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