

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING WARD HUSSEY

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American and public servant, the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives, Ward Hussey.

Ward Hussey's career was defined by service. He stood on the front lines of World War II and stormed the beaches of Okinawa. He got little attention in the public eye, but for 43 years in the Office of Legislative Counsel, he was the wordsmith of the House; a core player in the legislative process; a truly indispensable voice and a source of institutional knowledge and intelligence for every Member of Congress.

Ward Hussey held no allegiance to party or partisan causes—only to his country, the Congress, and the people of the United States.

His job was to give form to ideas and to turn vague proposals into concrete pieces of legislation. Always remaining behind the scenes, he called himself a “catalyst,” a man who “filled in” the details and made sure all sides were represented. Always an example of hard work, commitment, and duty, his colleagues called him a kind and decent man, who brought an extraordinary knowledge and discipline to the job.

Ward Hussey left a deep imprint on our national identity, our social fabric, and our daily lives. His fingerprints can be found on the Marshall Plan, the interstate highway system, and Medicare. Most significantly, his words and expertise formed the foundation of our modern tax code.

Over more than 4 decades of service, Ward Hussey's, achievements became the cornerstones of our common progress as a country.

I hope it is a comfort to Ward Hussey's children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, family and friends that the House of Representatives mourns the loss of this giant of the Capitol and is praying for them in this sad time. May his legacy live on in our ongoing pursuit of legislative achievement.

### RECOGNIZING COACH JIM DREWRY

#### HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special Mississippian. Coach Jim Drewry of Booneville, Mississippi has been named the winningest coach in Mississippi High School Football history.

Coach Drewry began his coaching career at Kossuth (Miss.) High School in the spring of 1958. He spent two years at Kossuth, then moved to Brandon (Miss.) High School as an assistant coach in 1960. After five years,

Coach Drewry took the head coaching job at Booneville (Miss.) High School in 1965, where he led the Blue Devils to three bowl games and a Tombigbee Conference co-championship in 1977.

He returned as head coach at Kossuth High School from 1979 to 1986. Then Coach Drewry retired and was out of coaching for two years. In 1989, he got back into coaching as head coach at Tishomingo (Miss.) High School. After just one season, Coach Drewry returned to Booneville High School in 1990, guiding my alma mater Blue Devils to a Class 2A state title.

Since returning to Booneville High School football, Coach Drewry has led the Blue Devils to win state championships and division championships. He has an overall record of 345-156-5, making him the most successful public school football coach in Mississippi. Coach Drewry was also recognized in the Mississippi Association of Coach Hall of Fame and the National Federation of High School Hall of Fame.

I applaud Coach Jim Drewry's achievements and I hope he will continue to guide the Booneville Blue Devils and victoriously represent Mississippi's First District. I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Coach Jim Drewry for his winning record and for his years of service on and off the field spent mentoring young people in Mississippi.

### RECOGNIZING “THE ARMS FORCES” NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. I rise to recognize The Arms Forces, a nonprofit organization recently created in our region of Northwest Ohio. The Arms Forces develops and maintains a network of volunteers who provide assistance to service men and women who have returned from combat with a traumatic brain injury or PTSD. Life Navigation Coaches are trained to help veterans define, access, and navigate existing supportive services and benefits. Through the group's “Inspirational Listening Tour,” wounded warriors are met in their home communities and share their challenges. Volunteers of The Arms Forces are personally attuned to the suffering of TBI and PTSD and understand the impact of these injuries on our veterans. Through the volunteers' efforts, the enable wounded warriors to reach their highest potential and improve the quality of their lives.

The Arms Forces members are passionate and committed in their service. I am proud to share their story.

### HONORING DON LAUB

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Don Laub and for his dedication to his family, community, and agriculture. Mr. Laub passed away on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, from injuries suffered in a farm accident, at the age of 76. A memorial service was held for him on Monday, October 26, 2009.

Mr. Don Laub was born on July 22, 1933, in Fresno, California, to a farming family. As a young man he founded Laub Ranches and J & L Vineyards in Easton. The family-run businesses produce top-quality table grapes, raisins, and wine grapes. He was a leader in the agricultural community and was passionate about preserving the family farm and agricultural education for students.

Mr. Laub served as the Fresno County Farm Bureau president from 1986 until 1988. He also served on the California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors and served on several advisory committees for both the state and national Farm Bureau organizations. Outside of agriculture and farming, Mr. Laub was dedicated to giving back to the community. He was heavily involved with the Fresno County Affordable Housing Task Force and the Fresno County Public Schools Foundation.

For his efforts, Mr. Laub was named the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculturist of the Year in 1994 and was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the California Farm Bureau Federation in 1996 for his years of working on labor, water, and public utility issues.

Mr. Laub is survived by his wife, Clara; daughters, Debbie and son-in law Ray Jacobsen, Diane Tavares and Donna Laub; son, David Laub; grandchildren, Ryan Jacobsen and his wife Ashley, Megan Jacobsen, Brandon Jacobsen, Jason Allred and his wife Beth, Jared Allred and Dustin Laub; and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Don Laub. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Requesting Member: Representative DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name and Address: Butte-Silver Bow Consolidated Government, 126 West Granite Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Description: Funding will be used to repair, restore and replace the City of Butte's drinking water system—a complex infrastructure to import water from across the Continental Divide and from the mountain creeks surrounding the city. This work is being done to accomplish an overall project goal of providing a safe, reliable and affordable drinking water to Butte citizens.

Requesting Member: Representative DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name and Address: City of Bozeman, 121 North Rouse Avenue, Bozeman, Montana 59771

Description: Funding will be used to replace the City's existing Water Treatment Plant, WTP, which is over 20 years old with a new larger capacity plant. The mechanized equipment and building structure will soon expire. In addition, rapid population growth has resulted in water demands that are already at the current WTP capacity during peak day use. To meet Bozeman's increasing water demand, the City will construct a 22 Million Gallon per Day, MGD, membrane water filtration plant.

Requesting Member: Representative DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name and Address: The City of Missoula, 435 Ryman Street, Missoula, Montana 59802.

Description: Funding will be used to upgrade the City of Missoula's Waste Water Treatment Facility for improved liquid waste treatment and disposal. The VVWTF is one of the primary methods of protecting Missoula's sole source water aquifer that provides clean drinking water for the greater Missoula area, and surface waters such as the Clark Fork River. This upgrade needs to be completed within the next two to five years to allow Missoula to continue meeting its Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Requesting Member: Representative DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: US Forest Service—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, 2541 Stuart Street, Helena, Montana 59601.

Description: This funding would be used for the U.S. Forest Service to acquire lands critical for providing access to Tenderfoot Creek and to several Forest service trails. In addition, trout from the Smith River use Tenderfoot Creek for spawning. The volume of flow and cold water from the Tenderfoot are critical to the Smith River, particularly in the low flow summer months. Several hundred elk use the Tenderfoot country and it provides winter range for mule deer. Many other wildlife use this drainage which has an elevation drop of 3200 feet from sub-alpine mountains to grass meadows to riparian areas. There is habitat restoration potential if these lands are acquired. Forest Service Management efficiency

would also be enhanced. efficiency would also be enhanced.

### CONGRATULATING REAL SALT LAKE ON THEIR MLS CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, we would like to recognize Real Salt Lake for their inspiring MLS Championship victory. Some people had all but lost hope that they would compete in the playoffs, but the playoffs were just the beginning of their Cinderella rise to the top. Beginning with their first win in the playoffs against defending champions Columbus Crew and ending with the final win over the star-studded LA Galaxy, Real Salt Lake proved themselves to be a championship-caliber team.

Rather than relying on a few star players, this team proved the power of teamwork and the value of believing in one another. Led by their first-time coach/former player Jason Kreis and Captain Kyle Beckerman, they validated to the world what they already knew. Never giving up, Real came from behind to win in a high pressure penalty kick. We would like to congratulate Real Salt Lake and thank them for bringing a championship home to Utah.

### HONORING NSF INTERNATIONAL'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NSF International and thank them for the great work they have done over the last 65 years. Since 1944, when it was established at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, in Ann Arbor, NSF International has gone on to reach innumerable achievements.

NSF International has established itself as a leader in the field of drinking water safety, food safety, indoor air, organic certification, toy safety, and many other areas of public health and safety. In 1984 NSF International opened its first office abroad in Brussels, Belgium. Just over 20 years later NSF International now maintains offices and laboratories across North America and Europe, as well as in South America, Africa, and Asia. I believe their selection as a Collaborating Centre on Food and Water Safety as well as Indoor Environment by the World Health Organization speaks to their outstanding international reputation in the field.

Most importantly, NSF International has protected an untold number of consumers over the last 65 years through their testing, certification, education, and other services. Consumer safety is critically important and is an issue I have worked diligently on during my career in the United States House of Representatives. Protecting consumers from dangerous products would not be possible without the role that independent, not-for-profit organizations, such as NSF International, play.

This role is particularly important with our increasingly global marketplace. As more and more products come to the United States from abroad, extra steps must be taken to ensure American consumers are receiving the safest products possible. NSF International has played a key role in certifying products worldwide as well as writing internationally recognized standards. I thank them for the very important work they do.

I am proud to say that an organization with such an outstanding reputation domestically and internationally, and an organization with so many years of experience and achievement, was founded and is still headquartered in the great city of Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is organizations such as NSF International that make Michigan, and Michigan's 15th District, such a wonderful place and make me so proud to represent the area. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking NSF International.

### RECOGNIZING DAN CALLAHAN

#### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring one of my constituents, Dan Callahan, the head baseball coach at Southern Illinois University, and congratulate him on being awarded the Missouri Valley Conference's Most Courageous Award. This award honors those that have demonstrated unusual courage in the face of personal illness, adversity, or tragedy.

In his 16 years at SIU, Coach Callahan has contributed a great deal to the community. He is well-known and respected for not just his coaching skills, but also for his ability to inspire off of the field.

Three years ago, Coach Callahan was diagnosed with a very rare and very serious form of skin cancer. Despite undergoing treatment for the cancer, including surgery, Coach Callahan did not miss a game that season. Sadly, the cancer continued to grow. He faced more intense treatments, but was given hope when his oncologist recommended a new drug, Avastin, that can stop the spread of cancer and in some cases even shrink tumors. His doctor tried it on him and it worked. However, his insurance company will not cover the cost of the drug that is keeping Dan Callahan alive.

He now has no choice regarding his treatment. He cannot afford what his doctor recommends and his insurance company will not cover it. He cannot get new insurance because of his history of cancer. This could happen to anyone.

His experiences are well documented in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial that I would like added to the RECORD.

I wanted to make my colleagues aware of Dan's situation, congratulate him on his award, and wish him luck on the baseball field and especially in his recovery.

I submit an editorial from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch which was published November 6, 2009, relating to Dan Callahan's case.

