EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HORSES FOR HEROES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Army Sergeant Curtis Davis returned to America from his last deployment in a wheelchair. He thought he would never be able to walk again. However, he was welcomed back with open arms by his family and friends who told him that wasn't so. Sergeant Davis did not immediately have the physical ability to get back into the active father role of running around with his kids or participating in physical activities that our military men and women dream of doing when they return from serving overseas.

Today, Sergeant Davis is back up on his feet thanks to Horses for Heroes, a program located northwest of Georgetown, Texas, dedicated to improving the lives of injured veterans. Prior to becoming involved with Horses for Heroes, Sergeant Davis could not balance on his own two legs and was unable to walk without a cane or crutches. And after several rides on a horse, his life has improved. He can now walk. He has also learned peace and a therapeutic connection to a horse.

Just like Sergeant Davis, there are several service men and women who were injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. Some of them were physically injured, others were emotionally injured. Horses for Heroes has helped heal these men and women who risked their lives for our freedom. The organization has created a special environment where our injured veterans have gone for support, recovery, and inspiration, all on a horse with a veteran at their side. Improved balance, motor skills, speech, morale, and well being are only a few of the benefits of Horses for Heroes treatments.

Post-war life is a difficult adjustment. It is great to see a local Texas organization investing in the physical and emotional lives of our American heroes.

And that's just the way it is.

MS. DONNA E. PALERMO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna E. Palermo, president of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, who received the Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award. Maternal and Family Health Services is a non-profit health and human service organization working to improve the health of Pennsylvania women and children.

The Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award is named in honor of former Luzerne County Commissioner and long-time employee of Maternal and Family Health Services, Rose Tucker. Ms. Tucker dedicated her life to public service and acted as a health advocate and champion for women, children, and families in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The award is presented to someone who exemplifies those same qualities.

Ms. Palermo has had a distinguished career with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. She began as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the chamber's 120-year history to serve as president. In June 2013, she will celebrate 25 years with the chamber.

Ms. Palermo has committed years of service to her community. She holds leadership positions on numerous boards including chairman of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, chairman of the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and secretary of the Mountain Council of Governments. Ms. Palermo serves the community on additional boards such as Greater Hazleton Partners in Education, Hazleton General Hospital, Leadership Hazleton, Luzerne County Community College Advisory Council, and the YWCA PEARL committee.

Ms. Palermo has been a successful leader for the community. She led efforts to form a health insurance and energy program through a partnership of 17 chambers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She helped to initiate a Farmers Market in downtown Hazleton as well as a Women's Networking committee in partnership with the Hazleton YWCA and Leadership Hazleton. Ms. Palermo was recognized in 2002 as one of the top 25 women in business by the NEPA Business Journal.

Having worked with Ms. Palermo on economic development and community service projects in the Hazleton area, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Ms. Palermo approaches each task with enthusiasm and optimism and keeps a level head even when situations become tense. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to work alongside Ms. Palermo on numerous projects in the Hazleton area, and I look forward to working with her on future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community. It is an honor to recognize her service, and I congratulate her on receiving the Maternal and Family Health Services Rose Tucker Award. I thank Ms. Palermo for all that she does for our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and I wish her continued success in the future.

HONORING JOSEPH STACHON'S HOMECOMING AS ILLINOIS VFW STATE COMMANDER

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph J. Stachon as Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 welcomes him home following his installation as Illinois VFW State Commander. As a decorated veteran, a dedicated citizen, and a loyal patriot, Mr. Stachon continues to serve his community and his tireless dedication deserves our recognition. I am especially proud because he is the first VFW State Commander from the 3rd Congressional District.

As a young man, Mr. Stachon enlisted and served our nation honorably in Vietnam as a Green Beret in the United States Army. As a combat rifleman in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, he was deployed from October 1968 until he was wounded in action, coming home in a full body cast in May 1969. On the battlefield his sacrifices earned him a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, as well as a National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Mr. Stachon also served for 30 years in the Chicago Police Department. On patrol, Mr. Stachon would occasionally encounter dangerous and difficult situations. In these instances, he was pragmatic and effective, quickly neutralizing any danger for both civilians and officers. He was known for his calm temperament and his reliability, and his commitment to the force and his fellow policemen was well-known and unwavering.

A Gold Legacy life member of the VFW Johnson-Phelps Post 5220 in Oak Lawn, Illinois, Mr. Stachon has served in all chairs including Post Commander ten times and All-State Commander four times. He has also served the Department of Illinois in many offices and is involved in several civic organizations.

Described by his friends as dependable and honest, Mr. Stachon is also a devoted family man who has been married to his wife Barbara for 43 years. Together they have raised two sons, Joseph Jr. and Jon, and a daughter, Julie. He enjoys spending his free time with his children and his four grandchildren: Anthony, Michael, Joseph, and Michelle, as well as his son-in-law, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Marie.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Joseph Stachon on his installation and homecoming as Illinois VFW State Commander.

RECOGNIZING W.H. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME, INC. FOR ITS CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a minority owned business of Vicksburg, Mississippi, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc.

