Missouri politics, serving in the Independence Sertoma Club, to which he was elected President in the year 1964.

As a State Representative, Mr. Petrovic discovered piles of state records abandoned in the basement of the State Building, and in response, sponsored and passed legislation to create a system for managing Missouri's records, establishing the Missouri State Archives. After his terms in the Missouri Legislature, he was elected to serve as Eastern District Judge for Jackson County, the same seat which President Harry S Truman occupied before his presidency, from the year 1966 up until the year 1970. As the ''Old Judge,'' he oversaw seven bond issues in building the world's largest sports complex in the history of sports at the time, for the Kansas City Chiefs and the Royals.

On September 21, 2005, Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, the Archives, and fellow members of the Missouri Legislature created the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room to maintain the historic records of our Great State of Missouri throughout the years. Today, the Missouri State Archives stores document collections dating from 1770 and is visited by 4,500 hundred people every year.

Mr. Petrovic will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on September 23, 2012, and has given a lifetime of service to his community, and should hereby be honored as such. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in honoring Mr. Petrovic for his lifetime of service and accomplishment.

DR. SAM MONROE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since its founding in 1909, Lamar State College—Port Arthur has undergone many changes, growing from a petrochemical industry training ground to a flourishing two-year college, offering degrees in numerous highly valued skills. But for 38 years, there has been one constant on campus and that's the leadership of President Dr. Sam Monroe, now recognized as the longest-serving president of a Texas higher education institution.

While Dr. Monroe was not born in Port Arthur, he got there as fast as he could. He moved from College Station at an early age and has remained in the Southeast Texas area ever since, keeping him tuned in to the needs of the surrounding community. Dr. Monroe's career began at the former Port Arthur College, serving as Executive Vice President before being elected President in 1974. Wasting no time making significant changes, he proposed a merger with Lamar University in nearby Beaumont a year later, forming Lamar University—Port Arthur.

Dr. Monroe has overseen a great expansion during his tenure. In 1999, they were granted admission into the Texas State University System then renamed Lamar State College—Port Arthur. A $5.9 million Performing Arts Center opened in 2004, and a 7,500 square foot Student Success Center was completed in 2011. Dr. Monroe was instrumental in founding and operating the Museum of the Gulf Coast, located in downtown Port Arthur, which tells the history of this special region. 2004 saw the Lamar State College—Port Arthur Seahawks begin play in Men's Basketball and Girl's Softball, helping to create an expanded athletic program and a full college experience.

Many honors and distinctions have been given to Dr. Monroe. The Port Arthur News named him its Citizen of the Year in 2004. He was the first male recipient of the Quota International of Southeast Texas Man of the Year Award in 2005, the first time in almost 60 years that the award was open to both males and females. Earlier this month, he was recognized by Governor Rick Perry as the education president with the longest service in Texas. And, his dedication to the community has expanded outside of campus as Dr. Monroe has volunteered his time on such varied organizations as the Port Arthur Public Library and the Port Arthur Housing Authority.

Thanks to Dr. Sam Monroe, Lamar State College—Port Arthur has transitioned from a small technical school to a sprawling, 40-acre campus home to over 3,000 students. I am proud to recognize his accomplishments. He has touched countless lives, and Southeast Texas is a better place for it.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING VICTIMS OF BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Ryan Milley, a young man from Conroe, Texas who was born on September 20, 1979. In 1998, 18-year old Ryan lost his life to meningococcal meningitis.

As a result of Ryan's death his family founded Meningitis Angels, a national nonprofit organization that educates the public, health

professionals, child care facilities, schools and universities on not only meningitis but other vaccine preventable diseases through personal stories, educational brochures, posters and videos.

Meningitis Angels is dedicated to the support of victims of bacterial meningitis and their families. While helping families cope with the loss or care of a family member they also offer some hands on support for those children affected with bacterial meningitis.

Sadly, Meningitis Angels continues to grow. Meningitis Angels currently represents over 600 families across the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot do justice to these families without speaking about this terrible and preventable disease.

Bacterial meningitis is an infection of the meninges, the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.

It is a deadly, debilitating disease that especially affects infants, children, teenagers, young adults, and those with compromised immune systems.

People who have bacterial meningitis may have longterm complications and disabilities like permanent brain damage and long-term physical problems such as heart, kidney, or intestinal problems or could require amputations of the arms, legs and facial features. Infants and teens are highest risk for this disease.

The most effective way to protect your child against bacterial meningitis is to complete the recommended vaccine schedule. In many states, these vaccines are required for children in school and daycare.

The families of Meningitis Angels can tell you that these requirements are not frivolous or busy work.