COSTLY NEW DRUGS: A CRISIS FOR ONE FAMILY, A QUANDRY FOR U.S.

It began with a little black spot on Dan Callahan's lower lip. He didn't think it was

anything to worry about. His doctor thought it was cancer.

The doctor was right.

It was neurotropic melanoma, a very rare—and very serious—type of skin cancer. Even after the little black spot was successfully removed six years ago, the cancer remained. And grew.

Last October, doctors at Barnes-Jewish Hospital began chemotherapy. They used a three-drug cocktail that includes Avastin, one of a new generation of anti-cancer drugs. It works by blocking the formation of new blood vessels that feed and nourish tumors. Until just a few years ago, that kind of treatment was the stuff of science fiction.

For patients battling advanced cancer like Mr. Callahan, Avastin represents something as important as food or water: It is time in a vial.

This is what it cost: \$13,686 per treatment. Mr. Callahan has received six so far. Total price: \$82,116.

What's it worth? That's a much more difficult question.

About 10 miles up Illinois Route 13 east of Carbondale, Ill.—just above Crab Orchard Lake—lies a little town called Cartersville. Mr. Callahan lives there with his wife, Stacy, and two daughters. Alexa, 18, is a student at the University of Illinois. Carty, 13, is in eighth grade.

You can buy a three-bedroom house in Cartersville for about what Mr. Callahan's six infusions of Avastin cost. For about \$100,000—the price of a year's treatment—you can get a dassic bungalow with a screened-in front porch, a long, shaded driveway and a two-bedroom cottage out back.

The Callahans both have good jobs and health insurance. Stacy works for a credit union. Dan is the head baseball coach at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Their insurance paid for minor surgery to remove the little black spot from Mr. Callahan's lip. It paid for more extensive surgery in April, when doctors removed the right side of his jaw trying to stop the cancer's spread.

And it paid for yet another operation in September, when infection forced doctors to remove the prosthetic device they had implanted to replace his missing jaw.

But Mr. Callahan's insurance won't pay for Avastin.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Avastin in 2004 to treat advanced colon cancer. Since then, it has been cleared for breast and lung cancers. Doctors are free to prescribe it for other forms of cancer. It is being tried on 30 other cancers, including melanoma, but those uses technically are experimental.

Because many experimental treatments don't pan out, insurance companies in Illinois and most other states do not have to cover them. The major health care bills pending in Congress would not change that. For the first time, they allow generic versions of so-called biologic drugs like Avastin. But only after 12 years on the market, twice as long as other drugs.

For thousands of Americans, including the Callahans, that means many newer cancer drugs are out of reach. "When they told me the insurance wouldn't cover it, I said well just pay for it ourselves," Mrs. Callahan recalled last week. "Then they told me how much it cost."

The Callahans scraped together about \$27,000 from friends and family members—enough to cover the cost of two treatments. They got a grant from Washington University to pay for four more. They are appealing the insurance company denial, so far without success. The grant expires at the end of December. After that?

Mrs. Callahan paused. "We don't know what we'll do."

Despite the high prices and higher hopes, Avastin has been shown to extend cancer patients' lives by only a few months.

Many patients and oncologists say it improves quality of life and shrinks tumors—or at least prevents them from growing.

Mr. Callahan's doctor said it has slowed the progression of his tumor.

That is no small achievement for patients with advanced cancer. But stopping the progression of cancer is not the same as curing it. A study published in January followed 53 melanoma patients who received Avastin. After 18 months, 13 were alive.

The company that makes Avastin, Genentech, spent about \$2.25 billion to develop it. It spends another \$1 billion a year testing it on new cancers. Avastin has been a blockbuster success. It had \$2.7 billion in sales in the United States last year and more than \$3.5 billion worldwide.

Genentech says Avastin's price reflects its value. Another cancer drug, Erbitus, costs even more, and it hasn't been shown to extend life at all. In March, Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche agreed to buy Genentech for \$46.8 billion. Avastin is a big reason the company was sold for so much money.

Not everyone agrees that Avastin is worth the price. Experts in Britain recommended against covering it. A drug that costs as much as a house and extends life for just a few months isn't worth the money, they said.

Some people go to pieces when they find out they've got cancer. Mr. Callahan went to work.

He has coached the Salukis for 14 years. "I try to carry on like I'm going to be here next week and next month," he said. "I think about coaching in 2010, about going to my daughters' college graduations and their weddings."

His 2009 team finished with 24 wins and 28 losses. Coach Callahan was too sick to travel to away games. But he was in the dugout each time the Salukis took the field in Carbondale.

From the beginning, the Callahans have made it a point not to ask doctors about his prognosis. "We don't want to know it, and we don't want our kids to know it," Mrs. Callahan said. "We just wanted to live our lives as normally as possible, with no time line."

Coach Callahan thinks it is inherently unfair that patients can be denied treatment simply because of a drug's high price. It's like giving one team an extra at-bat.

But the game is not over. Even with two outs in the ninth inning, even with two strikes against you, there's hope. And a question: Who sets the price of victory?

#### ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF LIBRARIAN GEORGE KLINE

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life's work of George Kline, a librarian in our Federal Depository Library Program. Mr. Kline, with long and distinguished service in providing U.S. Government information to the citizens of the 9th District of Ohio has retired after providing U.S. Government information to the citizens since he started as government documents librarian in 1971.

In 1981 he became coordinator for the library's federal depository collection, which is

one of the more than 1200 Congressionally designated Federal Depository Libraries nationwide, and one of the four depository libraries serving our region. Mr. Kline has been an active and dedicated promoter of the use of government information, and has served with distinction on numerous committees and as president of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio, which recently honored him with its "Clyde" award for achievement and service.

Daniel Webster said, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered." In his nearly forty year career in service to our nation's government as he carefully kept record of our documents and made them available to all, George Kline has upheld this ideal.

We wish Mr. Kline a retirement much deserved, traveling this new road of his life's journey with those for whom he cares and doing that which he enjoys.

#### HONORING ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL FOR HAVING BEEN DESIGNATED AS A "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE" BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

#### HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. James Episcopal Day School, located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that St. James Episcopal Day School has been designated as a "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" by the United States Department of Education.

The administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents of St. James Episcopal Day School have successfully demonstrated academic excellence in standardized test scores, curriculum, technology, instructional methods, professional development, and school leadership.

St. James Episcopal Day School is a Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth grade elementary school that was founded in 1948. At St. James, students are challenged to reach their full potential; to be active in faith; to be responsible for their learning; and to be accountable for their actions, thus preparing these students to be leaders in facing the demands of their future. With this honor, I can only hope that the school's next sixty years will be even more successful than its first.

#### CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOPKINS COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

#### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, which just celebrated its 60th

Anniversary on September 3, 2009. Hopkins County Memorial Hospital holds a rich history of service and dedication to the citizens of Hopkins County, providing excellence in medical care through its state-of-the-art technology and professionally trained, capable staff.

Original proposals for a hospital bond date back to the 1920's, but it wasn't until 1945 that public sentiment supported community members' proposal. Voters approved funds for a county hospital by a 3-1 majority, and plans for an accessible, competitive hospital were underway. With federal funding approved by 1948, the job was awarded to W.R. McKinney and Sons of Greenville, Texas, and construction began November 1, 1948. By June of the next year, Hopkins County Memorial Hospital was stocked with equipment that would make it one of the most modern in the region—a modern operating table, Heidbrink gas machines for anesthesia, a battery-operated emergency light for backup power during surgery, as well as a staff of about 30 skilled professionals. The hospital held its open house on September 4, and opened the next day. The hospital's most recent renovation includes a new emergency department, lobby, and conversion of all rooms to private rooms.

In January of 2009, the Advanced Heart Care at Memorial cardiac catheterization lab opened. The latest renovations include 27,959 new square feet, 39,098 renovated square feet, a new emergency department, a new front lobby and front desk area, a new and expanded Johnnie Masters Gift Shop, and conversion of all rooms into private rooms.

Hopkins County Memorial Hospital is a testament to the community's ability to band together in pursuit of the common good. Without the collaboration of thought, energy, and hard work by so many people, Hopkins County Memorial Hospital would not have become the success it is today. Madam Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in celebrating Hopkins County Memorial Hospital in its service and success over the past 60 years, and in wishing it many blessings in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARSAW,  
MISSOURI

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to acknowledge Warsaw, Missouri, and the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Department to turn this beautiful city into Missouri's most bike-friendly community. Already a destination city for Americans seeking to enjoy Missouri's two largest lakes, Warsaw is working to become a model city for healthy living.

Under the leadership of City Administrator Randy Pogue and Parks and Recreation Director Mac Vorce, Warsaw plans to build a network of 15 to 20 miles of trails that radiate from the city center like the spokes of a wheel. These trails will connect the major area attractions and allow the residents of Warsaw to travel by bicycle to school and work. By building this impressive network of trails, Warsaw is creating a culture of healthy living. Pogue and Vorce hope that these trails will inspire

Missourians to get out of the house, put down the television remote, and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the Fourth District of Missouri.

What began as a dream eight years ago is now close to becoming a reality due to the hard work of Pogue, Vorce, and their visionary team of engineers and staff members. After this House passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February of this year, Warsaw applied for and received two grants to fund the renovation of Steamboat Landing and the surrounding area. This federal stimulus money, coupled with "handshake funds" from the Corps of Engineers, will allow Warsaw to finish this project and provide greater access to the beauty of this city.

Madam Speaker, Warsaw, which is situated in the heart of the Fourth District, is blessed with the God-given beauty of its natural surroundings. I trust that my fellow members of the House will join me in recognizing Warsaw as a model for healthy living and the promotion of the great outdoors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks for my Congressional District as a part of H.R. 2996, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY (along with Senators Mel Martinez and BILL NELSON)

Project Funding Amount \$300,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Johns River Water Management District

Address of Requesting Entity: St. Johns River Water Management District, 525 Community College Pkwy, Palm Bay, Florida.

Description of Request: This funding will be provided to the St. Johns River Water Management District for the East-Central Florida Integrated Water Resources Project to increase enhance water quality and increase the overall supply of water available for use as potable water.

Consistent with Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for entities unless the use of the funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE  
FLOYD A. SHUMPERT

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Judge Floyd A. Shumpert, a public servant and fellow veteran, who passed away on July 17, 2009 at the age of 92. Judge Shumpert was born on March 21, 1917 to A.T. and Edna Shumpert in Kaufman County, Texas.

During World War II, Mr. Shumpert served his country in the 8th Infantry Division, 28th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion of the United States Army, where, in the Hurtgen Forest in Germany, he suffered a severe injury when he stepped on a land mine. This injury required the amputation of his lower leg. For his courage and dedication to the U.S. Army, Mr. Shumpert was awarded both the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

In 1945 Mr. Shumpert retired as a Major from the U.S. Army and returned to his home in Kaufman County, serving as County Clerk for four years. Upon earning his law degree from Baylor University, Judge Shumpert next served as County Judge for eight years before transitioning into private law practice in Kaufman County, and moving to Terrell in 1978. In 1983, Judge Shumpert became the second Judge to ever serve from Kaufman County as an Associate Justice on the Texas Court of Appeals from the Fifth Judicial District in Dallas, Texas. On August 30, 1983, Judge Shumpert was presented with The Key to the City of Terrell, and in 1999, both he and his wife were honored with the Community Service Award.

