Master Sergeant Tasby is affectionately known to many of us in Congress as ''Taz.'' For 26 years, the United States Air Force, and indeed the entire Nation, has benefitted from Taz's talents, experience, and devotion.

As we honor Taz, we also honor all of those who wear our Nation's uniform.

When our airmen and airwomen serve, their families serve as well. Today in paying tribute to Master Sergeant Tasby we also express our gratitude to his wife Katrina, his sons Jordan and Justin, and his mother Jessie.

After enlisting in the Air Force in 1986 in Shreveport, Louisiana, Taz served across the United States and around the world. He has worked in the Office of the Air Force Reserve and served as a member of the 93rd Bomb Squadron and the 140th Fighter Wing.

A key part of Taz's latest posting, as a legislative liaison, has been escorting Members of Congress around the world. Indeed, Taz has served as part of 50 fact-finding missions to 62 countries around the globe. In doing so, he has earned the respect of Members and staff. He is known around the world by State Department officials and foreign nationals.

Personally, I've been proud to have Taz by my side in 16 countries—from Afghanistan to the United Kingdom, many of them more than once. We've been together in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America. We've gone into war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq and we've travelled to meet with the heads of parliaments from around the world.

Taz spends countless hours planning every detail of a trip and ensuring logistics are executed perfectly. I've seen firsthand Taz's resourcefulness, attention to detail, and overall commitment to excellence.

Taz has been rightly honored with a number of medals throughout his 26 year career. These include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The Air Force song is a tribute to those, as it says, ''who love the vastness of the sky.'' When we sing that song, four times we proclaim, ''Nothing will stop the Air Force!''

Those words are true about the Air Force because of our airmen and airwomen. They are true because of people like MSG Marvin Tasby.

RECOGNIZING MR. CRAIG ANTHONY WASHINGTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Craig Anthony Washington, an accomplished attorney and elected official from Houston, Texas. Mr. Washington is being inducted into the State Bar of Texas Legal Legends Project this month for his exemplary contributions to the legal profession and the pursuit of equal justice under the law.

The Texas Legal Legends Project recognizes exceptional lawyers who have worked to uphold the integrity of the courts, and to honor those who have exceeded their professional obligations to ensure fair and thorough advocacy. Mr. Washington has been tireless in his efforts to defend those without a voice in our legal system by challenging discriminatory practices.

Craig Washington was born in Longview, Texas. He grew up in Houston and, after high school, enrolled in Prairie View A&M University at the age of 16 with the high hopes of becoming a dentist. Mr. Washington had charisma and determination even at a young age, and he managed to convince the dean into accepting him into the law school program with future plans to transfer into dentistry. Instead, his passion for law dominated his academic career. Four years later, he would graduate with honors and become the assistant dean and an assistant professor of law at his alma mater.

Mr. Washington's tenure as a legislator, first in the Texas House, the Texas Senate, and then in the U.S. House of Representatives, was distinguished by this same unwavering devotion to the underserved and his constituents. He was known and respected for his expert knowledge of criminal law throughout his public service in the Texas House, Texas Senate and in the U.S. Congress. As a lawmaker, he proved to be a commanding orator and political strategist, and no legislation regarding the criminal justice system was passed without his review and expert analysis.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare to find an individual who is both passionate about affecting positive social change and improving the lives of so many. He is a tremendous criminal defense lawyer as well as an American analytical genius, and I stand today on this floor where he stood many years ago to salute Mr. Washington. I am proud to call him my friend.