W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc., is the oldest funeral home in the state of Mississippi. Established in 1894 by William H. and Lucy C. Jefferson, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home has served Vicksburg and surrounding communities for 118 years, under the direction and sole ownership of members of the Jefferson family.

Both William H. and Lucy C. Jefferson were active in their community and served in various social and civic organizations. The Jefferson torch of service has been passed along for generations. The family's commitment to meeting the sovereign needs of its customers during their time of bereavement has been the business' anchor, even during some of the country's most trying economic times.

Today W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc. continues to carry on the tradition of dignity and compassion for its clients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc. and their contributions to their community.

RECOGNIZING MR. GENE GRUBER FOR WINNING HIS 5TH, AND HIS FAMILY'S 15TH, USA NATIONAL PLOWING TITLE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gene Gruber of Richmond, Minnesota, upon being awarded his 5th, and his family's 15th, USA National Plowing Title on August 6, 2012.

Mr. Gruber's victory means that he will represent the USA at the 60th World Plowing Contest in Olds, Alberta, Canada, on July 19–20, 2013. Going against 31 other countries, he will compete for the 5th time internationally, and in his last international competition in New Zealand (2010) he finished 9th. Mr. Gruber's skill and ability with the plow are only matched by his generosity, as he has not hesitated to teach other plowmen across the United States the knowledge necessary to be a plowing champion.

As farmers across the nation work to put food on the tables of all Americans, we can respect the dedication and industriousness that they show as they labor to grow and plow their crops every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join with me in recognizing Mr. Gene Gruber upon this award.

HONORING THE TARAPANI FAMILY FOR 101 YEARS OF BUSINESS AND SERVICE IN TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Tarapani family of Tarpon Springs, Florida, on the accomplishment of 101 years of business and service in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Throughout their time in the United States, the Tarapani family has lived the American Dream, applying hard work and determination to create a successful small business in our community.

Having emigrated from Lithuania to the United States through Ellis Island as a young boy, Abraham Tarapani opened his first storefront in Tarpon Springs in 1911. The store was an old-fashioned dry goods store, selling clothing, fabrics, hats and other general merchandise. To this day, the Tarapani Department Store proudly serves the people of Tarpon Springs and northern Pinellas County.

Over the last century, the Tarapani family has become a staple of the Tarpon Springs business and civic communities. Through four generations, members of the family have actively and attentively served their local customers, while also serving the greater community with their participation on many boards and associations, including the American Legion, the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club, the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, among others. Abraham Tarapani and his wife, Margaret, had two children: Helen and Abe, Jr. Abe, Jr. and his wife, Florida Belle, had three children: Abe III, John and Florida Belle. And finally, John had a son, Townsend. These members of the Tarapani family represent four generations and their contributions have helped to make Tarpon Springs a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years the Tarapani family has represented the best of the American entrepreneurial spirit. The family has become a pillar of the local Tarpon Springs community. Their economic success and ability to adapt with the changing times exemplify the strength of this country's business community, and I commend them for their contributions to our area.

''REPEAL AN OLD RELIC''

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago this week then President George H.W. Bush signed the FREEDOM Support Act into law. This law gave money to the countries of the former Soviet Union to help them build democracies from the rubble of failed communism.

That is, except one. Wrapped up in this big bill was a tiny provision, called ''Section 907,'' that forbid any money from going to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is a strong partner of the United States. After 9/11, Azerbaijan allowed our planes to fly in its airspace and contributed troops to Afghanistan. With 7 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, it will be an important player in increasing Europe's energy security. The country is also a predominantly Muslim country that is a friend of Israel and the free market system, unlike its tyrannical neighbor Iran. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama recognized the importance of our alliance with Azerbaijan and waived Section 907 via Executive Order every year since 2001.

In fact, from Secretary Albright to Secretary Powell, Secretaries of State from both Republican and Democrat administrations over the last 20 years have supported the repeal of Section 907. Congress should do away with this archaic and obsolete relic of the past and repeal Section 907. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF TERRENCE ''TERRY'' O'BRIEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Terry O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Terry will retire this November, after 24 years of exemplary public service to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). Mr. O'Brien's integrity, along with his proven ability to be an effective leader, helped him to be elected President of the MWRDGC in 1997 for a two year term. As of 2011, he has been re-elected President eight times unanimously by his fellow commissioners.

Stemming from a long career in the environmental field, Mr. O'Brien has been able to bring extensive knowledge to enhance and streamline many of the tasks and responsibilities of the District at the least possible cost to local taxpayers. Further, based on his highest possible standard of public service and strong business sense, under President O'Brien's leadership, the MWRDGC is one of the few governmental agencies in the State of Illinois to have an AAA bond rating. This is a testament to his dedication to the citizens of the Chicagoland area to secure the highest possible return on investment. During his term as President the MWRDGC has abated over $262 million dollars back to the taxpayers of Cook County. In addition, Mr. O'Brien is an aggressive vocal advocate for maintaining the health of area residents by preventing pollution in Lake Michigan, local rivers, and streams. He has actively pursued continuous funding for the MWRDGC's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP); this large undertaking captures sewer overflow before it can pollute the drinking water supply. Since TARP's implementation in 1985, over 950 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow have been captured that otherwise would have polluted the area waterways. The system's final tunnel was completed in May of 2006, making all 109 miles of tunnel operational during rain events in Cook County.