So on their behalf, I ask that American families get vaccinated to prevent more tragedies.

I have offered H. Res. 403 to honor Ryan Wayne Milley, his remarkable mom Frankie, and all Meningitis Angels across the United States. Today is an appropriate day to remember Ryan and to support efforts to end the disease that took his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week during the week of September 16 through September 22, 2012. These institutions of higher learning play a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our nation's most valuable resource: our children. During this week, I rise to thank the Hispanic-serving institutions that are equipping our children with the skills necessary for a lifetime of success.

I would like to recognize four such institutions in the 37th Congressional District of California: California State University-Dominguez Hills, California State University-Long Beach, El Camino College-Compton Center, and Long Beach City College. These schools are preparing students to enter the workforce in science, education, and healthcare, among many other fields and career paths that will contribute to our economic success today and in the future.

The majority of residents in my district are Hispanic, and Hispanics represent our country's largest minority group. Hispanics have already made invaluable contributions to America and I have no doubt Hispanics will continue to do so. The future prosperity of America hinges on tapping into the enormous potential of minority groups. Investing in technical education for minorities is not just a moral obligation but an American necessity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous work of Hispanic-serving institutions, within my district as well as across the nation. I thank the countless staff members and educators who are strengthening our education system and creating new opportunities for a new generation of Hispanic leaders.

RECOGNIZING ED BERGH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Bergh on his retirement from Yelm High School after 38 years of teaching. The Washington State Legislature has also named Mr. Bergh the Washington Civic Educator of the Year.

Mr. Bergh studied political science at Western Washington University and soon after graduation, he became a Social Studies teacher. Today, Mr. Bergh teaches World Problems, History, and American Government.

In addition to his passion for educating young people, Mr. Bergh loves learning more about the subjects he teaches. He looks for ways to increase his knowledge and apply that learning to the classroom. Mr. Bergh does not simply lecture his students, he engages them in discussion and helps them think critically before reaching conclusions.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Bergh enjoys learning and writing about his hometown, Yelm, Washington. He created the Yelm History Project, a virtual database for the history of Yelm, the Web site of which he and his students regularly update.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the career of Ed Bergh. His dedication to teaching is an inspiration and has undoubtedly helped countless students who have gone on to accomplish great things.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Monica and Ivory Garrett from Beaumont, Texas are truly Angels—Angels in Adoption. Forty-three foster children have been blessed with the Garretts' love and care over the years; Forty-three lives have been changed because of the Garretts.

Mrs. Garrett began her involvement in the foster care system in 1997 as lead staff at a Buckner International group home for foster children. Through her work, she realized that this was God's calling for her, and a few years later, the Garretts were licensed as foster parents and began welcoming children into their own home. After caring for 25 children, the Garretts' felt that God was calling them to something even bigger.

The Garretts then opened a group home for children with therapeutic needs in 2009. They consider all of these children their own, providing a loving home and ensuring that they get the most out of life. Their children are all encouraged to explore their talents, participating in choir, sports, and various other activities. The Garretts are unsung heroes, a family with bountiful love, and truly Angels in Adoption.

I was honored to recently award the Garretts with their Angels in Adoption award. They are an incredible family that has dedicated their lives to help and change children's lives.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OTIS CUFFEE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Otis N. Cuffee. For 37 years, Sergeant Major Cuffee has served in the United States Armed Services and will soon celebrate his retirement after decades of service to our Nation.

Sergeant Major Cuffee dedicated 37 years in continuous active duty service to our country. During his tenure in the U.S. Armed Services he served in various leadership positions, from Squad Leader to Sergeant Major. As Sergeant Major, Cuffee extended his expertise to teaching the Basic Airborne Training Course and the NCO Academy Advanced Course. Most recently, he has had the position of a senior enlisted leader at the Defense Logistics Agency.

Sergeant Major Cuffee has received numerous personal awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service. His relentless dedication was honored with the Meritorious Service Award, Army Commendation Award, Army Achievement, Humanitarian Service Award and Korean Defense Service Medal. Additionally, Sergeant Cuffee has received numerous unit and condition awards.

Sergeant Cuffee's long and impressive career showcases his commitment not only to his local community but our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Command Sergeant Cuffee for his dedication and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 I had to

meet with constituents in the Champaign-Urbana area concerning financial matters of local Government and I missed suspension votes on H.R. 5044, the Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act, which amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income any amount attributable to the discharge of student loan indebtedness of a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability, Also I missed votes on H.R. 5912, which would Amend the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit public funds for political party conventions.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on the above stated bills.

''TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY''

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Taiwan's National Day on October 10th, fondly referred to as Double Ten Day. Since its formation, Taiwan has rapidly industrialized and now boasts the 19th largest economy in the world.

Taiwan remains important to the United States in its advocacy of fair democratic values across the world and its success in sustaining a dynamic multi-party system revealing its commitment to protecting political rights and freedoms. In troubled times such as these, it is also gratifying to know that there are countries that continue to put forth efforts that provide constructive solutions for highly divisive issues.

Instead of exacerbating tensions with China, Taiwan has pursued positive relations with China by promoting economic trade. Taiwan has continued to maintain its own independent and democratic form of government, vibrant culture, and booming commerce.

Once again, I would like to share in Taiwan's celebration on their National Day.

ROY BENAVIDEZ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America is about people. Who we are and what we are is because of the people who have come to America. We have always been and will always be a nation of immigrants. They are individuals who have lived and died and influenced the rest of us because of their tenacious spirit and determination.

Roy Benavidez was one of those Americans. He was born in South Texas in a small town called Cuero, August 5, 1935. He was the son of a sharecropper. He was an orphan and he had mixed blood of Yaqui Indian and Hispanic. He lost his family at a young age and dropped out of school in the 7th grade. He didn't see the need for an education at that time. He was a migrant farm worker. He worked all over Texas and as far as Colorado in the sugar beet fields and the cotton fields.

In 1955 decided to join the United States Army, and he joined in Houston, Texas. He was in love with his hometown sweetheart, Lala Coy. While he was away in Germany on active duty, he asked a local priest, his grandfather and his uncle if they would go to Lala's father and ask permission for Roy to marry her and he agreed. While he was in the Army, however, he was in a lot of trouble, even though he was a member of the Military Police.

So he finally joined the Special Forces training at Fort Bragg where he reached the rank of staff sergeant and went to Vietnam as a Green Beret. But on May 2, 1962, his life changed forever. It is a story that is almost unbelievable.

On the morning of May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces team was inserted in Cambodia to observe a large-scale North Vietnamese troop movement, and they were discovered by the enemy. Most of the team members were close friends of Roy Benavidez, who was the forward operating officer in Loc Ninh, Vietnam. Three helicopters were sent to rescue this 12-man team, but they were unable to land because of the heavy enemy concentration. When a second attempt was made to reach the stranded team, Benavidez jumped onboard one of the helicopters, armed only with a Bowie knife. As the helicopters reached the landing zone, Benavidez realized the team members were likely too severely wounded to move to the helicopters. So he ran by himself through heavy small arms fire to the wounded soldiers. He was wounded in the leg, the face, and the head in the process. He reorganized the team and signaled the helicopters to land. But despite his injuries, Benavidez was able to carry off half of the wounded men to the helicopters.

He then collected the classified documents held by the now dead team leader. As he completed this task, he was wounded by an exploding grenade in the back and shot in the stomach. At that moment, the waiting helicopter's pilot was also mortally wounded, and that helicopter crashed. He ran to collect the stunned crash survivors and form a perimeter. He directed air support, ordered another extraction attempt and was wounded again when shot in the thigh. At this point he was losing so much blood from his face wounds that his vision became blocked.

Finally, another helicopter landed and as Benavidez carried a wounded friend to it, he was clubbed in the head with a rifle butt by an enemy soldier. That soldier bayonetted Benavidez twice.

Mr. Speaker, Benavidez was wounded in that one battle 37 times; Seven gunshot wounds, he had mortar shrapnel in his back, and two bayonet wounds. He was taken for dead and left for dead and zipped up in a body bag, but right before they zipped the bag up, he spit in the doctor's face, letting the doctor know he was yet alive.

He later recovered. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and then many years later Ronald Reagan presented him with the Congressional Medal of Honor. President Reagan stated that if this were a movie, no one would believe it because of the heroic deed of Roy Benavidez.

Mr. Speaker, after he retired from the military, Roy Benavidez went around America talking about the importance of an education, since he only went to the seventh grade. He talked to young gang members, he talked to youth, telling them to stay in school and get an education. He was a remarkable individual.

A Navy ship has been named after him, several elementary schools in Texas have been named after Roy Benavidez, and even a toy company has issued a Roy Benavidez GI Joe action figure.

As we prepare to celebrate and honor Hispanic Heritage Month, one of those great Hispanic Americans was Roy Benavidez, a Texas hero, an American hero, a war hero that loved America and, as he said, got to live the American Dream the way that he wanted.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE ALDEN FARMERS MARKET

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Alden Farmers Market, a staple in Western New York since 2003 that brings community together over fresh, locally grown produce every Saturday morning in the summer.