Along with his service to his country and community, Judge Shumpert served in his church as an Elder, both at Kaufman and Terrell Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Katharine Shumpert, their four children, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He will be remembered fondly as a loving husband and devoted father, a patriot and public servant. Madam Speaker, I ask those here today to join me in honoring the life of this great American, Judge Floyd A. Shumpert.

ORDER ON GITMO AND YEMENI  
DETAINEES

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, this Thursday the House Homeland Security Committee will hold an urgent hearing to investigate the admission of uninvited guests to the recent White House state dinner.

This security lapse certainly merits a full investigation, but it pales in comparison to the gross security lapse that the Obama Administration is committing in releasing scores of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to dangerously unstable countries—including Yemen, Afghanistan, and other al Qaeda strongholds.

Yet neither the Homeland Security Committee, nor any other committee, has seen fit

to hold a single hearing on the release of these detainees.

In fact, the majority included a provision in FY2009 spending bills explicitly prohibiting the disclosure of any information to the American people.

If the American people knew who these detainees were, the acts of terror they have committed, or to which countries they were going to be released, they would never stand for it.

This is a dangerous precedent. Given that more than 74 former Guantanamo detainees have returned to active terrorism, there is real concern about the potential for these remaining detainees to return to a life of terror.

The American people deserve the facts. I encourage the public to visit the New York Times "Guantanamo Docket" Web site to review what scant information about these detainees was released by the previous administration.

I believe they will find these summaries deeply troubling.

This Congress has a responsibility and an obligation to the American people to hold hearings, request information, and work with the administration to have an open dialogue over transfer and release policies.

This has not happened. And 10 months after the administration issued an executive order to close Guantanamo, we have no more information about this than we did when the President took office.

Of the many unstable countries to which detainees may be sent, I am most concerned about the impending release of 26 detainees to Yemen—a growing haven for al Qaeda in the Persian Gulf.

It is my understanding that the administration is also preparing to release several other detainees to another country that anyone with a basic understanding of world affairs would agree is unacceptable. Unfortunately, this information has been classified.

Yemen is undoubtedly one of the most unstable countries in the world today—and the country where al Qaeda has reconstituted its operations over the last year.

The director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Michael Leiter, stated in an October Voice of America interview, "In Yemen, we have witnessed the reemergence of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and the possibility that that will become the base of operations for al-Qaida."

A number of former Guantanamo Bay detainees have returned to Yemen to launch terrorist attacks, including one just 2 months ago.

On October 13, Saudi police prevented an imminent suicide bomb attack as two al Qaeda terrorists slipped across the border from Yemen.

One of the would-be suicide bombers, Yousef Mohammed al Shihri, was a former Guantanamo detainee released in 2007 to Saudi Arabia. He quickly left Saudi Arabia for dangerously unstable Yemen where he rejoined al Qaeda.

In September 2008, another former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Said Ali al Shihri, helped orchestrate the terrorist attack on the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, killing 10 guards and civilians.

Since that time, al Qaeda's posture in Yemen has grown stronger with the merger of the Saudi and Yemeni arms of al Qaeda into one group—al Qaeda in the Arabian Penin-

sula—with Yemen as its base for training and operations.

Yemen is also now home to radical cleric Anwar al-Aulaqi, who influenced alleged Fort Hood gunman Major Nidal M. Hasan and who U.S. intelligence believes to be a critical link in al Qaeda's efforts to radicalize Americans and Europeans.

I have repeatedly urged the President to halt the release of detainees to dangerously unstable countries. The consequences of such releases could cost American lives.

I implore this Congress to get serious about its oversight responsibility. The American people deserve better.

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#### HONORING KEN DIEHL

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Diehl for his tremendous contributions to promoting housing and development in the Central Valley. Mr. Diehl is being honored at The Greater Yosemite Council Boy Scouts of America's annual distinguished citizens dinner on October 28, 2009 in Modesto, California.

Ken Diehl was born and raised in Beaver, Iowa. He attended Iowa Wesleyan College, where he excelled in athletics, lettering in basketball and baseball. He was also involved with the Blue Key (an honorary fraternity) the letter club and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. During college, he served in the United States Army and served overseas with the 100th Infantry Division. He spent over a year in combat, where he commanded a light machine gun section. For his efforts and achievements he was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II ended, Mr. Diehl made his way to California and settled in Patterson. He married Dorothy Sutherland and they had three children. Although he spent a great amount of time with his family, he was also very involved with professional and community organizations. Mr. Diehl served as the president of The Life Underwriter Association of Central California, chairman of the Heart Association for the Life Underwriters, member of the board of director of Toastmaster International. His mid-life career change to real estate offered him new opportunities to get involved. In his new position, Mr. Diehl was a developer and a builder for his own account; quickly realizing that a real estate investor was more profitable than a real estate agent. With the knowledge he acquired in the profession, he wrote a book, "Affordable Housing".

Mr. Diehl created The Diehl Company; over the years the company bought and sold hundreds of properties, built apartments, strip centers and several sub-divisions. He became very involved with the local Board of Realtors, chaired many committees and served as board president. He was a regional vice president for California Association of Realtors, CAR, where he represented seven local boards. He chaired various committees for CAR including; the Legislative Committee, the Board Presidents Committee, the Policy Committee, and the Regional Vice Presidents Committee. For his service, Mr. Diehl was awarded the Director for Life designation, a

prestigious award that is given to only three realtors out of one hundred and fifty thousand.

He also served as the director of the million member National Association of Realtors, representing California for 6 years. He was a chairman of the Federally Assisted Code Enforcement program. With this program he and a group of others were able to save hundreds of homes that were on the verge of being deemed uninhabitable, and made them livable in the City of Modesto and the surrounding areas. Mr. Diehl spent many years as a director of the Community Housing Shelter Service. His primary focus while in the real estate industry was permanent housing for low to moderate income families.

Mr. Diehl is a 58 year member of the Elks Club number 1282 in Modesto. He chaired the United Way for Modesto, served as the director of the California Apartment Association, president of the Apartment Association of Central California and chaired many committees of the Sportsman of Stanislaus. Mr. Diehl served a 3 year term as president of the Yosemite Council of Boy Scouts.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ken Diehl for the impact that he has made on the real estate industry in the Central Valley and the State of California. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued success.

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MARINE SGT. JAY M. HOSKINS

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of United States Marine Sergeant Jay Michael Hoskins of Paris, TX, who died August 6, 2009 at the age of 24 in Farah Province, Afghanistan, due to complications from wounds received when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Born January 26, 1985 in Paris, Texas to Michelle Sparks-Hoskins and Danny Hoskins, Jay Hoskins attended Aaron Parker Elementary, graduating from North Lamar High School in 2003. Throughout his youth, Sergeant Hoskins was active in baseball and football, and was an active member at Gospel Lighthouse in Powderly, Texas.

Following his graduation from North Lamar High School, Mr. Hoskins joined the United States Marine Corps, graduating from boot camp in San Diego, CA, as a Private 1st Class. In 2004, Sgt. Hoskins was deployed to Iraq where he fought in the Battle of Fallujah with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. In 2005, he served seven months in the Tora Bora area in the Afghanistan mountains, for which he received the first of his Afghanistan Campaign medals. From 2005 to 2008, Sgt. Hoskins served as a member of a training cadre in infantry tactics for Marine Officers at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA, where he was able to employ his background as a martial arts black belt instructor. In 2009, Sgt. Hoskins was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment III Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay, HI. He was deployed to Afghanistan in May, along with 1,000 other Marines to Helmand and Farah Provinces.

Sergeant Hoskins received many awards during his service as a United States Marine, including three combat ribbons, three sea service deployment ribbons, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, a Navy Marine Corps Achievement medal, a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terror Service medal, a Good Conduct medal, and a Purple Heart, along with other pending medals, as well as rifle and pistol expert badges.

Known as an unwavering Christian devoted to his wife, his children, his family, and his country, Sergeant Hoskins lived his life with strong moral character, a strong faith, and a strong sense of service. He was loved and respected by those that knew him, and he will not be forgotten.

Sergeant Hoskins is survived by his wife Chandler McRae Hoskins of Paris, Texas, their son Tristen, and a second child due in January; his mother, Michelle Sparks Widner and step-father, Chris Widner; his father, Danny Hoskins; two sisters, Amber Young and Chelsie Hoskins; a brother, Cameron Widner; along with many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Let us all continue to support our troops, and remember that freedom does come at a price. Madam Speaker, I ask those here today to join me in paying tribute to this American patriot, United States Marine Sergeant Jay Michael Hoskins.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BOYS  
SOCCER TEAM AT ST. FRANCIS  
DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the many outstanding athletic accomplishments achieved by students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. DeSales High School is in my congressional district, and I am proud to recognize a school that excels in and out of the classroom. Most recently, this fine academic institution won the 2009 Ohio Division II Boys Soccer Team Championship.

As you know, this sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and strong commitment. The soccer team, led by Coach Domenic Romanelli finished its remarkable postseason without allowing a single goal. In the championship game, where they beat Bay Village High School 1–0, David Harper scored the lone goal, while keeper Chris Weisgarber finished his accomplished season with yet another shutout. This is the fourth title for the Stallion soccer team, and their first since 1997.

Everyone at DeSales should be extremely proud of this group of student-athletes and the standard they have established. Their accomplishments attest to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people who have a strong dedication to each other, their sport and their academics. I know every member of this championship team will treasure the memories of their remarkable season and I commend them, and the greater DeSales community, for this truly great achievement.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY WITH  
THE CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today a proud Chattanooga with the distinct privilege of recognizing the 100th anniversary of the world famous Chattanooga Choo-Choo. As one of the city's oldest and most well-known attractions, the appeal of the Choo-Choo has stood the test of time reaching far beyond the banks of the Tennessee River.

History recalls a bitterly cold winter morning of December 1, 1909, as a crowd of several hundred gathered in the 1400 block of Market Street for the dedication of Chattanooga's "Gateway"—Terminal Station, and the first train pulled into the station that day. At its pinnacle, the depot grew to serve nearly 50 passenger trains a day. Over the years, the Choo-Choo has welcomed many honored guests including three United States Presidents—Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and my political role model, Theodore Roosevelt.

This Terminal Station's place in history was literally recorded by the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1941 in the movie *Sun Valley Serenade*. Over the years, those words, "Pardon me boy . . . is that the Chattanooga Choo-Choo," have actually become more well known than the movie that introduced the Choo-Choo to the world.