Mr. O'Brien spent seven years initiating the successful introduction and enactment of a flood reduction bill, which now gives the MWRDGC the responsibility of dealing with flooding and stormwater issues throughout Cook County. After many setbacks, the bill was passed on November 19, 2004 thanks in part to Mr. O'Brien's relentless efforts and determination. He also instituted the (800) 332–DUMP pollution hotline number for citizens to report illegal dumping of materials into sewers and waterways, enabling the District to take immediate action against these violators.

Mr. O'Brien's strong interest in promoting fiscally sound, and taxpayer sensitive policies and programs, has led to a fiscally sound agency and to his promotion of aggressive use of District real estate holdings that are not needed for corporate use, again proving his commitment to reducing taxes that the District levies.

President O'Brien's finest and most enduring legacy will be his leadership in bringing this once-troubled agency forward to become one of the most well-respected, fiscally sound and forward thinking public agencies in the nation.

It is with great pride and respect that we salute President O'Brien for his many years of exemplary public service and dedication to cleaning up our Chicagoland waterways and Lake Michigan and we will be forever grateful for your vision and stewardship. We wish you great good luck in your years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Terrence J. O'Brien and his service to the Chicagoland area. His tireless commitment and dedication will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW RHINE POST 2729

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars Rhine Post 2729. Their 80 years of dedication and service is certainly a milestone deserving our recognition, and I am pleased to congratulate them on this special occasion.

Rhine Post 2729's history of service began in 1932, after receiving their official Congressional Charter on October 29th. It was named ''Rhine'' after Mr. Leo Spychalski, a Polish-American who founded the post and shared the nickname. Mr. Spychalski served in the U.S. Army and participated in the Allied offensive along the German western front in World War I. Following Germany's surrender, Mr. Spychalski was stationed as a guard along the Rhine River. After the war, he also served as the first Post Commander at Post 2729 for 6 years.

Located in Garfield Ridge, a community in Chicago, Illinois, Rhine Post 2729 has grown from its original 17 members to roughly 125 members today. For 80 years now, these men and women have served their nation with courage and integrity, not only in active military duty overseas, but also in their local community.

Rhine Post 2729 is an active organization, and they maintain a legacy of public outreach and service. Of their many activities, they regularly volunteer at the local Veterans Administration hospital and sponsor local community events.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of building a relationship with Rhine Post 2729 and their members. It has been a privilege working with them to host a senior fair, and an honor to have spoken many times at their Memorial Day services at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois.

Today I stand to commend Rhine Post 2729 for their contributions to community and country, and to thank their members for their sacrifices. I ask you to join me in honoring them as we congratulate them on their 80th anniversary.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RENAISSANCE AND THE HOPE THROUGH HOUSING FOUNDATION FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate National Community Renaissance (National CORE) and the Hope Through Housing Foundation (Hope) for 20 years of dedication to community transformation through the development and management of quality, service-enriched affordable rental housing.

National CORE is a leader in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of at-risk affordable housing across the nation. National CORE works closely with state, county and local governments nationwide to identify troubled multi-housing properties that are often ignored by others in the industry and transforms them into successful community centerpieces that establish or reestablish thriving and healthy neighborhoods.

National CORE utilizes proven business models while remaining committed to a social mission, resulting in efficient and effective strategies that successfully transform communities. National CORE's model of managing a product from its inception all the way through to completion and of continued property management is unduplicated by most other affordable housing builders. This innovation and commitment to excellence has made National CORE one of the United States' largest nonprofit developers of quality affordable housing for low-income families and seniors.

National CORE's commitment to its residents also sets it apart. For every community it preserves, National CORE' s first consideration is always its residents. Through the Hope Through Housing Foundation, National CORE is able to provide high quality services to its residents where they live. Hope is a nonprofit that works in close partnership with National CORE to create measurable positive change in the lives of children, adults and families living in these communities. Hope provides supportive services that promote upward mobility for families, and emphasizes the importance of early childhood education, youth development, senior wellness, and economic self-sufficiency. This ''business mind, mission heart'' approach has resulted in an improved quality of life in communities across the nation.

National CORE and Hope continually receive accolades and awards from their industry peers for the creation and operation of outstanding living environments. Whether constructing new infill projects or preserving at-risk affordable housing, entire neighborhoods have been transformed as a result of National CORE and Hope's commitment to providing decent housing and necessary social services for its residents. Using both proven methods and best-practices, as well as developing innovative approaches, National CORE and Hope generate meaningful community change, creating new social and economic opportunities in neighborhoods previously threatened by crime, poverty, blight, and isolation. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee's Housing Subcommittee, I know of no other organizations that have had such a meaningful and lasting impact on the physical and human fabric of communities as National CORE and Hope.