Open from late May until early October, the farmers market sponsored by the Alden Chamber of commerce, located in Alden Village Plaza allows friends, family and neighbors to enjoy a plentiful variety of fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, plants, chickens, beef, baked goods, honey, maple syrup, candy, spices, soaps and jellies while learning techniques of how they were made straight from the merchants and producers themselves.

This rare level of personal service and knowledge, combined with the variety of fresh local products is unique to Western New York and surrounding farms and has become a practice that all western New Yorkers take pride in.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday October 6 the Alden Farmers Market will mark the end of its 10th season. Small closing ceremonies will include musical artist Sara Elizabeth Genco, a costume and pet parade, and a second raffle drawing. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and all Western New Yorkers in thanking the Alden Chamber of commerce and all local merchants and farmers who participated in this great Saturday morning tradition.

HONORING THE FOUR UNITED STATES PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DIED IN LIBYA

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 786, which honors the four exceptional public servants who gave their lives in service to the United States and condemns the attacks on United States' diplomatic facilities in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen.

I would like to extend my condolences and sympathy in this time of great loss to the families of these four heroes.

Mr. Speaker, John Christopher Stevens, the United States Ambassador to Libya; Sean Smith, Foreign Service Information Management Officer; and Tyrone S. Woods and Glen

A. Doherty, Security Officers, were among the finest members of our diplomatic corps. They dedicated their lives to promote peace, support prosperity, and protect American citizens while advancing the interests of the United States abroad.

Ambassador Stevens was a champion of the Libyan people's efforts to remove Muammar Qaddafi from power and served as Special Envoy to the Libyan Transitional National Council in Benghazi during the 2011 Libyan revolution.

Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith, and security officers Tyrone S. Woods and Glen A. Doherty as well as the United States' citizens that were injured in these attacks made professional and personal sacrifices to faithfully serve the United States and its people to advance the ideals of freedom, democracy, and human dignity around the globe.

They are heroes and their contributions and sacrifices in service to America and the cause of freedom will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution in its condemnation of the terrorists who planned and conducted the attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and those who vandalized the United States embassies in Cairo, Egypt, and Sana'a, Yemen. The resolution also reaffirms that nothing can justify terrorism or attacks on innocent civilians and diplomatic personnel.

Most importantly, the bill calls upon the Governments of Libya, Egypt, and Yemen, in full cooperation with the United States Government, to investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks.

Finally, the resolution reiterates the United States' commitment to promoting its core values, including support for democracy, universal human rights, individual and religious freedom, and respect for human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate indeed to live in a country that produces exceptional men like Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty. Their selfless devotion to our nation's ideals and values will forever mark them as American heroes. I hope their families can take consolation in the fact that they will live on in the memories of the grateful nation they gave their lives to serve.

It is for these reasons that I support H. Res. 786 and ask for a moment of silence in memory of Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty.

CONGRATULATING ROCIO DE MATEO SMITH

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI; to recognize and congratulate Rocio de Mateo Smith upon her retirement as Executive Director from the Developmental Disabilities Area Board 5.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Rocio de Mateo Smith attended Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, where she received a B.A. in Mathematics. In the United States, she received a B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Hayward and an M.S.W. from the University of California, Berkeley.

For the past 30 years, Rocio de Mateo Smith has worked in the field of developmental disabilities with a special emphasis in services to immigrant communities. In her role as Executive Director of Area Board 5 on Developmental Disabilities, Rocio advocated for the service rights of people with developmental disabilities of all ages, both at the individual and systemic levels. Prior to this position, she was the Developmental Disabilities Coordinator for Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and, before that, was the Executive Director of Agency for Infant Development, a Fremont-based program for infants with disabilities and their families.

Rocio is a true champion when it comes to advocating for people with developmental disabilities and her knowledge with regard to resources in the community is unmatched. She has served and impacted countless individuals and families in the Bay Area, representing them and guiding them toward appropriate services. For all her efforts, Rocio is not only highly regarded, but has been recognized and honored extensively as an outstanding woman and as a true advocate for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Rocio de Mateo Smith for her committed and diligent service to the community. I am pleased to join her family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating Rocio on an outstanding career and wish her the very best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE VETERANS AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 QUAD CITIES HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great honor of welcoming to our nation's capital ninety-two Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation and forty-three Gold Star family members who will be escorting them on their visit. This is truly a special Honor Flight because it is bringing together World War II and Korean War veterans with families who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 43 Gold Star family members travelling to our capital today represent 24 fallen servicemembers. I can think of no greater honor than to join them and our World War II and Korean War veterans at the National World War II Memorial during their visit and to personally thank Iowa's, and our nation's, heroes—our veterans and the families who have sacrificed so greatly on behalf of our country.