Even though the last train stopped on August 11, 1970, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo has thrived as a unique vacation and business gathering complex. As part of the Centennial Celebration, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo will join the prestigious group of Historic Hotels of America as one of HHA's two-hundred plus unique historic properties, hotels and inns across the country. This is a remarkable accomplishment for a facility that was spared the wrecking ball in 1973 by a group of local businessmen. In 1974, it was most appropriately added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Choo-Choo is a great testament to the citizens of Chattanooga who have remained committed to preserving our city's history for future generations to enjoy.

HONORING WILLIAM J. ROGERS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of William J. Rogers of Auburn, ME.

Bill Rogers was a model American. He fought to protect our country, was an advocate for veterans and a leader in his community. Bill was born and grew up in Auburn, Maine. He attended Syracuse University, but his education was cut short when he enlisted in the Navy to fight in World War II. During flight school he was classmates with Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams and Boston Red Sox great Johnny Pesky. He was roommates with the latter. Bill Rogers flew F6F Hellcat Fighter planes and Lockheed Ventura Submarine hunters in the pacific theatre.

When he left the military after the war in 1946, his decorations included the Air Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, he became very active in veterans affairs. He was a founding member of American Legion Post 153 in Auburn, where he held several offices at both the local and state levels including adjutant, vice commander and department commander. On the national level, he was Maine's national executive committeeman, a member of the liaison committee to the National Public Relations Commission and national vice commander from 1965 to 1966. In 1976, he was elected national commander of the American Legion, the first national commander from the State of Maine. In his capacity as commander, he met with Panamanian dictator General Omar Torrijos and then testified before a congressional committee on the process of returning the canal back to Panama.

During his tenure as commander, he also met with Presidents Ford and Carter, Mexico's President Lopez Portillo, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, and President Chieng of the Republic of China. During his year as national commander, he traveled more than 300,000 miles throughout the world representing millions of veterans in all 50 states and 17 countries.

Bill Rogers was a lifelong member of the American Legion, the Army/Navy Club, the Navy League of the U.S., the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a trustee of the Maine Veterans' Home. Bill was named Auburn Maine's Citizen of the Year in 1995. The State of Maine and the American Legion are honoring his memory and hard work by dedicating American Legion Post 153 to him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring William J. Rogers for his life of dedication and service to his community and his country.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP  
SEASON OF WORTHINGTON  
CHRISTIAN'S BOYS SOCCER  
TEAM

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure I congratulate the members of the Worthington Christian Boys Soccer team as they recently won the Division III State Championship.

The soccer team finished its remarkable season by beating Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy 2–1 when junior midfielder, Trent Smith scored the winning goal in the first overtime. Led by Head Coach Dan Roads, the victory reflects his team's outstanding perseverance as they rebounded from losing in last year's final to win the 2009 championship.

After their winning 2009 season, the school can proudly display their second title in four years. With a history like that, I'm sure the future is bright for this fine soccer program.

This team has set a standard for future Worthington Christian athletes of all sports to strive toward. Everyone at this fine academic institution should be extremely proud of this group of student-athletes, and I'm proud to congratulate this team and join with them in celebrating the history made with their State Championship title.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN  
COUSINEAU

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, and I rise today in honor of Ann Cousineau, director of Solano County Library for the last 15 years. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant and supporter of free and public libraries.

Transforming a library system that was teetering on the brink of a financial abyss into one of the premier libraries in the state, Ann did this not by "shushing" exuberant voices and library users, but by embracing the need to bring libraries into the 21st Century. Her legacy is a system of eight libraries that are central to lifelong learning in the communities that they serve, and in changing lives every day.

Ann Cousineau's hard work and vision benefit our next generation as well as generations to come. Three new libraries were built during her tenure. These new library buildings, along with renovations of the five existing buildings, are part of a 20-year facilities master plan to build and renovate libraries in the cities served by Solano County Library.

In 1999, Ann Cousineau served as co-chair of the statewide initiative for the successful passage of Proposition 14, a \$350 million statewide library construction bond act. The Fairfield Cordelia Library, which opened in 2006, is one of 45 libraries throughout California that were built with the help of these funds. The next year the California Library Association named her Member of the Year for her achievements in promoting state legislation benefitting libraries.

During her time as director, the Library has developed a telephone assistance center and an award-winning Web site with 24/7 reference services. Streamlined operations, self service functions and a staff trained to handle everything from story-time to computer class are just a few examples of a "new way of doing business" pioneered by Solano County Library and adopted by other libraries throughout California.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in wishing Ann continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING GILBERT  
ALVAREZ

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gilbert Alvarez on the occasion of his retirement from the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center. Mr. Alvarez is being honored by his many colleagues, family and friends for his dedicated career and longtime commitment to the City of Los Angeles.

A resident of Southern California, Gilbert began his career with the City of Los Angeles, at the Department of Recreation and Parks, in the intermittent part-time position of Recreation Assistant. During his eleven years as a part-time employee, he held a myriad of jobs in West Wilshire, El Sereno, Yosemite Pools, served as a supply manager for the Metro Region, and held the positions of Pool Lifeguard and Pool Manager.

On May 23, 1999 he was selected as the first Aquatic Facility Manager in the City and the first supervisor of the newly rebuilt Hansen Dam Aquatic Center.

During Gilbert's tenure as the Manager of the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center, his diligence and oversight of the pool helped detect a leak that would have cost taxpayers millions of dollars had it gone unnoticed.

Furthermore, Mr. Alvarez created the annual Hansen Dam Triathlon, which introduced an activity that has greatly benefitted the community. Among his other achievements during the past thirty-seven years of service to the City of Los Angeles, Gilbert revived the Open Water Junior Lifeguard Program at Hansen Dam and Cabrillo Beach.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Gilbert Alvarez a happy and productive retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF KIM MY AND  
MY LINH LI AT ST. FRANCIS  
DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of two students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. Kim My Li and My Linh Li, who not only are teammates, but sisters, recently won the Ohio Division II State Championship in tennis doubles.

The Li sisters won their championship tennis match in remarkable fashion, playing to a marathon score of 6-2 6-7(7-9), 6-2. This year's tournament was My Linh's first and Kim My's third, and through hours of practice, and true demonstration of teamwork, these sisters were able to end their season on a high note.

This accomplishment attests not only to the sisters' commendable display of commitment, but also to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. I'm proud to congratulate Kim My and My Linh and join with them in celebrating their historic State Championship title!

A TRIBUTE TO MS. JAVANNI  
AGARD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Javanni Agard, born July 15, 1991 to Valencia Thorne and Darrelle Agard.

Javanni is a graduate of the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. This small set-

ting has worked to her advantage making it easy to obtain exceptional grades and learn how to be professional in the business world. During her sophomore year of high school, she was given the opportunity to participate in an internship at The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. She worked as an intern for paralegals, assisting them with paperwork, filing, copying and other forms of clerical work. However, this internship opened her eyes to things she had only seen on television. She was able to visit the Supreme Court and view cases, learning what it was like to be a lawyer in the courtroom.

During her junior year of high school, she was assigned to help out in the Red Hook Senior Home and at an organization called Furnish a Future. Taking part in these organizations helped her to understand what it meant to help someone else, that it's not always about self, but helping those in need.

Javanni is a member of Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. is her Pastor. She participated in the Ministry of Sacred Dance and the Girl Scouts.

Javanni currently attends John Jay College of Criminal Justice as a first year student. During her college experience, she hopes to participate in internships and possibly take part in study abroad. After her success at John Jay, she will attend Law School.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Javanni Agard.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM HAMRA  
OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam and June Hamra of Springfield, Missouri. An attorney by professional training, Sam Hamra has been a community and political activist for many years. Sam and June are also philanthropists and civic and community leaders in many worthy causes.

In late October, Sam and June were honored by Wendy's International with the R. David Thomas Founder's Award. The Founder's Award is Wendy's International's highest honor and is presented annually to its outstanding franchisee who best embodies the common-sense business values of Wendy's founder Dave Thomas.

In being honored with Wendy's top franchisee recognition, Hamra and his restaurants were cited for their excellent operations, strong marketing plans, and the value placed on employee development. Another aspect of the award is the support the Hamras give to local civic and charitable activities. In recent years, Hamra has directed the modernization of all 28 restaurants in their Wendy's of Missouri group. Trademarks of Hamra's restaurants are strong management, low employee turnover and increased productivity and store sales. These are not just the restaurant's characteristics, but also reflect the owner's outlook and business acumen.

Sam opened his first Wendy's restaurant on March 15, 1976, in Springfield, Missouri, near the intersection of Sunshine & Campbell. The 206th Wendy's restaurant in the United States,

it's still in operation today. His Rolla restaurant was selected as one of the top 14 Wendy's restaurants out of 6,600 in the world for an unprecedented two consecutive years.

Wendy's of Missouri has eight locations in Springfield, three in Branson, two in Jefferson City and Columbia, and locations in Bolivar, Ozark, Nixa, Lebanon, St. Robert, Rolla, Fulton, Lake Ozark, Clinton, Republic, Sedalia, Harrisonville, and Warrensburg.

Congratulations to Sam and June for a job well done.

—IN HONOR OF ALBERT CASWELL  
AND HIS INSPIRATIONAL POETIC  
TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. EARL  
GRANVILLE, OF SCRANTON,  
PENNSYLVANIA, WHO WAS  
WOUNDED IN ACTION IN THE DE-  
FENSE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Albert Caswell, of Street, Maryland, who is employed as a U.S. Capitol tour guide, and SSG Earl Granville, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, a member of the U.S. Army 109th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania National Guard, who was severely wounded during deployment in Afghanistan.

Mr. Caswell met Sergeant Granville while doing volunteer work at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Mr. Caswell was deeply impressed with Sergeant Granville's devotion to military duty and subsequently wrote a poem to express his appreciation for the sacrifices citizens like Sergeant Granville make in the defense of our Nation and the freedoms we hold dear.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Caswell and Sergeant Granville. As a soldier, Sergeant Granville represents our Nation's finest and most courageous citizens, willing to venture into harm's way to protect this nation and ensure that our liberties survive and flourish. And Mr. Caswell represents the gratitude that we all share for our men and women in uniform. May we all be inspired by these two fine Americans.

The poem that Mr. Caswell wrote follows:

STANDING GUARD—IN HONOR OF SSG EARL GRANVILLE, AN AMERICAN HERO, THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD, THE UNITED STATES ARMY, 28TH ID—1/109TH/INF—103RDAR

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Standing Guard! Standing Strong!  
Standing Hard! Standing long!  
On Guard!  
A band of brothers another world away, such  
burdens bear . . .  
As into the face of death, they so stare!  
As they Stand Guard!  
Stand Strong!  
As the word Hero to them so belongs . . .  
And if ever I have a son, I but pray he could  
be like this fine one . . .  
Who will stand?  
And who will fall?  
And who will but give their all?  
Who will give up their fine lives, and strong  
arms and legs so freedom can thrive?