Today, I thank these organizations for their dedication to transforming communities and honor their efforts as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the work of National Community Renaissance and the Hope Through Housing Foundation.

HONORING HANK AND ROSE SANDERS OF ALABAMA

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Johnson C. Smith University's homecoming and election day, I want to take this opportunity to honor Rose and Hank Sanders.

Rose Sanders is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, a historically Black College located in my congressional district. She is also a graduate of the Harvard University School of Law. She was Alabama's first female African American judge and was also a lead attorney in the case of Pigford v. Glickman, a class action lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture which documented racial discrimination in the Department of Agriculture's allocation of farm loans and assistance.

Rose Sanders' husband, Hank Sanders, also graduated from Harvard Law School. He serves in the Alabama State Senate where he has represented the 23rd State Senate District since 1983. He was Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee and is the longest serving Chair of the Legislative Budget Committee.

Today, however, I want to recognize Hank and Rose Sanders for their tireless work to organize the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute and the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. The Museum and the Jubilee were organized and started to memorialize the events of March 7, 1965 which has come to be known as ''Bloody Sunday''. On that date 600 citizens, including my hero and our colleague JOHN LEWIS, were brutally attacked by Alabama state troopers, as they peacefully attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge seeking to provide the

right to vote to all citizens. This attack showed the world the insensitivity and brutality of opponents to voting rights and, ultimately, led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Through the vision and work of Rose and Hank Sanders and their work through the Museum and Jubilee, thousands of Alabama children, residents, tourists and others from around our country and the world have learned about the courageous acts of those who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and others who have fought to advance the struggle to gain the civil and voting rights we now enjoy.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me and my colleague JOHN LEWIS as we commend the efforts of Rose and Hank Sanders and the important work they have done to advance justice, equality and the right to vote in the United States.

RECOGNIZING NARFE CHAPTER 1270 OF WOODBRIDGE FOR ITS EFFORTS TO FUND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chapter 1270 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) in Woodbridge, Virginia, and to commend its members for raising $16,552 for Alzheimer's disease research in 2011.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is the only membership organization solely dedicated to leading an advocacy effort to protect and preserve the benefits of federal workers and retirees. The national organization consists of more than 1,300 chapters nationwide with more than 300,000 members. Chapter 1270 has more than 750 members that make up an active and robust chapter in eastern Prince William County.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, degenerative disease and is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. Currently, 5.4 million Americans are living with the disease, and projections estimate that as many as 16 million Americans will suffer from Alzheimer's in 2050. This illness also has profound impacts on families and caregivers. More than 60% of caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as very high and one-third report symptoms of depression.

Since 1985, NARFE has raised nearly $10 million and funded 56 research projects dedicated to Alzheimer's disease research. The NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) was recognized as the top fundraising Federation in the country at the 32nd Biennial National NARFE Convention in Sparks, Nevada, on August 26, 2012. Luther Santiful, VFC President, William Shackelford, Past VFC President and Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Chair, accepted the honor at the opening ceremonies of the convention. During 2011, the VFC raised an incredible $85,555.

The VFC and Chapter 1270 are national standouts in Alzheimer's fundraising. The VFC has led NARFE Federations in Alzheimer's fundraising for nine out of the last ten years. Chapter 1270 was the top fundraiser for the VFC in each of the last ten years, and it raised the second highest amount nationwide for the second year in a row.

The Federal Government is an active partner in the battle against Alzheimer's. The National Institute on Aging is the primary Federal agency supporting and conducting Alzheimer's disease research and has worked closely with the Alzheimer's Association to identify and standardize strategies for earlier diagnosis and develop effective treatment and prevention. This is an investment that must continue; if nothing is done, the economic toll of Alzheimer's is estimated to exceed $1 trillion in less than 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Woodbridge Chapter 1270 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association on this fundraising milestone. I extend my personal appreciation to the members of Chapter 1270 and to members of NARFE nationwide for their continued public service and their commitment to finding a cure for this devastating disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGEL GOMEZ

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Gomez for selfless service to our community. He has helped thousands of people through his non-profit, Operation HOPE (Helping Other People Endure).

Selfless doesn't even begin to describe Angel Gomez.

Many lives have been touched by Angel, an appropriate name for a man with a heart the size of Texas.

A native of El Paso, Texas, he is a proud Bowie Bear Alumni and Veteran, having attended Bowie High School and later joining the United States Navy.

His real passion, other than serving his country in uniform, has always been helping others in need.

In 1995 he began volunteering his time to the community, with the support of his wife Patricia, daughter Rubi and other family members.

Seeing the growing need around him, he co-founded Operation HOPE in 2009, and he has invested his time and resources to help the El Paso community he loves so much.

Operation HOPE has allowed Angel to share his vision of community outreach with thousands of people in need. He works with community partners and volunteers who share the same values and passion for giving, and these relationships have made it possible to multiply his efforts to improve our community.

