EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY FORD

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Shirley Ford has played a valuable role as a volunteer from the very beginning of my time in Congress. Shirley had a special ability to work with seniors in our District who were having difficulty with Medicare. Shirley's wealth of knowledge about the Medicare system gave our constituents a much-needed assurance that their claims would be handled appropriately. Shirley also shared my desire to help eliminate waste and fraud in the system and tirelessly worked with individuals to identify cases in these areas.

Shirley should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Shirley and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Shirley Ford for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHARLESTON DAY ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Charleston Day Organization and its commitment towards conveying the belief that we all have some social and civic responsibility to our fellow man.

Founded in 1974 by Dr. Ethel Greene and her husband Mack Greene, the National Charleston Day Organization (NCDO) is a nonprofit organization that has provided assistance to communities around the country. Thus far the organization has ten chapters in the United States in Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Indianapolis, Indiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri and Charleston, Mississippi.

The NCDO's mission is "to contribute to the education, cultural development, health and welfare of the citizens of Charleston, Mississippi and the surrounding area." Since 1980 the NCDO has annually awarded two education scholarships to graduates of Charleston High School. Over seventy thousand dollars has been contributed to students, sports teams, and civic groups in Tallahatchie County, through the NCDO.

For the past three years the NCDO has sponsored an event in Charleston called "Humility Day," that gathers all influential segments of the community in a proactive effort designed to inspire character in individuals and overcome the mindsets that leads to violence and erratic behavior.

During the NCDO's thirty-eight year history, leaders within the organization have worked hard inspiring people to provide philanthropic assistance to the residents of the Charleston area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The National Charleston Day Organization, a social and civic conscious group of residents who are committed towards serving their community and the country.

STOP TOBACCO SMUGGLING IN THE TERRITORIES ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5934, the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act. This important bill would prohibit the trafficking of contraband cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

This important and commonsense legislation was introduced by my great friend and colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. Currently, the federal criminal code prohibits the smuggling of tobacco in the states; however, tobacco products continue to be trafficked through the territories by individuals looking to avoid paying taxes. This practice does not only warp market prices and rob the government of thousands of dollars each year in tax revenue. It also contributes to the public health problems associated with smoking.

I am proud to represent the 37th Congressional District of California, which is home to the largest American Samoan population outside American Samoa. The issue of tobacco smuggling matters to the loved ones and family members of my constituents, and it has become a priority of mine, as well. I am proud to stand with Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA, and I thank him for his outstanding leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act will be an important step towards curbing this practice and restoring lost revenue back to local governments. I strongly support H.R. 5934, and I urge my colleagues to join me in strengthening the capacity of Samoan tobacco enforcement.

HONORING WORK OF DISTRICT V SUPERVISOR, JIM ALLEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of District V Supervisor, Jim Allen. Jim began his long and dedicated career in law enforcement with the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department in May of 1976 as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. He became a fulltime employee as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher in July 1977; and in December 1979, Jim became a Deputy Sheriff/Coroner. In May of 2003, he was appointed Sheriff/Coroner by the Board of Supervisors. Finally, in June 2006, he was elected as Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator, where he retired in 2007.

After Jim's successful career with Mariposa County law enforcement, he was elected as District V Supervisor from 2009–2012. In 2011, he also served as Chair of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. Beyond Jim's work as Supervisor, he served as a member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

Jim's sense of community service and hard work ethic is evident through his work with many county committees including: Fish Camp Community Planning Advisory Council, Wawona Appeals Board, Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, and Law Library Trustees, and the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS). He served the county on the following agencies and Board of Directors: Area 12 Agency on Aging Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, California State Association of Counties, County Medical Services Program Governing Board, Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency as Chair, Regional Advisory Board, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties. In addition, Mr. Allen has also served on the Mariposa County High School Student Loan Association and oversaw the establishment of a separate Human Resources/Risk Management department. Additionally, he helped implement the paperless agenda management system.

Mr. Allen played an integral and significant role on the following county projects: Yosemite