When our country was threatened, our World War II and Korean War Veterans rose to defend not just our nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that we hold dear. 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.

This generation of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans is no less humbling in their service and sacrifice. They have fought overseas for over a decade so that we may live in peace here at home. While our country may never be able to repay the debt we owe our Gold Star families, we must uphold the promise that we will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by their loved ones.

I am tremendously proud and humbled to welcome the Quad Cities Honor Flight, our World War II and Korean War veterans, and our Gold Star families to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING TREVOR GREENE

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2013 National Principal of the Year, Principal Trevor Greene, from Toppenish High School in my Congressional District. Principal Greene is an outstanding school administrator and I am grateful for his leadership and dedication to the students and faculty at Toppenish High School.

Four years ago, Principal Greene returned to the Yakima Indian Reservation, where he grew up, to serve as principal at Toppenish High. Once an underperforming school, Toppenish High has become a top performing institution whose successful model is followed by other schools in the region, thanks to the hard work of the staff under his leadership.

Principal Greene energized Toppenish students and helped them gain the confidence needed to work harder and dream bigger. By implementing a rigorous science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, education program and expanding academic opportunities to his students, test scores have improved by 67 percent and graduation rates are over 90 percent.

At a time when the United States is falling behind in science and math, the Toppenish High STEM program continues to increase in popularity among students, with enrollment jumping by more than 100 students in just one school year. Students are receiving a high quality education and graduating with the resources and tools they need to succeed in college and beyond.

Each year, MetLife Resources along with the National Association of Secondary School Principals Association, NASSP, selects one highly deserving principal from a pool of more than 100 middle and high school principals nationwide. These individuals, who have been nominated by their state, are highly successful at providing top-quality learning opportunities for students and have demonstrated commendable contributions to the profession.

I am pleased that as a result of Principal Greene's selection as National Principal of the Year, Toppenish High School will receive a $5,000 school improvement grant from the Metlife Resources/NASSP National Principal of the Year program.

We need more people like Principal Greene working to make a difference in our schools. I applaud his dedication to the students and faculty at Toppenish High School.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON ITS 101ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Double Ten Day, the National day of the Republic of China. On October 10th, Taiwan will celebrate the 101st anniversary of China's military Wuchang Uprising, the start of the Xinhai Revolution, which led to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty, the end of 2,000 years of imperial rule in China and ushered in the Republican Era.

By the end of the 1683 century, Ching rulers governed all of China. After the first three emperors, the Ching Court began to decline, becoming weak and corrupt. In response, a group of national capitalists began inciting uprisings. One of the leaders of this nationalistic group, Sun Yat-sen, spent much of his youth in the United States and wanted a Western-style government for his country with a parliament and separation of powers. After the success of the uprisings, Sun Yat-sen became the first president of the Republic of China, a post from where he promoted the idea of a democratic society. Dr. Sun is now remembered as the father of modern China.

When the Republic of China lost control over the mainland in 1942, the government retreated to Taiwan where its constitution remains in command today. Taiwan is an exemplary standard of civil, liberal government in East Asia, and the Republic of China has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States to defend and promote the very values and ideals that inspired Dr. Sun and founded the Republic all those years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I thus urge my colleagues to acknowledge the Founding Father Sun Yat-Sen and his vision to a democratic China, and join me in congratulating the Republic of China in Taiwan on its 101st anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 585–586. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes" on 585 and "no" on 586.

IN HONOR OF KEVIN QUIGLEY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Kevin Quigley, outgoing President of the National Peace Corps Association. After nine years at the NPCA, Kevin is moving on to serve as Peace Corps Country Director in Thailand, the country where he served as a Volunteer from 1976–1979.

Kevin's dedication to the Peace Corps community is evident in the legacy he leaves behind at the NPCA. Under his leadership, the association launched new programs designed to connect Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to schools and community groups in the United States that are interested in learning more about Peace Corps, established a mentoring program to assist volunteers returning from overseas service, and provided alumni with continued service learning travel opportunities to Peace Corps countries. Kevin also guided the NPCA into the digital age with the Africa Rural Connect Program, which provides an online platform allowing global collaboration to advance small-scale agricultural development initiatives in rural Africa, and NPCA Twitter Chat, a weekly online gathering of the Peace Corps community to discuss how to address key issues of the day.

Kevin brought a unique skill set to the NPCA, drawing from his experience as Senator John Heinz's Legislative Director, staff member at the Office of Management and Budget, and Vice Chairman of USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Assistance. He also served as Acting CEO of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Workers and Communities, and Vice President of Policy and Business at the Asia Society.