Over the past seventeen years, El Pasoans in need have received food baskets during the holidays, along with blankets, clothing, and medical supplies. Sick children who must spend much of their childhood in the hospital have received toys and gift baskets to lift their spirits. Hundreds of individuals with disabilities have received assistance with medical supplies, medications, durable medical equipment, and accessible ramps. And many families have received assistance with funeral expenses and spiritual support during their time of need.

Not only has his work brought tangible assistance to those in need, but behind each action is also something intangible, something money can't buy: hope.

On behalf of the El Paso community, I would like to thank Angel Gomez for all he has done for those in need and for the positive impact he continues to have in our community. He has restored our community's faith in the good that can be done by simply caring.

RECOGNIZING WEBB DINER FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman-owned minority business in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, Webb Diner. Owned and operated by Ms. Vera Williams since 1988, Webb Diner has become a true staple in the community.

Ms. Vera Williams is a native of Webb, where she has lived her entire life. Before starting her own business, Ms. Williams labored in the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta and thereafter worked countless hours in its factories. In the late 1980s, Ms. Williams transformed Webb Diner, once known for its segregation practices, into an establishment that was open and welcoming to the public.

Despite obstacles Ms. Williams has shown continued dedication and resilience in providing the people of Tallahatchie County with nothing less than great service and Southern hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Vera Williams and Webb Diner for their contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for its global recognition at the Omega Psi Phi's 78th Grand Conclave. The Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter earned the honors of International Large Chapter of the Year and the International Social Action Chapter of the Year for 2010–2011.

This is the third time the chapter has been named the International Social Action Chapter of the Year since its inception in 2004. The chapter prides itself on establishing community programs to help those in need in the Prince William County community. The chapter's dedication to public and social services can be seen through its annual Coat Drive, Step Out for Diabetes, Voter Registration, and Cancer Relay for Life programs.

Earning this distinction is a testament to the chapter's dedication to community empowerment. Members of the Pi Lambda Lambda

Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have made a tremendous impact in their local community through raising $18,963 in support of American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, raising $7,800 in support of American Diabetes Association for Step Out to Fight Diabetes, and donating 160 toys to children in transitional housing due to domestic violence.

Omega Psi Phi's cardinal principles are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. The members of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter uphold these principles by serving the community and offering a lending hand to their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on their civic accomplishments. I thank the fraternity for their service-oriented goals and making a positive difference in the lives of Prince William County residents.

RECOGNIZING DR. TERRY GORDON AS THE 45TH RECIPIENT OF THE BERT A. POLSKY HUMANITARIAN AWARD FOR HIS WORK AS A CHAMPION OF AUTOMATED EXTENERAL DEFIBRILLATORS

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual who has tirelessly advocated to save the lives of children and others by getting life-saving automated external defibrillators, AEDs, placed in schools across the nation.

Dr. Terry Gordon is the 45th recipient of the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award given out each year by the Akron Community Foundation to an individual or couple who best exemplifies selfless dedication to humanitarian causes in Akron, Ohio.

A Cleveland Clinic trained cardiologist, Dr. Gordon practiced invasive cardiology at Akron General Medical Center for over 21 years prior to his retirement. In 2000, while serving as President of the Summit County American Heart Association, a 15 year old football player at Barberton High School by the name of Josh Miller collapsed on the field and suffered sudden cardiac arrest. There was no AED on site and, sadly, Josh died of sudden cardiac arrest. The tragic loss of this young man full of promise was devastating to not only Josh's parents and family, but to the entire community.

Upon learning of this tragic loss of life and realizing the school did not have an AED on site, Dr. Gordon began raising funds to place AEDs in every junior and high school, making Summit County, Ohio, the first county of its size to do so and earning him the National Physician of the Year award for 2002 from the American Heart Association. His efforts also resulted in AEDs placed in every police, highway patrol and sheriff's vehicle in Summit County.

Dr. Gordon continued his advocacy at the state level, and in 2005 helped procure $2.5 million from the State of Ohio, which in partnership with the American Heart Association and Akron General Medical Center, placed over 2,200 AEDs in schools throughout Ohio. He later worked with the Ohio General Assembly to allocate an additional $2.5 million needed to complete the task of placing 4,500 devices in Ohio schools.

In 2007, I was proud to partner with Dr. Gordon on this important mission and introduced the Josh Miller HEARTS Act. Named after the Barberton High School football player who we lost to sudden cardiac arrest, the bill establishes a grant program to get automated external defibrillators into elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives in both the 110th and 111th Congress and is pending action in the 112th Congress.

In addition to his work advocating for AEDs in schools, Dr. Gordon remains actively engaged in our community, serving on various volunteer boards. He was a founding member of Stewart's Caring Place, a facility of wellness for those with cancer and their loved ones. He has been a member of The Youth Motivational Task Force for many years, has been a longstanding board member of the American Heart Association and is co-host of 'Docs Who Rock', a fundraiser for the Summit County United Way. Dr. Gordon is also an accomplished author, whose work includes the book No Storm Lasts Forever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the selfless dedicated service of Dr. Terry Gordon and in congratulating him on receiving the 45th Polsky Humanitarian Award.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RYAN SAVARD

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant First Class Ryan J. Savard, who was killed in action on October 13, 2012, while on patrol in Khanabad District, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his wife, mother, father and numerous friends.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Sgt. 1st Class Savard moved to Arizona where he attended Buena High School in Sierra Vista before joining the Army in 2001 to work on helicopters. Over the course of his career, Sgt. 1st Class Savard worked with the Special Forces and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Special Operations Command based at Fort Bragg, NC. He was on his fifth Special Forces deployment to Afghanistan, not including a previous deployment to Iraq in 2003.