For that's only how freedom is made!  
By only all those who stay, And Stand  
Guard!  
For as long as our nation has been . . .  
There have always been, such splendid men  
. . .  
Men, who must Stand Guard!  
Men of honor, with hearts of courage full  
. . . of steel over evil rule . . .  
Men such as Earl Granville, from that great  
state of Pennsylvania so true . . .  
Men of such faith, who death so view . . .  
Who for all of us go off to war . . .  
But, for this our Country Tis of Thee . . .  
such burdens bore!  
All for our freedom, to insure . . .  
As They Stand Guard . . .  
With but their fine hearts of courage, pure!  
Standing strong, all the more . . .  
Who but with only their most heroic hearts

Right all of those wrongs, as is their part!  
And all of the ones, who come back home

. . .  
Without arms and legs, as to them such  
beautiful hearts belong . . .  
As we Witness their most heroic songs.  
Teaching us all how faith stands strong.  
As up from the ashes they do rise . . .  
With but tears of valor all in their eyes . . .  
As but the full measure of the word hero  
comprised . . .  
Standing Strong, while blessing all our lives

. . .  
As they reach us . . . as they teach us . . .  
As to great heights their heart's beseech us

. . .  
As on this day Earl, you so teach us . . .  
Even the Angels up in heaven, Wipe the tears  
from their eyes . . .

For in life, what do we so stand for?  
And for what, will we so rise?  
To face death, when all upon us so much re-  
lies . . .

While, Standing Guard all in time . . .  
So but our children might but find a better  
life realized . . .

All so they will not have to fight . . .  
All so that they might sleep peacefully this  
night . . .  
Because, somewhere out there . . .

### A TRIBUTE TO MARK E. EVANS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark E. Evans who was born in Brent, England on September 5, 1968. At the age of twelve, he and his siblings migrated to the United States to live with his parents in Queens Village, New York. He attended PS 109 Junior High School and Newtown High School.

Following his High School graduation in 1987, Mr. Evans enlisted in the United States Army. He completed Basic Training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, as well as his advance military occupational skill training as an Interior Electrician. While on active duty, he was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, South Korea and Fort McClellan, Alabama. He also served six months in the Middle East during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In August 1991, after spending four years on active duty, Mark returned home to Queens Village and attended York College in Queens while maintaining his attachment to the Military as a member of the Army Reserve. He met

his wife Sonia through a mutual friend in December 1992 and on August 17, 1997 they were married.

Mark worked full time, attended college and was a Weekend Warrior with the Army Reserve. His hard work and dedication paid off upon receipt of a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1998. In 1999, Mark started the process of becoming a New York City Police Officer. By October 2000, he graduated from the New York City Police Academy, and he was assigned to the 30th Precinct in Harlem. Following 9/11, he was transferred to Manhattan Traffic Task Force, where he would better service the department by effectively managing ground zero. To this day, he continues to patrol the streets of Manhattan.

In his continuation of military service, he served with the 344th Combat Support Hospital in Flushing, New York and 445th Quartermaster Company in Trenton, New Jersey. He was deployed to Iraq where he served one year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently serving with the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion in Danbury, Connecticut as the First Sergeant for Headquarters Company. He is expected to deploy to Afghanistan in 2010.

With twenty-two years of military service and ten years as a New York City Police Officer, he is committed to improving our society by serving our nation both domestically and abroad. His dedication to duty, as a father of two (Gordan and Nyah), husband, Soldier and Police Officer is unwavering.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Mark E. Evans.

### THE ENVIRONMENTAL HORMONE DISRUPTION ACT AND THE WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION ACT

#### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I'm proud to reintroduce the Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act.

Consider for a moment that a women's lifetime risk of breast cancer is 1 in 7 today, compared to 1 in 22 in the 1940s—over half of the cases are unexplained. And, over the last 30 years, the U.S. has seen a steep rise in the occurrence of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, thyroid disorders, cognitive impairment, and autoimmune disorders. Autism cases alone rose 210 percent between 1987 and 1998.

About 100,000 chemicals are registered for use in the United States. However, 90 percent of these have never been fully tested for their impact on human health. Scientists have found that exposure to these synthetic chemicals disrupts hormone function and contributes to increased incidences of diseases. We already know the tragic impact that diethylstilbestrol, or DES, has had on the daughters of women who took this anti-miscarriage drug prescribed until 1971.

While the evidence is mounting that there is an association between these chemicals and hormone disruption, research remains limited,

particularly on the impact on women and on how long-term, low-dose exposure to environmental pollutants impacts children at critical stages of development.

A few years ago, I participated in a study conducted by the Environmental Working Group to find out what toxic substances I, in particular, and Americans in general, have been exposed to throughout our lives. My stunning test results showed literally hundreds of chemicals pumping through my vital organs every day. These chemicals include PCBs that were banned decades ago, as well as chemicals like Teflon that are currently under federal investigation.

The study also tested ten newborn babies and found that on average, each one had some 200 chemicals in their blood at the time of birth. The fact that we have children coming into this world already polluted and at the same time, do not know what the effects of that pollution will be on their mental and physical development, is both bad policy and immoral. We must test chemicals before they go onto the market, not after they get into our bloodstreams.

For several years, I have called on Congress to enact legislation that would allow NIH to expand its research on the impact of these chemical pollutants on the health of women and children.

Once again, I am introducing two important bills that I hope will advance this research—the Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act. The Environmental Hormone Disruption Act authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS, to conduct a comprehensive program to research and educate the public on the health effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals. The Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act authorizes the NIEHS to establish multidisciplinary research centers to investigate how environmental factors may be related to women's health and disease prevention.

Increased investments in research now could prevent and treat a broad range of diseases and disorders in future generations. I urge my colleagues to support these bills today.

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MARSHAL J.C. RAFFETY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the pending retirement of Marshal J.C. Raffety from not only his position as United States Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia, but from an exceptional career in law enforcement that spans the past five decades.

Specifically, on January 1, 2010, after nearly eight years of service as U.S. Marshal, J.C. will graciously relinquish his duties and begin his life anew as a private citizen of the State of West Virginia. Raffety will leave this post with an outstanding legacy of achievement. During his tenure, Marshal Raffety supported the establishment of the Northern District's Mountain State Fugitive Task Force, which has components located in Clarksburg, Mar-

tinsburg, and Wheeling, West Virginia. This Task Force, comprised of local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies, is responsible for the apprehension of violent fugitive offenders. In addition, this Task Force participates in Operation FALCON, Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally, an annual, nationwide fugitive round-up that relies on the combined efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and departments. Under Raffety's capable leadership, the Northern District of West Virginia's efforts involving Operation FALCON netted the arrests of hundreds of fugitives from justice, and stands today as a shining example of effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Additionally, very early into his appointment, Marshal Raffety was selected to serve on the then-USMS Director's Advisory Committee, a testament to his decades of training and experience in the Federal, State, and local law enforcement communities.

President George W. Bush appointed Raffety to the position of U.S. Marshal on March 13, 2002. Prior to that, J.C. served as the Chief of Police for the city of Buckhannon, West Virginia, for approximately two years. During his tenure, Chief Raffety promoted the established concept of community policing and instituted meaningful administrative reforms. Additionally, he strengthened ties with the students and administrators of West Virginia Wesleyan College and enhanced the Neighborhood Watch Program in Buckhannon.

Before his service as Chief of Police in Buckhannon, Raffety spent a remarkable 32-year career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, which began in 1966 when, following high school graduation at the age of 18, he relocated to Washington, DC, and began working for the FBI as a GS-2 Clerk. While employed at the FBI, J.C. attended night school full-time towards the attainment of his college degree. After a 2-year break in service to complete his undergraduate education, Raffety was reinstated to the FBI in 1970, and attended the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Early in his career, J.C. served as an FBI Special Agent in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, Pennsylvania, where his investigative efforts focused on organized crime, racketeering, and public corruption. He later served as a Supervisory Special Agent at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC, assigned to the Criminal Investigative Division, Organized Crime Section. Subsequently, in 1983, Raffety was assigned to the Clarksburg, West Virginia Resident Agency, and later served as Supervisory Senior Resident Agent for that office, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. Among the highlights of his impressive record in West Virginia, J.C. served as the lead case agent in the 1995–1997 West Virginia Mountaineer Militia investigation, which resulted in the convictions of militia members engaged in a domestic terrorism plot targeting the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services, CJIS, Center in Clarksburg, as well as the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, BATF, facilities in West Virginia's eastern panhandle.

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the extraordinary accomplishments of J.C. Raffety. I admire his idealism and lifelong commitment to his community, State, and country. I join his wife, Cindy, his two children and two grand-

children, and the grateful citizens of West Virginia in thanking J.C. for his life of service, and in wishing him continued success as he enters this new chapter of his life. Congratulations, Marshal Raffety, on a job well done!

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A TRIBUTE TO MRS. SAJDA  
MUSAWWIR LADNER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sajda Musawwir Ladner, an artist, community activist and educator.

She is one of the founders as well as the Artistic/Executive Director of Universal Temple of the Arts (UTA). UTA is a non-profit, community based organization focusing on creative development, education, multicultural and entrepreneurial programs, that has served Staten Island since the late 1960's. These programs are held both on and off site and include classes in the New York City Department of Education system.

She has worked intensively with young people as a Cultural Enrichment Specialist with organizations such as the YMCA, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Youth Employment Program, Neighborhood Youth Corp, and the Board of Education. Presently, Mrs. Ladner is on the staff of Doing Art Together at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Staten Island Museum as an Art Educator.

Sajda Musawwir Ladner is a Fashion/costume designer and owner of Saadia Fine Art Fashions. She has created costumes for many dance companies including Alvin Ailey II, the Fred Benjamin Dance Company, Eleo Pomare Dance Company, The Mary Anthony Dance Theater and the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Theatre where she was resident costume designer and wardrobe mistress.

Mrs. Ladner is a professional dancer having had the honor of being asked to perform for President Nelson Mandela of South Africa when he visited New York shortly after his release from prison. She specializes in Jazz Improvisation and has worked with Barrie Harris, Reggie Workman and the Sun Ra Arkestra. Mrs. Ladner is a member of the On the Rock DanceTheatre based on Staten Island.

Mrs. Ladner serves on the Board of Directors of the Northfield Development Corporation and the Children's Harbor Montessori School. She is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP and Staten Island Peach Action.

Mrs. Ladner has an administrative background in business and law. She represented Staten Island at the 13th Annual Harlem Mother's Day Parade. The parade honors mothers who work in the community. She has been the recipient of many awards for community service. Sajda Musawwir Ladner is the wife of Edward Ladner and mother of five daughters.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Sajda Musawwir Ladner.

HONORING MORTON BLACKWELL

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion of the conservative movement, Morton Blackwell, who just celebrated his 70th birthday.