And uniting many of Kevin's diverse abilities is his commitment to volunteerism. In addition to his Peace Corps service, Kevin played a founding role in the formation of the Building Bridges Coalition, a consortium of more than 200 leading organizations working collaboratively to promote the field of international volunteering.

Mr. Speaker, while I will miss collaborating with Kevin at the NPCA, I wish him the very best in his ongoing service to our country. Peace Corps Thailand is lucky to have him.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Taiwan's National Day (October 10, 2012), I am pleased to take this opportunity to wish the leaders and people of Taiwan many happy returns. I look forward to continued bi-lateral relations between Taiwan and the United States of America.

Also, I would like to bid a personal farewell to Taiwan Ambassador, Mr. Jason Yuan. He has been reassigned as Taiwan's Secretary-General of the National Security Council. During his last four years in Washington, DC, Ambassador Yuan has been instrumental in fostering the strong relationship between the Taiwanese people and the Government of the United States. I wish Ambassador Yuan and his family best wishes and a smooth transition in his new position, and I thank him for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE ALBANIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of the Albanian Cultural Garden, taking place on September 22, 2012.

The 254 acre piece of land that constitutes Rockefeller Park was donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. The Cleveland Croatian Cultural Garden is a two acre piece of land within Rockefeller Park. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens were founded in 1926 to create a memorial area for the diverse ethnic groups that shape the region, and to serve as a space for reflection on peace, cooperation and understanding. The Cultural Gardens are currently a collection of more than 30 gardens which include African-American, American Indian, British, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, and Slovenian gardens, among others.

The planning and construction of the Albanian Cultural Garden started in 2007. Legislation sponsoring its dedication was spearheaded by Cleveland City Councilwoman Dona Brady. Members of the Albanian American Association of Cleveland, Ohio, Albanian Cultural Garden Committee, Jim McKnight and Kreshnik Xhiku were instrumental in creating the Albanian Cultural Garden.

The dedication of the Albanian Cultural Garden will occur on September 22, 2012. In addition to inaugurating the Albanian Cultural Garden, it will also commemorate the 100th year of Albanian Independence and dedicate the Mother Teresa memorial statue. Special guests of the dedication will include Albanian President, Bujar Nishani; Albanian Ambassador, Gilbert Galanxhi; Mayor Baftjar Zeqaj; and Mary, Mariano and Christian Gannon.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me recognition of the dedication of the Albanian Cultural Garden.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lincoln High School, in Tacoma, WA, for its many achievements over the almost one hundred years it has been open, and to congratulate all who work and study at Lincoln as they prepare to celebrate the school's 100th anniversary.

Lincoln High School accepted its first students in 1914. Since then, the teachers at Lincoln have educated thousands who would go on to graduate, and the school has supported many of its students by raising scholarship funds for future graduates. In the coming year, Lincoln High School hopes to raise $100,000 in scholarship money to celebrate their centennial anniversary. This year's fundraising will build upon the successes during the school's 75th anniversary, when $75,000 was raised to

support 12 graduating students. Lincoln High School's organizing committee has hosted various fundraisers to connect students and communities through education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Lincoln High School. Schools like Lincoln High School keeps students motivated and active by ensuring that all are given the opportunity to have a bright future.

CONFIRMING FULL OWNERSHIP RIGHTS TO ARTIFACTS FROM ASTRONAUTS' SPACE MISSIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4158, to Confirm Full Ownership Rights for Certain United States Astronauts to Artifacts from the Astronauts' Space Missions Act.

H.R. 4158 preserves the rights of astronauts who served on the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s, through the time of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Flight, to retain full and complete ownership of certain artifacts such as personal logs and flight manuals that were used in training or during their flights.

For many years, it was an accepted practice for astronauts to keep mementos of their training and flight missions.

However, confusion surrounding NASA's informal policies on artifacts have led to attempts to repossess those artifacts years later.

This has resulted in questions concerning the status of items that astronauts have had in their possession for years, if not decades, or donated to museums, universities, scholarship funds, and so forth.

I support this bill, because it clarifies that the ownership of those artifacts rests with the astronauts who served during those missions, while preserving the current policy that ownership of moon rocks and lunar material will continue to rest with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, we lost an American hero, Neil Armstrong. He and his fellow astronauts fulfilled the dreams of a grateful nation by pushing the boundaries of space.

One small way to show our gratitude is by passing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 586, I was unavoidably detained and could not be present for last night's rollcall vote on H.R. 5912, a bill that would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions and provide for the return of any previously-distributed funds for deficit reduction. I am a strong supporter of this legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on one of the most important pieces of federal legislation impacting our coastal, great lakes and ocean resources stretching from Fagatele Bay in American Samoa to the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary along the East Coast. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which was signed on October 23, 1972, recognized the value of these national treasures; designating marine protected areas for current and future generations.