We will remember Sgt. 1st Class Savard as an exceptional soldier. Over his career he earned more than a dozen honors including two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, three Army Commendation Medals, a Joint Service Achievement Medal, three Army Achievement Medals, four Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, a Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. For his bravery in action, he was awarded a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star posthumously.

I ask the House of Representatives to join with me in extending our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Sgt. 1st Class Savard. All who live in this great nation owe Sgt. 1st Class Savard and his family a debt of gratitude for he has paid the ultimate price for our safety and security. His sacrifice reminds us of all of our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way each day whom we must keep in our thoughts and prayers. We will always remember Sgt. 1st Class Savard for his courage and selfless sacrifice.

HONORING KNAUS SAUSAGE HOUSE ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Knaus Sausage House on their 100th anniversary this year. It is my honor to join with the Kimball community in celebrating the dedication and services that this company has provided and continues to provide.

Three generations have been involved with this business and the fourth generation is already involved. Over the last 100 years, the Knaus Sausage House has grown to include groceries, a deli, and a bakery. The family's outstanding efforts in providing great service and great products are what make this a growing, viable business as they keep up with changing times. Many farmers and hunters depend on the market to do custom processing and cut meat for them. The Knaus Sausage House services are a valuable asset to the community and their long-term dedication does not go unnoticed.

It is small businesses including Knaus Sausage House that help communities flourish in America today. Mr. Speaker, please join with me in congratulating Knaus Sausage House on their 100th anniversary.

HONORING THE FAKLIS' 100 YEARS IN TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Faklis family of Tarpon Springs, Florida, on the 100th anniversary of Faklis' Department Store and Shoe Repair Service. Throughout their many decades in the United States, the Faklis family has lived the American dream, applying hard work and determination to create a successful small business in our community.

In 1909, two young brothers—Nikita and Nicola Papafaklis—arrived in America from Symi, Greece, in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Shortly thereafter, another brother, Vasile, arrived in America. Vasile and Nikita soon settled in Tarpon Springs and established their own small business. This small business opened as a custom shoe maker. The business evolved into a

dry goods department store carrying shoes, clothing, suits and specializing in shoe repairs and orthopedic corrections.

Vasile and his sons, George, Nick and Michael are proud American veterans, having served in WWI and Korea. They continue to be involved in the local American Legion and never open for business without first displaying the American flag in front of their building.

Throughout the generations, the Faklis family's store evolved with the times and provided services with excellent professionalism. The family business has passed from Nikita and Vasile down to Vasile's sons George and Michael, and down again to Vasile G. Faklis, the current operator and namesake of one of the family's patriarchs. Serving the greater Tampa Bay area from their location in Tarpon Springs, the Faklis family has been able to merge old world craftsmanship and warm customer service with the orthotic technology of today and the future.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years the Faklis family has represented the best of the American entrepreneurial spirit. They came to America seeking a better life and have become a pillar of the local community. Their economic success and ability to adapt with the changing times exemplify the strength of this country's business community, and I commend them for their contributions to our area.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 LIFECIRCLE ALLIANCES KUDOS FOR CAREGIVERS HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 2012 LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Awards. LifeCircle Alliances, a non-profit organization based in Fairfax County, Virginia, is a leader in promoting and enabling independent living for older adults with developmental, intellectual, or physical disabilities, including our Wounded Warriors.

LifeCircle Alliances has formed public-private partnerships to create innovative long-term care solutions, enhance existing programs, and address workforce, mobility and transportation issues. The goal of these efforts is independence for life; ensuring that our older adults and adults with disabilities are able to live independently and with dignity in their communities of choice.

The LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Award celebration recognizes the efforts of six outstanding caregivers, who tirelessly provide dedicated care, day in and day out. The recipients of the 2012 Kudos Awards are:

Stephanie Mensh—Stephanie Mensh has been a caregiver for Mr. Paul Berger for 25 years. Additionally, she has volunteered her time supporting stroke and TBI survivors and their families. She also provides support and advice to other caregivers by hosting a support group as well as providing individual support by phone, email, and in person.

Liza Ruiz—The loving mother of two daughters, Mrs. Ruiz has been caring almost daily for her 65 year old daughter, Cynthia, who was brain injured at birth and her husband who has been diagnosed with dementia. For many years, she did this while working as a full-time employee of the federal government. Mrs. Ruiz was instrumental in helping to establish the Northern Virginia Training Center, which opened in 1973.

Maureen Renault—A dedicated and tireless caregiver, Maureen Renault has taken on the daunting task of caring for her mother, a resident at Herndon Harbor Adult Day Health Care Center. During this time Maureen has been actively involved in her mother's care at the center in addition to her needs at home.