I have known Morton since the days when he attended meetings in my parents' living room, planning how we would advance the conservative cause in Virginia. We realized the fruits of those talks during the Reagan Revolution in the 1980s, when Virginia—and Morton Blackwell—led the way.

Morton's life thus far has been a testament to the kind of man he is. There is a list of rules that Morton has developed, entitled the Laws of the Public Policy Process, which I always keep close at hand. One of my favorites is number 10, which simply states: "Sound doctrine is sound politics." Morton lives and teaches by this rule. He has dedicated his adult life to serving on the front lines of all the major battles in our nation to ensure that faith, family, and freedom always prevail. I would venture to say that much of Morton's success is due to the fact that he has had a key partner in these efforts in his wife Helen, the president of the Virginia chapter of the Eagle Forum.

In addition to his birthday, Morton also celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Leadership Institute. Morton founded LI in 1979 for the sole purpose of teaching conservatives to win. His approach wasn't to sit on the sidelines and analyze policy, as important as that may be. Instead, his strategy was to train people to actually influence that very policy by directly participating in it, through activism and leadership. The more than 76,000 students who have been mentored by Morton are now spread throughout the country, in arenas ranging from grassroots organizations to campaigns at every level to elected office. I don't believe there's a doubt in anyone's mind that Morton has trained more political activists than any other conservative.

This outreach didn't start with the founding of LI, though. Decades before that, Morton worked with fellow Republicans as a leader of College Republicans, and then of local and state Republican party chapters. In a role that any conservative would envy, Morton's hard work and dedication earned him a job as Special Assistant to President Reagan. At nearly 70 years old, Morton still demonstrates the energy and activity of a young man, serving the boards of at least six major conservative organizations, and frequently writes widely published pieces on a variety of conservative issues.

As in the times when I first met Morton, conservatives have recently had plenty of reasons to feel discouraged. Morton's rules, however, also tell us to "remember it's a long ball game." Keeping in mind that the game is not yet over, we continue to fight. I was proud to stand next to Morton on the stage one month ago, as we celebrated Bob McDonnell's election as the next governor of the state we call home. As I said on that same stage, the conservative resurgence begins now, and it begins in Virginia. Americans everywhere can thank Morton Blackwell for that.

RECOGNIZING VITAL BRIDGES FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND FOR PROVIDING ITS 10 MILLIONTH MEAL

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate VITAL BRIDGES on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. VITAL BRIDGES, originally known as Open Hand Chicago, is a not-for-profit community organization providing food and social services to low-income people with HIV and AIDS in Chicago and Cook County.

On Christmas Eve 1988, a small group of concerned volunteers came together to deliver hot meals to AIDS patients who were too sick or too poor to prepare their own food. From this initial act of charity, Open Hand Chicago was born in January 1989.

For the last two decades and without interruption, Open Hand and its successor VITAL BRIDGES has provided food and social services to men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS.

Today, VITAL BRIDGES provides its services through five grocery centers located on the north, south and west sides of Chicago and in Oak Park and Elk Grove Village in suburban Cook County. Nearly 2,000 people receive services every month.

In addition to food services, VITAL BRIDGES provides nutrition counseling, housing assistance, case management and educational and vocational services.

On October 29, 2009, VITAL BRIDGES reached a milestone: it provided its 10 millionth meal.

Without VITAL BRIDGES, thousands of people in Chicago and Cook County would go without the healthy, balanced meals and the social services that are needed when a person is struggling to live with HIV and AIDS, especially in these economically difficult times.

So, Madam Speaker, I wish to thank Executive Director Debbie Hinde, the staff, board of directors and especially the many dedicated volunteers for 20 years of creating vital bridges of help and hope for thousands of people in our community.

## A TRIBUTE TO MS. CERISA HOWARD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Cerisa Howard, a native of New York born to William E. Clark and the late Lela F. Clark.

Ms. Howard has worked with St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation for 13 years in various positions. She started as a Youth Coordinator working with at-risk youth in the community where she found jobs, scholarships, facilitated college enrollment, initiated educational trips and acquired funding resources to aid youth. Additionally, Ms. Howard has helped youth with everyday life issues and has always been available to lend a listening ear.

Ms. Howard, also, has worked as a clerical supervisor in the Human Support Department of St. Nicholas High School. In this capacity she managed clients' files, supervised the clerical staff and assisted the nurses with home visit documentation.

Presently, she is the Senior Property Manager of the St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation, now known as the St. Nicks Alliance, Where Opportunity Grows. She manages 275 housing units with a maintenance crew that administers repairs, upkeep, and security.

Ms. Howard is a member of Berean Baptist Church, under the Pastor of Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. She is the Vice Servant Leader of the Pastoral Support Ministry and serves as the coordinator of the annual Thanksgiving Dinner that is served for the homeless and shut-ins on Thanksgiving Day.

Ms. Howard is a loving mother of two sons, William and Raymond, and the proud grandmother of twin grandsons, Ryan and Tylan.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Cerisa Howard.

## THE BIG THICKET NATIONAL RESERVE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Big Thicket National Preserve consists of 100,000 acres of dense pines, hardwoods, and swampland. The area occupies seven counties including Liberty County and Jefferson County, bounded by the San Jacinto River and Neches River.

In 1964 the mayor of Liberty, Dempsey Henley, and local naturalist Lance Rosier founded the Big Thicket Association; their efforts to push for national park status gained the attention of U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough. After many years of fighting to preserve the Big Thicket a bill by U.S. Representative Charles Wilson to establish the Big Thicket National Preserve was passed by Congress in 1974. The creation of the Big Thicket National Preserve was established to protect the numerous and diverse population of plant and animal species; it was the first preserve established in the National Park System.

The communities that border the Big Thicket National Preserve remain passionate about preserving one of Texas' unique land treasures. Like many true Texans, I remember growing up surrounded by the wild, free piney woods. Many summer days were spent wading in the area creeks, fishing for perch, blazing new trails, or quietly watching turtles sunbathe on logs. The Big Thicket National Preserve continues to play an important role in the lives of the people and families of the Second District of Texas.

Madam Speaker, the Second District of Texas pays tribute to the foresight of our early Texas leaders and their commitment to the preservation of the Big Thicket. I love and appreciate this preserve, and will continue to help protect its natural beauty.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. MARIAN  
JACKSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marian Jackson a resident of Staten Island, NY for over thirty years and an innovative entrepreneur.

Ms. Jackson is currently the President of MJ Kreativevity specializing in personal shopping and unique gifts. In addition, Ms. Jackson is a travel consultant with the Our Gang Travel Agency. She is well versed in cruise group venues and has a following of over one hundred dedicated travelers.

Ms. Jackson's businesses have contributed to numerous community organizations including the Universal Temple which supports youth development and education in the arts and heritage awareness on Staten Island.

Prior to starting her own businesses, Ms. Jackson was associated with several entertainment firms such as ARISTA Records, ABC Television, Columbia pictures, and Night Fall Productions as an Associate Producer.

Ms. Jackson has served as Public Relations Chairperson for the National Association of Market Developers and was active in the Democratic political community working with the Obama campaign and other Democratic Party endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Marian Jackson.

A TRIBUTE TO AL AND VALERIE  
BISHOP, NORWOOD, MASSACHU-  
SETTS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Al and Valerie Bishop who are being recognized by the Friends of St. Nick organization in Norwood, Massachusetts, for their generosity in helping those in need for over 25 years. The Bishops' planes have been on call 24/7 to assist with organ transplants and charitable flights that would not have been possible otherwise.

Norwood is not in the Second Congressional District, but I feel I must add my congratulations to this fine couple, as their good deeds certainly affect people throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In May of 2007, Carol and Vincent Pietroniro of Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, were trying to help their terminally ill son Michael find a way to realize one of his lifelong wishes—to come to Washington, DC, and see the White House. When contacted about this special request, Al and Valerie Bishop did not hesitate; they supplied the private jet and pilots for Michael and his parents, as well as for 3 physicians and an ICU nurse to make the trip.

Needless to say, the trip was so special for young Michael. Sadly, Michael passed away a few short weeks later. I know that the kindness and generosity of Al and Valerie Bishop will forever be in the hearts and minds of Michael's parents, family and friends. Knowing

that their son did get to realize his dream is so comforting to both them.

I commend the Friends of St. Nick on selecting Al and Valerie Bishop as their Couple of the Year for 2009, and I add my congratulations, best wishes and appreciation for all that they do.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTIE L.  
JONES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Bettie L. Jones who has retired after devoting over 25 years as an Associate Director and Human Resources Business Partner for Global Operations, Foreign Exchange Sales & Trading and Fixed Income Trade Support for a leading Investment Banking and Securities firm on Wall Street.

Mrs. Jones was responsible for administrative management, staffing, coaching and employee relations. In this capacity, she delivered, facilitated, and conducted motivational presentations about in-person job readiness workshops, seminars and panels.

During her professional career Mrs. Jones was an active member of several Business Advisory boards such as the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Department of Education Virtual Enterprise Program, JOB, Inc., National Business Disability Council, the New York Academy of Finance, and a member of the Urban Financial Services Coalition.

She was commissioned to facilitate multiple workshops, panel discussions, seminars and focus groups with diversity organizations, including CUNY Graduate Center, Baruch College of Economics and Finance, Academy of Finance, Hunter College, Mission Society Hope Program, National Mentoring Program, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the New York City Department of Education.

Mrs. Jones partnered and maintained relationships with several non-profit organizations including the Mayor's and Governor's offices resulting in receiving the "NYS NDEAM Regional Employment Alliance" award and the "Governor's VESID Placement Consortium" award in recognition of her dedication and commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities. In addition, Mrs. Jones was awarded the New York City Department of Education Virtual Enterprise "Partner in Leadership Award" in recognition of assisting High School students in career development.

Currently Mrs. Jones is a volunteer consultant with the Workforce 1 Center in Harlem conducting career-readiness workshops for the community training and Employment Resources program.

Mrs. Jones is married to Robert Jones and they have one daughter, Kenya, and two grandchildren, Ejaaz and Amani.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bettie L. Jones.

HONORING CALVIN BRIGHT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Calvin Bright for his tremendous contributions to promoting housing and development in the Central Valley. Mr. Bright is being honored at the Greater Yosemite Council Boy Scouts of America's Annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner on October 28, 2009, in Modesto, California.

Calvin Bright was born on September 17, 1920, in Beggs, Oklahoma, to Ed and Cora Bright. He was raised on the family farm with his three siblings and a cousin. He spent his childhood in school or working on his family's farm where they raised farm animals, grew row crops, and farmed a large family garden. He graduated from Beggs High School having lettered in football and participated in the 4H Club. He joined the National Guard when he was 14, but due to a hip injury, he was unable to go overseas and fight in the war. Instead, Mr. Bright attended Oklahoma A&M and graduated with a degree in horticulture.

