maintained strong personal connections with community-based organizations in Fruitvale.

In December of 2004, when Ms. Gonzales became the Chief Executive Officer of the Unity Council, she brought to the position invaluable experience, an incredible vision, a penchant for creativity and an expertise in managing finances. As a result of her leadership, the Unity Council was able to overcome and stabilize a dire financial situation. Ms. Gonzales' quick thinking and strategic planning helped to create the solid foundation that the Unity Council enjoys today.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, Ms. Gilda Gonzales, I salute you. I am proud to call you a colleague, a constituent, and, most importantly, my friend. Thank you for your countless contributions and your never-ending commitment to our communities. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I wish you and your loved ones all the best in this next chapter of life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARMY SPECIALIST ERIC HUNTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero in the truest sense of the word. This weekend, 24-year-old U.S. Army Specialist Eric Hunter returns home to Monroeville, Alabama for the first time since he sustained serious injuries from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

The day before his one-year wedding anniversary, Specialist Hunter was on patrol when he stepped on an IED. The May 31, 2012 blast took his right foot and eventually his right leg. He also suffered a shattered right wrist and left leg, as well as a broken forearm. The service and the sacrifice of this country's military personnel is both moving and inspiring. Specialist Hunter's dedication to his country is equally matched by his remarkable determination to recover from his wounds.

For Specialist Hunter, the road to recovery has been a long one. He was transported to three different hospitals in five days before being flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During his recovery at Walter Reed, he was visited by President Obama and other notables, including singer Neil Diamond.

It was also at Walter Reed that Specialist Hunter joined a special program that pairs famous musicians with wounded soldiers to assist their recovery. As a part of Musicorps, Specialist Hunter played his guitar with former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters and G.E. Smith, former lead guitarist of Hall & Oates and Bob Dylan's touring band.

On November 8, 2012, Specialist Hunter took a seat on stage in the Beacon Theatre in New York City at the 6th Annual Stand Up for Heroes benefit playing alongside fellow wounded warriors and music legends Waters, Smith and Bruce Springsteen. The Annual Stand Up for Heroes event, sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation, has so far raised over $12 million for wounded soldiers.

In September 2012, I was honored to join Specialist Hunter, his wife, Kenna, and their children Kensley and Jayce for breakfast in the U.S. Capitol, where I personally thanked him for his service to our country. Specialist Hunter also served a 2010–2011 tour in Iraq before his recent posting in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and the United States, I offer deep gratitude to Specialist Hunter for both his sacrifices for the security of America and his example to fellow wounded warriors as they return to their families and communities to re-enter civilian life. We are proud to welcome him home to Alabama.

HONORING ROB ELLSWORTH

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

MR. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me 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 my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. 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.

Rob Ellsworth served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for my entire first term. Although still a college student when he started, Rob's intelligence and deep understanding of complex issues was rivaled by few. Rob helped draft the SAVE Act, the most comprehensive piece of legislation I introduced in my first term. His ability to help me garner bipartisan support for a bill that excited deep and passionate public debate is a testament to his skill and value as a policy expert. Since his departure from my office, I have continued to lean on Rob for advice and support.

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

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

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, November 11 through November 17, 2012, as American Education Week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the millions of Americans who work every day to give our youth a world class public education.

American Education Week was first observed in 1921 by the National Education Association and the American Legion. Representatives of these organizations were concerned that a quarter of World War I draftees were illiterate, and they began a movement to raise awareness of the needs of public schools. Now in its 91st year, American Education Week is an annual reminder of the importance of community involvement in education.

As a former preschool teacher, I know firsthand of the challenges that face educators today. As classes grow and budgets shrink, teachers are often asked to do more with less. Nevertheless, millions of devoted Americans continue to serve our Nation's youth as teachers, administrators, and school personnel. I am continually impressed by their hard work and the tremendous impact they have on shaping future generations.

Ultimately, it is all of our responsibility to give our children a bright and well-rounded education. We all play a role in educating our Nation's children, from the parents who volunteer at school to community members who mentor and lead by example. During this month, let us also thank these dedicated individuals and encourage others to become similar community leaders as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in giving a heartfelt thank you to the hardworking teachers, school employees, mentors and parents of the 37th Congressional District as well as those across the nation. I encourage students, parents, and school officials to participate in the local events of American Education Week.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Albert Terry, for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Albert Terry came to Brooklyn by way of North Carolina in January 1936 with his parents Martha and Caswell Terry and three sisters, Lucy, Dorothy, and Ethel. Shortly after settling in Brooklyn, he joined Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and became active in the usher board, male chorus, senior choir, and briefly served as trustee.

Albert graduated from Boys High School in 1948. In September 1950 he met and married Zenith Tatum and had three children, Laura Denise, Albert Jr. and Douglas Clayton. He