Steven Nehl—Care-giving is an around the clock job for Mr. Nehl. He cares for his autistic son, Michael, and wife, Joanne, who is continuing to recover from two brain aneurysms. Since the time of her illness in 2008, Joanne is unable to work and Mr. Nehl may only maintain short-term positions due to the tremendous requirements of his time at home.

Cecilia Ortega-Shew—For almost two decades, Cecilia Ortega-Shew has given selflessly to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. In her role as a mental health clinician and program clinical manager for Inova Juniper Group, she helps pregnant women have healthy, HIV-free babies and continues to counsel people on the difficulties of living with HIV. She inspires young staff to be better clinicians and instills in them a passion for caring for those with HIV.

Natascha Dixon Edelin—Passionate and dedicated to helping women and children in need, Natascha Dixon Edelin tirelessly works to assist the battered women of Fairfax, Virginia and honor them for their strength, courage and commitment. She partnered with the co-founders of the Duffy House in 2011 to organize the ''Duffy House Day of Pampering'' for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse which provided, at no charge, a much needed day of respite for approximately 50 women and 80 children. Her continued work with the Duffy House brings joy into this special community.

I congratulate this year's winners and recognize each of them for their dedication and personal sacrifices. These individuals are examples of the many caregivers who put the needs of their families, friends and colleagues above their own. Mister Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the 2012 LifeCircle Alliances awardees and in thanking the volunteers, staff, and partners of LifeCircle Alliances for their efforts in providing assistance to not only those in need of care, but to those who provide the care here in our community.

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history, individual Americans have voluntarily joined together to meet important needs in their communities. This generosity and willingness to work together toward a common goal is a trademark of the American character.

Today, private voluntary associations across the country make substantial contributions to our nation's well-being in areas such as health care and social services, education and the arts, economic development, and environmental protection. Many of these associations are community foundations—charitable organizations formed to attract and distribute endowment funds.

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington is a successful private sector economic and social support system that helps meet specific needs in our region. They have far-reaching benefits for anyone interested in philanthropy and are an example of the spirit of generosity and service that helped build America and continues to make it great.

Directed by volunteers, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has community partnerships that run deep. The longstanding relationships they have built in the community help them meet current needs, while enabling the Foundation to address future challenges and opportunities. They provide effective leadership in our community, often complementing or assisting in the coordination of public programs and other private services. They facilitate one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy in the United States.

Today I rise to congratulate the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington on obtaining their National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board. Achieving confirmation and reconfirming compliance with National Standards is a rigorous process, demonstrating that the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has adhered to excellent philanthropic practice. This program requires community foundations to document their policies for governance, donor services, investments, grant making, community leadership, and administration.

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington of Vancouver, Washington has obtained its National Standards accreditation through a commitment to operational quality, integrity, accountability, transparency and adherence to the highest standards for grant making.

On behalf of the residents of our region, I congratulate the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington on receiving its National Standards accreditation and commend the foundation's dedicated service to Vancouver and communities in Southwest Washington.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO UPS EMPLOYEES AND U.S. VETERANS TIM PFOHL, DAN VERANJES AND MIKE BURNS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I along with Congresswoman KATHY HOCHUL would like to pay tribute to several Western New York UPS employees who have delivered outstanding service for the company and for the country.

Tim Pfohl has been with UPS for 23 years. He is a member of the UPS Safety Committee, a mentor to new drivers and has 14 years of accident-free driving. Tim served in

the U.S. Marine Corps for six years. He and his wife Barbara, who reside in Hamburg, NY, are the parents of two sons, Dylan and Tyler.

Dan Veranjes, also a Marine, served our country for eight years including duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dan has been on the UPS team for 13 years. He is known for his customer skills and is always there to help out new employees. Dan is married to wife Erika and together they live in Hamburg, NY with their four children: Isabella, Griffin, Caleb and Zoe.

Mike Burns is not only a veteran of the Marines; he is a 26-year veteran with UPS. Mike served as a Reservist for six years out of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Center on Porter Avenue in Buffalo and received military training in Norway. Mike has an exemplary record at UPS with 16 years of safe driving and an injury-free career. Lancaster residents Mike and his wife Jennifer are the parents of 10-year-old-Madelyn.

UPS is one of the largest employers of reservists and returning veterans. On any given day UPS has about 3,100 employees who are on military leave and there are nearly 25,000 additional UPS employees working today who have served in the military at some point in their lives.

In fact, Erie County Department of Veterans Director MAJ Carlos M. Benitez, a retired veteran of the New York Army National Guard, also previously worked for UPS.

We commend UPS for their commitment to our active-duty and returning veterans and recognize these Western New York employees for extending the same dedication and leadership in the UPS workplace as they did in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT CLINT JOHN CARTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clint J. Carton of Earlville, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Clint chose to construct five separate exercise stations on the Heritage Trail near Dyersville. Clint's project required extensive coordination with the Dubuque County Conservation Board to account for the lack of water and electricity. In total, this project took more than 110 hours of hard work to complete. The work ethic Clint has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Clint and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING WHEELER'S JANITORIAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT, INC. FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined and self motivated business owner, Rev. Tommy Wheeler of Copiah County, Mississippi for his commitment in keeping Wheeler's Janitorial Supplies & Equipment, Inc. a vital part of the business community.