In 1940, Mr. Bright married his high school sweetheart, Marjorie Hensley. They attended Oklahoma A&M together and moved to California in 1942. Upon arriving in California, Mr. Bright built and managed a five-unit apartment complex in Hayward. This was his first California building project. In 1956 Mr. and Mrs. Bright founded Bright Foods in Turlock, which manufactured pre-prepared frozen foods, such as pies and TV dinners. Bright Foods was the first pre-prepared food processing plant of its type west of the Rockies. Bright Foods operated 24 hours a day and employed approximately 400 full-time employees.

Mr. Bright established Western Fruit Packers in Brigham City, Utah, in 1959. The company was a cherry packing plant and provided fruit for his cherry pies manufactured in Turlock, California. The following year he founded C.S.C. Refrigeration, a company that froze and stored the product, and Mistletoe Express, a trucking company that delivered the finished frozen product to 11 western States. In 1966, Bright Foods and FM Stamper Company merged to create a national distribution system. The new company was named Banquet Foods and was sold to RCA in 1969. When Banquet Foods sold, Mr. Bright left the food processing industry and entered the housing industry, full time.

In 1968, Mr. Bright founded B&H Manufacturing, an international company that designs and manufactures high-speed, roll-fed labeling machines that place labels on containers for major companies, such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Clorox, and other household products. In 1971, he incorporated Bright Development in Modesto and began to build single family homes, townhomes, and apartment projects throughout the Central Valley. Bright Development has also been active in the construction of commercial office buildings. Woodside Management Group was also established in 1971 by Mr. Bright to professionally manage the apartment projects built by Bright Development. Mr. Bright has been named "Builder of the Year" by the Building Association of Central California, twice. He has been a member of the Building Industry Association of Central

California since 1979 and he served over 20 years on the board of directors and is a past president. In 1994 he was honored by the California Building Industry Foundation for his contributions to the professionalism of the industry and has been inducted into the California Building Industry Hall of Fame.

Mr. and Mrs. Bright established the Bright Family Foundation in 1987 for the purpose of making a contribution to the health and well-being of youth and families in the Central Valley. Over the years the foundation has provided grants to sponsor the Nature Series on KVIE, medical internships at the University of California Medical Center, Hospice, the Children's Crisis Center, and scholarships for students from local high schools to attend Modesto Junior College, University of California, Merced, and California State University, Stanislaus.

Mr. Bright has been associated with the Yosemite Area Council of Boy Scouts for over 20 years. He has served on the board of directors and has been honored with the Silver Beaver Award in 1994. He was also honored by the Boy Scouts of America in 2004.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Calvin Bright for the impact that he has made on the building industry in the Central Valley and the State of California. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued success.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MR. DANNY KING

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Danny King, an exemplary community leader.

Mr. King is a 22 year veteran of the New York City Police Department, Board Member of the Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council Inc., Chairperson of the Neighborhood Advisory Board, Board Member of the New York City Department of Youth Community and Development, to name a few. In addition, he served 8 years as the President of the Atlantic Avenue Housing Development Fund Corporation and served 2 years on the USA Women's Shelter Board. He was a member of the Bedford Avenue Boys and Girls Club for over eight years with great memories and many stories to tell.

As President of Youth on the Move Victory over Violence, he continues to support scholarships and awareness programs to combat violence. He humbly received several leadership awards from company employees such as the 2009 Man of the Year Award, 2008 Exemplary Community Award from New Life Center of Truth, a citation as 2007 Distinguished Humanitarian Award from Senator John Sampson's Office, Cambridge Who's Who 2007, Thomas R. Fortune Exemplary 2004 Service Award, 2003 Martin Luther King Spirit of New York Award, Beacon of Hope Award, Wayside Baptist Church Senior Program Leadership Award and many other awards and achievements.

Mr. King currently serves as the CEO of the Federation of Multicultural Programs Inc., and the Federation of Multicultural Programs of New Jersey, Inc. This company is a service

provider of intermediate care group homes, individualized residential alternative homes, community residential homes and programs that include Day Habilitation Programs, a Respite Program, and a Medicaid Service Coordination Program, with services spreading throughout the Boroughs of Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan and Counties in the State of New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Danny King.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE SACRAMENTO JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE, THE MATSUYAMA SACRAMENTO SISTER CITY CORPORATION, TERI TAKAI AND RANDELL IWASAKI

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Sacramento Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Corporation, Teri Takai and Randell Iwasaki for their contributions to California, Sacramento, and their leadership to Japanese-Americans across the nation.

The Sacramento JACL was formed on October 31, 1931, after the Sacramento Chapter of the American Loyalty League reorganized itself to become the Sacramento Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Through their programs, the Sacramento JACL is dedicated to advancing the civil rights of all Americans, deterring hate crimes across the Nation, and helping to lead the Japanese-American community for social and economic advancement. At their annual dinner on November 19th, they will honor two outstanding individuals and one fine organization, Teri Takai; Randell Iwasaki; and the Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Corporation.

On December 6, 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Teri Takai as chief information officer for the State of California. As a member of the Governor's Cabinet, she advises him on the strategic management and direction of information technology resources as the state works to modernize and transform the way California does business with its residents and visitors.

Teri also currently serves as practitioner chair of the Harvard Policy Group on Network-Enabled Services and Government. Before serving in the State government, Teri worked for Ford Motor Company for 30 years, where she led the development of the company's information technology strategic plan.

Randell Iwasaki currently serves as the director of the California Department of Transportation, which employs 23,000 people and has an operating budget of \$14 billion.

Working for CalTrans for almost 25 years, Randell spearheaded a number of transportation engineering innovations in California including the use of old tires in rubberized asphalt, the installation of LED red lights saving the State taxpayers more than \$2 million a year in power costs, and the conversion of the CalTrans equipment fleet to clean burning fuels.

A licensed civil engineer, Randell also serves on a number of national transportation panels and committees helping to develop transportation strategies and innovations such as pavement technology that reduces highway noise.

The Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Corporation was formed on August 17, 1981, when then Sacramento Mayor Phil Isenberg and Mayor Tokio Nakamura of Matsuyama, Japan, signed the historic sister city agreement.

Since 1981, various organizations from Sacramento and Matsuyama have formed inter-continental relationships for social and economic prosperity. Most notably, the Boy Scout exchange program is one of the Sister City's most successful programs where Scouts from Sacramento visit Matsuyama in even years and the Matsuyama Scouts visit Sacramento in odd years.

Other than a short pause just after September 11th, the Matsuyama-Sacramento Boy Scout exchange program has taken place each year since 1981. Sacramento plans to send its next delegation to Matsuyama in 2010.

Madam Speaker, I hereby recognize and honor the Sacramento Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and the people and organization they are honoring Thursday night: the Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Corporation, Teri Takai and Randell Iwasaki. Their contributions to the people of California have been immense. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing them continued success.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MS. JOAN HEVONY LAWRENCE CRAWFORD

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Joan Hevony Lawrence Crawford who was born in Costa Rica, Central America.

In her young life, Ms. Crawford made the decision to immigrate to the United States with her husband and two young children in order to provide a better life for their family. While in America, she was determined to be a successful educated black woman and she continued her education by completing her high school diploma at the "Boys and Girls" High School in Brooklyn, New York. After receiving her high school diploma she then went on to Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) to further her studies. While in school, she discovered that she has a passion for helping her community and decided to pursue a career in medicine.

Ms. Crawford's passion and dedication was shown everyday of the thirty-five years she worked at Coney Island Hospital. She was always a hard worker and cared very much for her patients. While at Coney Island she received many promotions and eventually retired as a medical/surgical technician.

Even though she retired in 1996 from Coney Island Hospital, her life did not slow down. After retirement, she became very active in her religious life at East New York Seventh-day Church (ENYSDA). At ENYSDA she is a

very active deaconess where she volunteers for Vacation Bible School, serves for funerals and performs daily church duties. When Ms. Crawford is not serving her community through her church, she enjoys activities such as bowling, shopping, needlepoint and family gatherings.

Ms. Crawford's family includes her husband Dowel Stewart and two daughters, Sonia and Betty, four granddaughters, Nikita Griffith, Tenesha Lewis, Xiomara Okonkwo and Cherisse Lewis and four great grandchildren, Anaiya Davis, Gyselle Brown, Michael Brown and Laila Davis.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Joan Hevony Lawrence Crawford.

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IN RECOGNITION OF STRAFFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL FLAMING ARROW  
INDIAN PRIDE MARCHING BAND

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**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pleasure and pride to pay tribute to the achievements of the Music Department at Strafford High School in Strafford, Missouri. The Strafford High Flaming Arrow Indian Pride marching band and choir will participate in the events surrounding the December 31st, 2009, Chick-fil-A Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia. A long-standing event at the bowl game is the National Chick-fil-A Bowl Band Festival.

The music festival has clinics and competition for choir, concert band, jazz band and marching band. The Strafford marching band and choir will compete against other schools while the marching band will march in the National Chick-fil-A Bowl Parade in downtown Atlanta on New Year's Eve. Game day, the Strafford band will participate in a pre-game and halftime massed band "extravaganza" of 2,000 members performing in the Georgia Dome Olympic Stadium.

Strafford, Missouri, is my hometown, and I graduated from Strafford High. Today, Strafford has a population of 1,845 citizens, and the high school has approximately 400 students. The band and choir are made up of 55 motivated, hardworking teens in concert and marching band, 20 students in jazz band and 36 students in choir. The music department is under the direction of Shane Harmon.

The Strafford High Flaming Arrow Indian Pride marching band consistently ranks among the best bands in Missouri, earning first place at six judged events this year. At the 2007 Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida, the Strafford concert band, jazz band and marching band each earned a 1st place Silver rating, and the concert choir earned a 1st place Gold rating. These achievements led to the invitation to participate at the band festival at the Chick-fil-A Bowl. This recognition is the result of long hours of practice, and dedication to excellence by Strafford students, faculty and their families.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. LEONEL  
URCUYO

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Leonel Urcuyo and his commitment as a physician of mental health.

After graduating college in Nicaragua and medical school in Madrid, the newly titled doctor began an internship at McGill University in Montreal and did his residency in Psychiatry at New York University, Bellevue Medical Center. By 1975, Dr. Urcuyo was a certified Psychoanalyst for the American Institute for Psychoanalysis for the Karen Horney Psychoanalytic Institute and Center in New York City.

For the past 27 years Dr. Urcuyo has held varying positions at Woodhull Hospital including service as Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and President of the Woodhull Medical Group. Dr. Urcuyo received one of the highest honors from the Woodhull Auxiliary Annual Gala, and the distinguished Health Excellence Award from Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation/Urban Resource Institute. He is also the proud recipient of the Unsung Hero Community Service Award for Helping Hands, and mostly recently received a Service Citation from New York University School of Medicine.

