Group teaches youth the traditional dance of Greece. From the Hellenic Orthodox Primary Enrichment, HOPE, a group devoted to the early introduction of kindergartners to the Orthodox fellowship to the Maturity Club for senior citizens, all ages are able to meet and celebrate their faith through church outings, meaningful discussion groups, retreats, service projects, and athletics.

Let us commemorate, on the record, the Church of St. Thomas in its 45th year of operation for the invaluable service it provides to the Greek Orthodox faith and the South New Jersey community at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 13, 2012, and missed rollcall vote 604. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote 604.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS EDUCATION PROGRAM AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans Education Program at California State University, Fresno. This outstanding program is for veterans who served overseas and are transitioning into the next phase of their lives.

An inexcusable number of veterans are coming home to a hard hit economy and find that they have few options when it comes to finding a job. The Veterans Education Program was created to fix that problem. In many cases, our veterans need time to transition once they are home, and the program helps with the shift from military to civilian life.

Fresno State will welcome its first class in January of 2013. Each six week class will have up to 25 veterans, and students will receive six units of transferable credit. In addition to taking a refresher course in English and mathematics, students will also develop skills to help with obtaining a career and managing their finances. The last couple weeks are individualized, so students can create a plan to fulfill their goals after leaving the program.

The Veterans Education Program is specifically designed so that veterans can be successful after the course is completed. Some might continue on with their education at Fresno State, and others may enter the workforce or do an internship that relates to their future career. The program has partnered with several veteran support organizations who are interested in providing opportunities for veterans in the workplace or in school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing the Veterans Education Program at California State University, Fresno. As a nation we cannot ignore the needs of our veterans when they come home from being overseas. They deserve our unwavering support and gratitude. The program will provide opportunities for thousands of veterans living throughout the Central Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 13th, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Champaign, Illinois and missed the suspension vote on H.R. 6371, Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act, which transfers authority from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to the Department of Labor for processing claims for wages due to laborers and mechanics hired by contractors on public works projects.

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

HONORING DANIEL JOHN CATTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel John Catton. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1367, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel earned the 50-Miler Award. Daniel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Daniel designed and constructed the installation of storage units for Triality Tots, an organization that provides high quality educational opportunities for children with special health needs or developmental delays. Daniel plans on pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel John Catton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll No. 604. Had I been present, I would have voted, ''yea'', to approve H.R. 6371.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the 2012 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce serves the people and the business community in order to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the State of Maine.

Each year, the Franklin County Chamber recognizes local businesses, business leaders, organizations and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. Each honoree is committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in this western Maine county.

This year's honorees are Barclays, the Daily Bulldog and the Wilton Blueberry Festival. These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer and through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and these honorees on their outstanding service and achievement.

HONORING MR. KEVIN BENNETT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kevin Bennett to recognize his dedicated service to the great state of Minnesota and his selection as Minnesota's middle school principal of the year.

Mr. Bennett began his teaching career in 2001 in his 20's, and a mere three years later was hired by the Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Resource School, FAIR, as an assistant principal. One short year later, he became principal. Now in his mid–30's, Mr. Bennett is the principal of two FAIR schools, one in Minneapolis and one in Crystal.

Since his arrival, Mr. Bennett has made great strides toward the FAIR schools' goal of greater integration. Mr. Bennett, along with his superintendent, reworked the curriculum of both schools. This paid off and last academic year resulted in more than 1,600 enrollment applications for 150 openings at the two schools. Since Mr. Bennett became principal, the number of minority students at Crystal has risen from 32 to 44 percent. The reworked curriculum and diversified student population has resulted in significant test score increases.

With the downtown school's focus on literacy and the arts, 94 percent of the third graders met or exceeded Minnesota's reading proficiency standards last spring. The third