Rev. Wheeler was born on August 23, 1949, to James and Wilma Wheeler. He attended school at Shady Grove School and William H. Holtzclaw Memorial School in Copiah County, Mississippi. After graduating from high school he attended Hinds Community College. In 2004 he received a Certificate of Biblical Studies from Mississippi Baptist Seminary and later in 2010, attended Bethel Christian University, Hazlehurst Campus and he is presently enrolled at the Copiah County Ministerial Alliance in Hazlehurst, Mississippi.

Rev. Wheeler's entrepreneurial spirit was inspired early in life by his father, who instilled in the basic principle that, "you can do anything you put your mind to" this principle with his desire to be his own boss led him to his path of success, when in 1997, he and a friend selling janitorial supplies to customers throughout Copiah County.

A year later, Wheeler's Janitorial Supplies & Equipment was established. From the beginning Rev. Wheeler used every resource he had to ensure the success of his business, including utilizing his garage as storage for his supplies and cutting overhead by solely selling, ordering and delivering supplies.

In 2007 Wheeler's Janitorial Supplies & Equipment officially became certified as a Minority- Owned and Operated Business Enterprise and received Central Contractor Registration. The notion of hard work and striving to be your own boss is something that Rev. Wheeler continues to believe and it has led to great success. Currently, Rev. Wheeler has expanded his business that started as a team of one in his garage going from door to door to a team of six with dealings with multiple companies within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Tommy Wheeler, owner of Wheeler's Janitorial Supplies & Equipment, Inc. for his entrepreneurial spirit and dutiful service to the community.

ON WAIVING SECTION 907 OF THE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 24, 1992, President George H.W. Bush signed the FREEDOM Support Act into law. This legislation provided for monetary assistance to be provided to the countries of the former Soviet Union to aid their transition to democracy and build-up their civil societies.

Included in the legislation was Section 907, a provision which precluded the Republic of Azerbaijan from receiving any assistance through the FREEDOM Support Act. Azerbaijan was the only country to be singled out in the statute from receiving assistance.

Since then, cooperation between the United States and Azerbaijan has expanded beyond recognition—encompassing military, intelligence, economic, business, academic, and cultural ties. This has resulted in increasing the security and prosperity of both countries.

Given Azerbaijan's strong partnership with allies such as Israel, and its proximity to Iran, the extent of their contribution to our security cannot be overstated. For this reason, Section 907 has been waived by Executive Order every year since 2001 by Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

While these Executive Orders have largely mitigated the practical effects of Section 907, its lingering presence as a part of U.S. law is offensive to Azerbaijan and its people. As American companies prosper from helping access and transport Azerbaijan's rich natural resources, and as Azerbaijani troops stand side-by-side with America's heroes against international terrorism, it is disingenuous to single out our ally as a pariah state.

Every Secretary of State over the past two decades and many prominent members of the American business community support the repeal of Section 907. Twenty years after it was signed into law, Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act has become a relic of a previous era and a slap in the face to America's closest ally in the Caspian Region, and I call on my colleagues in Congress to help stand up in support of our friend, Azerbaijan, and repeal Section 907 as expeditiously as possible.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILTON FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the centennial anniversary of Milton First Assembly of God, in Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Milton First Assembly of God traces its roots back to the early Pentecostal movements of the 20th century, when a small group of fervent believers came together during a tent revival meeting in 1912 and formed the Pentecostal Assembly of God Church. The enlightening sermons given by Reverends Sherman

McGraw and Isaac Jordan, along with the passionate religious conviction of early congregants like Mrs Minnie Cobb, helped to draw additional members and expand the church's role in the community. Shortly after its founding, the church was forced to move from a tent to a larger permanent location to accommodate its growing membership.

In 1969, the church name was officially changed to the Milton First Assembly of God. At this time, Pastor Fred Rogers and his wife Jackie assumed leadership of the congregation. Pastor and Mrs. Rogers further strengthened their fellowship numbers through several outreach programs and a successful bus ministry. After years of dedication and faith in our Lord, the church was able to purchase property to build the campus their growing faith community needed. Now, 43 years later, Pastor and Mrs. Rogers and Milton First Assembly of God continue to foster spiritual and professional growth by providing religious guidance and philanthropy to the church members and surrounding community.

One hundred years after its founding, the strong moral framework and religious convictions of the church's original congregation continue to guide the church as it serves Northwest Florida. Multiple generations of the Santa Rosa County community have raised families while worshipping and rejoicing in the Word of God at Milton First Assembly of God, and the congregation has remained faithfully devoted to the Lord. Santa Rosa County is greatly indebted to their outstanding service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Milton First Assembly of God. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating the congregation and thanking them for their service to the community. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless the church on this important milestone and the many to come.