40 years later, communities across the country have seen real dividends from these federal investments and are expressing their interests in protecting their own waters. Reactivation of NOAA's Site Evaluation List, a scientifically rigorous and publicly reviewed list of sites, is being considered as part of the Strategic Action Plan to implement our National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes. It would bring a renewed commitment to conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of our nation's system of marine protected areas.

In my experience, the most remarkable thing about the National Marine Sanctuary Program is the transformation which occurs when communities recognize they have the opportunity to become stewards of their local marine environment. I cannot emphasize enough that ours and future generations will increasingly depend on a healthy ocean—for ecological, economic, educational, scientific, social, cultural and recreational benefits, as well as for the food we eat. For me, the best example is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which this year celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary emerged from a collaboration of local officials, civic minded citizens, environmentalists and many others who were concerned about the possibility of oil drilling on the Central Coast. Their hard work resulted in the establishment of the largest marine sanctuary in the Continental U.S. It goes down more than 2 miles and is almost as deep as the Rockies are tall. Its undersea mountain—"Davidson Seamount"—is higher than any coastal mountain, 7480 ft. tall, and it supports one of the most bio-diverse ecosystems in the world.

I am fortunate to represent a congressional district that has one of the greatest synergies of ocean science and research in the world. And it is through increased understanding of our marine sanctuaries that we become better stewards of our blue planet. The National Marine Sanctuary Program is charting the course forward through research and education and it is only fitting that, on this anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, we in Congress commend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and all of our nation's sanctuaries for their significant work in advancing understanding and protection of the world's oceans.

HONORING NASA LANGLEY'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th Anniversary of NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. In 1917, this nation's first civilian aeronautical research laboratory was established in Hampton, Virginia, by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics as the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory. Today, NASA Langley is known around the world for its cutting edge research, leading numerous aviation breakthroughs, making contributions to flight technologies across all speed regimes, and improving the safety of our national air space. I would also like to recognize the approximately 1900 civil servants and 1800 contractors who contribute to the important mission carried out at NASA Langley today and to thank the many individuals who have played a part in the Center's 95-year history in establishing the Center's strong legacy of excellence in aeronautics.

NASA Langley contributes to NASA's vision to "reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind" by developing robust aerospace systems that can perform in our own atmosphere, on the Moon, on Mars or anywhere that NASA explores with aircraft, spacecraft and satellites. These NASA technologies can be found on virtually every civilian or military aircraft flying today. NASA Langley has also conducted ground-breaking climate and atmospheric research, which has improved the understanding of our planet, its atmosphere, and the impact on human health. NASA Langley is a vital member of the Hampton Roads community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation and I am certain that the Center and its employees will continue to achieve unparalleled technology advances that will inspire generations of future explorers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending NASA Langley for continuing to drive game-changing technology innovations that support our Nation's economic vitality and leadership in aerospace.

HONORING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 225th anniversary of the United States Constitution and to celebrate its many contributions to American society. On September 17, 1788 members of the Constitutional Convention signed what would become the most important and fundamental document in the United States of America.

Our founding fathers came together in true American spirit to lay out our rights and freedoms, rights that were later extended to include all Americans regardless of race or gender. The unmatched longevity of the Constitution still maintains those values today. This

unique document represents our founding fathers' innovative strides towards democracy and has fervently outlived all of its predecessors. Our constitutional framers and those who have improved the Constitution through Amendments have ensured the preservation and enhancement of liberty, justice and equality. The Constitution has endured the test of time and now celebrates a remarkable 225 years as the foundation of American government. The Constitution represents the ability of our country to come together for the greater good. The inalienable rights laid out in this historical document have shaped our amazing nation and served as inspiration for the development of future democracies.

On August 2, 1956, President Eisenhower enacted a law that acknowledged the Constitution's importance as the center of the America we now know and love and instituted an annual National Constitution Week to both celebrate the Constitution and promote its study. It is during this week that we acknowledge not only our framers with patriotic dignity, but also honor those who have ensured that this document continues to preserve equality throughout our nation. This dignified piece of American history deserves proper recognition, and I invite my colleagues to join me in renewing our vows to preserve, protect and defend this venerable document.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENZELL PERRY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young man, Denzell Perry. Today, Mr. Perry is being honored as the Pacific Region Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of America. Mr. Perry is from Watts, California, which is in my district. He embodies the core values held by the Boys and Girls Club. He leads by example and has already made a significant difference at his local center.

