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.

Mike Lukso has served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff since April of this year. In his first role, Mike coordinated and managed our constituent mail system in addition to handling a full portfolio of legislative issues. To perform these two jobs simultaneously is no small task, but Mike succeeded handily at both. Mike was quickly promoted to Legislative Assistant where he continued to prove his strengths, including the ability to rapidly research and synthesize broad sources of information while at the same time successfully repackaging complicated information into more understandable parts, the latter a critical skill to effectively communicate policy to our various constituent groups. Further marking Mike as a staff member valued by all is his sharp sense of humor and dedication to teamwork.

Mike should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and county. 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 Mike and the team by my side.

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

SUPPORT FOR SUSAN RICE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare that I stand with Susan Rice.

Just as I stood in line, and my constituents stood in line, for hours on Election Day to vote, I stand here today.

But only stronger.

Just as we stood for and with President Obama on November 6th, we stand with him today as he stands up for Susan Rice our young, gifted Ambassador.

We must continue to stand for what is right in this nation Mr. Speaker, and that is what I have come here to do.

Susan Rice deserves respect, not the questioning of her integrity.

I applaud President Obama for standing for what is right and what is just.

I applaud President Obama for standing in support of Ambassador Rice.

We all need to continue to stand for truth. We need to stand for transparency.

We do not need to impugn our officials over rumors, dangerous hearsay, or conspiracy theories.

We must not allow the post of Ms. Rice to be politicized as it has been, Mr. Speaker.

We must not allow Susan Rice to be a fall guy for the failed election bid of Mitt Romney and his Republican cronies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully missed recorded votes earlier this week. If I had been here, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 604; ''yea'' on rollcall No. 605; ''yea'' on rollcall No. 606; and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 607.

HONORING THE SANDERSON LODGE #22 FOR ITS DEDICATION TO SERVICING THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sanderson Masonic Lodge #22, which has been a staple of the Copiah County community for over 30 years.

Built in 1979 in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, the lodge has maintained a rich history of strong leadership and commitment to extending a helping hand to all those who need assistance in the community. Sanderson Lodge has been recognized as one of the best in the State of Mississippi. For years, this lodge has steadily recruited some of the best and brightest members of the community. They have worked effortlessly to ensure that the lives of the residents would get better.

The Sanderson Masonic Lodge #22 continues to convey a message of hard work and service, always extending a helping hand to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sanderson Lodge #22 for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING DIANA McCARTHY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 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 excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional 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.

Diana McCarthy played a valuable role as a volunteer when I first took office. Diana provided valuable assistance to individuals who were struggling with cases before the Internal Revenue Service. Diana's ability to look at complex circumstances and provide wisdom and knowledge enabled constituents to feel confident that their voices were being heard and issues were being resolved.

Diana should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Diana 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.

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

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65 million Americans who spend on average 20 hours per week selflessly caring for family members or friends who, through age, disability, or illness, have lost the ability to care for themselves.

For most of us, the act of caring for those in need is a basic aspect of what it means to be human. Compassion, either through charitable giving or community service, is inseparable from American ideals of human rights for every member of our society. Whenever we treat those around us as we want to be treated, we contribute to a culture of responsibility and respect for life that leads us to do great things in the name of humanity.

Two weeks ago, President Barack Obama proclaimed November 2012 as National Family Caregivers Month. Anyone who spends time caring for a loved one in need is considered a family caregiver. Let us use this occasion to honor these everyday heroes and raise awareness of the profound contributions they make to society.

Family caregivers save taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars each year through their efforts.

According to studies compiled by the National Family Caregivers Association, the value of the unpaid services provided each year is estimated to be $375 billion, which is almost twice as much as the $158 billion spent in 2009 on homecare and nursing home services combined.

In my home state of California alone there were 3,419,481 family caregivers in 2004 providing over $36 billion worth of care. Though they are mostly untrained, family caregivers now provide about 80% of all long-term care in the United States.

Imagine if taxpayers had to foot the full bill. Now, more than ever, family caregivers are essential to providing the best services and deserve the support of government and the medical community.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Census projects a massive growth in the number of Americans 65 and older as the baby-boomer generation ages. Populations in this age bracket will double in 23 states by 2030.