Mr. Perry started going to the center at the age of six, and the relationships he built then have turned into lifelong friends and mentors. Now, he provides the same guidance and support that he received as a child.

At his club, Mr. Perry was president of the teen service group and served as a junior staff member. Also, when Mr. Perry's club wanted to help more teens receive assistance through its college access program, he designed a new Web site that really spoke to his peers.

In high school, Mr. Perry was class president, a member of the Black Student Union, and a student member of the board of education. Now he attends University of California Irvine, majoring in criminal justice. I am confident that, with his strong work ethic and sense of social justice, he will transform his community and the lives of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, he is the type of young man we should all look to for inspiration. He is a true leader in his community and has a bright future ahead of him. I am honored to have such an impressive young man in my district. I urge my colleagues to continue to support the Boys and Girls Clubs of America which has a tradition of producing great Americans such Denzel Washington, Magic Johnson, General Wesley Clark, and now continues with Denzell Perry.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER HIGGINS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Higgins for his invaluable contribution to the infrastructure of Philadelphia. Since 1986, Walt has transformed several of Philadelphia's vital roadways, enhancing the city's travel efficiency.

After graduating Monsignor Bonner High School in 1975, Walt studied Labor-Management Relations and Construction Management at Delaware Community College, Kutztown University, and The George Meany Center for Labor Relations at the National Labor College. Walt was the Traffic Control Coordinator and Foreman for projects such as the Vine Street Expressway Reconstruction, and the 1–95 Center City Access Job. Walt also coordinated logistics with the City of Philadelphia, the Workforce and Penn Dot for several fast track projects. Philadelphians who regularly utilize the Walt Whitman Bridge, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the Patco High Speed Line understand the importance of Walt's work on these projects.

Walt has been a member of the Laborers' Local 57 for more than thirty years and presently serves as the local's Business Manager and the Vice President of the Laborers District Council of Philadelphia. He is a trustee on the Laborers District Council Pension and Health and Welfare Benefit Funds and sits on the Board of Directors of the Allied Trades Assistance Program. Aside from managing business, serving councils, and improving Philadelphia's infrastructure, Walt enjoys spending time with his wife Adele, son Tom and his wife Kelly, and his three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walter Higgins and thanking him for his service to the city of Philadelphia.

NEIL GODLESKI AND SUZANNE MURPHY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the tragic passing of Neil Godleski, nephew of my friend and constituent Suzanne Murphy of Southampton, New York. Neil, a rising senior at Catholic University, was fatally shot on August 22, 2010 while riding his bicycle home from a restaurant where he worked as a waiter. He was 31 years old and had returned to college with plans to pursue a career in science. His assailant was a 16-year-old boy who shot him six times with a .38 caliber handgun and then robbed him.

Suzanne's family has been wrenched with grief over the sudden end of this young man's life. More than 200 people attended his funeral in his hometown of Norwalk, Connecticut, and many others gathered at a candlelight vigil for him in his Washington, DC neighborhood of Petworth.

While no vigil or memorial could ever begin to take away the pain of this loss, Suzanne has found a way to channel her grief and focus her energy. She has become an advocate for gun control, becoming part of a movement declaring the need to seek a new path emphasizing gun safety at a time when one in three Americans knows someone who has been shot In an average year, around 100,000 Americans are killed or wounded with guns.

Columbine, Virginia Tech, Trayvon Martin, and the recent episode in Aurora, Colorado are senseless tragedies still fresh in our minds that point to the need for responsible policies that protect all Americans from gun violence but also preserve the right afforded citizens by the Second Amendment. Reasonable people can agree that we can achieve even-handed protections that do not infringe on any American's right to possess a firearm.

Efforts to curb the influx of dangerous weapons into our communities, restrictions on assault-type weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and policies on handguns are the types of actions Congress can take to protect our communities from gun violence. We must also equip local law enforcement officers with the tools needed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who wish to do our sons and daughters harm.

Unfortunately, Suzanne Murphy and her family have experienced first-hand the tragic pain and loss that comes to a family in a shooting death. At Catholic University, Neil was a teaching assistant to his biology professor. The professor told Suzanne that one of Neil's jobs was to keep an eye out for other students having trouble mastering the material. Neil especially liked tutoring and helping his fellow classmates. After his death, Catholic University awarded Neil his diploma with his class of 2011. His parents, Dan and Heidi Godleski, gratefully accepted it on his behalf

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Suzanne's efforts to reach out and bring awareness to the problem of gun safety. We must not let her nephew become just another chilling statistic in the battle to make our communities safer—leaving another family struggling to get past the pain and loss.