He is the founding member of the Association of Hispanic Mental Health Professionals, and has published and lectured on many topics including: delivery of care issues, language barriers in evaluating pathology, bilingualism, cross-cultural issues in mental health and chemical dependency, language and psychotherapy, meaning of silence in psychotherapy, elective mutism, cognitive restructuring, depression and suicide.

Dr. Urcuyo is married to Sue Ellen Carney, Ph.D., and is the proud father of two children, Dr. Sergio Urcuyo and Ms. Anya Elena Urcuyo.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Leonel Urcuyo.

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RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL  
JOHN R. ALISON

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to honor Major General John R. Alison, a distinguished Airman, a dedicated public servant, and a true American hero. Major General Alison served in the United States Air Force during World War II and the Korean War and also served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics under President Harry Truman. Known as the father of Air Force Special Operations, Major General Alison turned 97 on November 21, 2009.

As a boy growing up in central Florida, Major General Alison dreamed of becoming a pilot for the United States. He graduated from the University of Florida School of Engineering in 1936 and soon after joined the United States Army Air Corps. He earned his wings in 1937 at Kelly Field and went on to serve as

the assistant Military Attaché in England and the Soviet Union.

During World War II, Major General Alison served as commander of the 75th Fighter Squadron, formerly known as the "Flying Tigers." With seven confirmed victories and numerous probable kills, he ended his tour as a combat ace and earned a Distinguished Service Cross and a Silver Star for his unmatched courage and skill. Major General Alison returned home in May of 1943 only to be recalled to co-command the highly innovative 1st Air Commando Group. This secret flying unit flew over 200 miles into enemy territory in support of some 9,000 Allied forces. For his skill and courage as a pilot, he was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame in 1994.

After the war, President Harry Truman called on Major General Alison to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics. In this role, he developed thoughtful recommendations on U.S. foreign policy relating to the Soviet Union, the Marshall Plan, and the European Recovery Program. These recommendations and other documents from his time as Assistant Secretary are held at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Madam Speaker, Major General John R. Alison has spent his life fighting for our country as a pilot and a public servant. Never wavering in his commitment to freedom and the ideals of our country, he sets a high standard for all Americans. I am proud to call him my friend, and I trust that my fellow members of the House will join me in recognizing this courageous and talented American.

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A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JENNETTE  
EICHELBERGER WAITERS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jennette Eichelberger Waiters who was born in Columbia, South Carolina. Mrs. Waiters migrated to Brooklyn, NY to further her education.

Mrs. Waiters worked at Kings County Hospital as a nurse's aide and then attended Wyckoff Hospital School of Practical Nursing. She returned to Kings County Hospital and attended New York City Community College to obtain her Associate's Degree in Nursing and made the Dean's list. Mrs. Waiters worked as a head nurse in the chest clinic for 14 years. She worked a total of 45 years in Kings County Hospital doing the things she loves most, caring for the sick and the elderly. Mrs. Waiters worked six months with the Department of Health and also was a relief supervisor at the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center on some weekends for 12 years.

Mrs. Waiters is a God-loving person. She does community work assisting the elderly on shopping trips and helping them to keep their doctors' appointments when needed. She belongs to Bethany Baptist Church where she serves on the Senior Ladies Usher Board as Vice President and a member of the Nurses Unit. She is a member of the Stark Senior Center and is Queen of the Red Hat Society. Mrs. Waiters encourages our youth to continue and pursue their highest goals in education so that they can accomplish anything in life.

Mrs. Waiters continues to work at community outreach health fairs, passing on information to senior citizens to enhance their health and well being. She loves giving and sharing with others. Her mission in life is to help others. She is a lady of fashion and participates in numerous fashion shows. She is a member of the acting guild where she has performed in a play called "The Family Feud."

She was married to the late Andrew J. Waiters. She has two children, Bernard and Janet. She has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is affectionately known as "Grandma" Waiters by many.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Jennette Eichelberger Waiters.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER SHANTI  
SETHI, USN

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander Shanti Sethi, United States Navy, who provided invaluable service to this House on national security issues for the last two years as a liaison officer assigned to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs and who will soon be on the front lines of our Nation's defense as the commanding officer of a United States Navy destroyer.

Commander Sethi is a native of Reno, Nevada but was raised in Connecticut, New York, Oregon, and California. Her step-father is Hall of Fame drag racer Conrad "Connie" Kalitta and she spent many of her formative years at the track honing her mechanical skills. She graduated from Norwich University in 1993 with a degree in International Affairs and commissioned through the NROTC program. She holds a Masters Degree in International Policy and Practice from The George Washington University.

At sea, Commander Sethi served on USS Butte (AE 27) from March 1994 to June of 1996 as Communications Officer and Electrical Officer, making a Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf deployment in support of Operations Deny Flight, Sharp Guard, and Southern Watch. From August of 1996 through October of 1998, she served as the commissioning Navigator onboard USS Hopper (DDG 70). During this tour she supported a Panama Canal transit, accelerated test and trials, and a Middle East Force deployment in support of Operation Southern Watch commencing within one year of the ship's commissioning. She served as the Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer on USS Higgins (DDG 76) from March of 2001 until May of 2003. Onboard USS Higgins, she completed an Arabian Gulf deployment for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom including missile defense tracking and cruise missile operations. She subsequently participated in the first test of crew exchange on destroyers serving as Combat Systems officer on USS Benfold (DDG 65) until her transfer in November of 2003. Commander Sethi was selected for early sea command and assumed command of MHC crew BOLD in April 2006 while embarked in USS Blackhawk (MHC 58). During her command she was responsible for

training Greek naval officers in the operation of MHC vessels prior to foreign military exchange. She subsequently assumed command of MHC crew Detector embarked on USS Kingfisher (MHC 56) where her ship provided valuable services to pre-deployment workups for Navy carrier strike groups.

Her shore assignments include serving as the Executive Assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, Resource Officer for Shipboard Protection Systems and Shipboard Radar Systems on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations where she was instrumental in the rapid fielding of systems to protect warships from small boat and unconventional attacks, and her current assignment as the surface warfare liaison officer assigned to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

In her current assignment Commander Sethi's responsibilities included primary liaison for surface combatant construction, surface ship combat and weapons systems, ballistic missile defense, and a myriad of other logistical and operational issues affecting the surface fleet. CDR Sethi provided invaluable support to me, the Committee on Armed Services, and the various Members and personal staff of the subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces. She displayed a unique ability to explain complex military requirements against the backdrop of uncertain future threats. In this she served this committee well and reflected great credit upon herself and the United States Navy.

Madam Speaker, I have the great honor to inform the House that Commander Sethi has been selected to assume command of the Arleigh Burke class destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73). When she does so, she will be only the 15th female officer to command a capital ship of the line. For myself and the other Members of the subcommittee we wish Commander Sethi fair winds, following seas, and Godspeed as she leads her crew in the protection of our nation.

68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL  
AIR PATROL

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 68th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). For nearly seven decades CAP has provided for the safety and defense of our nation.

Established on December 1, 1941, CAP responsibilities were initially liaison flying and interdiction of infiltrators on the United States' East Coast and southern border during World War II. CAP's role eventually expanded in response to the German submarine threat, and it began to provide vital coastal surveillance and defense capabilities. The vigilance of CAP pilots successfully deterred enemy submarines from operating along American coasts with relative impunity.

Today, CAP operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and is designated as an all-volunteer civilian auxiliary to the United States Air Force. Since WWII, CAP has adopted a mission dedicated to three core pursuits: Aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.

CAP's Aerospace Education Program annually touches more than 900 educators, more than 20,000 cadets and thousands of other youths in classrooms across America. The education program teaches children multidisciplinary aviation concepts that emphasize aviation's connection to history, math, science, government and economics.

CAP provides exceptional educational and growth opportunities for youth through its nearly 22,000 member Cadet Program, which annually provides access to top national summer flight academies and to 30 national programs emphasizing leadership and careers in aviation, as well as flight training in powered and glider aircraft.

CAP's emergency services are its most high profile function and its members are routinely called upon to aid communities in response to natural disasters across the nation. CAP volunteers rose to the occasion during one of our nation's most trying times and provided assistance to rescuers and state agencies immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Over 100 lives are saved each year by CAP search and rescue missions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Civil Air Patrol for its commitment to aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services. I am greatly appreciative for their contribution to the safety of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING THE INKSTER  
ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF THE  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY  
INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Inkster Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. On December 19, 2009, the Inkster Chapter will gather to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has a remarkable history of service since its creation in 1913. As the largest Greek letter organization for African American women in the country, the Deltas do remarkable work to serve their communities and their nation. Several of our current and former colleagues were proud Delta women. They brought their passion, their vision and their leadership to the House of Representatives and helped make this institution a far better place.

The Inkster Alumnae Chapter has a proud tradition of service and community involvement. They have worked to tutor students and provide them with scholarships, as well as implement innovative service learning programs for middle and high school girls. In addition to these efforts, the Inkster Deltas have held health fairs and greatly enhanced the civic participation of their community. These are all great accomplishments, but the Inkster Deltas have much more in store for the future as they seek to build on and expand their great works.

Once again, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Inkster Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they gather in celebration of 50 wonderful years of service and accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT TROY J. MCINTOSH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Troy J. McIntosh on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force following more than 29 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he was Superintendent, Physical Disability Board and Review, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon. In this role, he is the enlisted representative and adjudicator for vital information specific to the enlisted force when reviewing final board of appeals for physical disability evaluations.

Chief McIntosh enlisted in the Air Force on July 7, 1981 as a Security Forces Specialist. He served for four years in this role prior to cross training into the Personnel career field. He remained on active duty until 1992 at which time he joined the California Air National Guard as a traditional Guardsman for six years. In 1998, Chief McIntosh joined the Air Force Reserve with the Commander's Support Staff for the Chief of Air Force Reserve. Excelling in this role, he was soon assigned as Superintendent, Policy and Integration where he worked as a Congressional Liaison educating members of Congress and their staff on the roles and missions of the Air Force Reserve.

On September 11, 2001 following the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, Chief McIntosh displayed the attributes and core values that many of our men and women in uniform show daily around the globe. Directly after the attack, Chief McIntosh rushed to the impact site to render assistance and immediately started pulling victims to safety—despite the obvious risk to his personal wellbeing. He later helped relocate the same victims when a second aircraft was thought to be inbound, similar to the attacks on the World Trade Center. When Chief McIntosh finally left the area 36 hours later, he had helped secure the safety and treatment of over 150 people. On September 24, 2002 he was awarded the Air Force Airman's Medal for this selfless act of heroism.

Chief McIntosh's patriotism and dedication to our national defense continued as he deployed the following month to Al Udeid AB, Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As the Personnel Director for the Joint Forces Special Operations Command, a role traditionally held by a senior officer, he was responsible for ensuring that the right military personnel from all services within the Department of Defense would be provided at the beginning of a war that continues to this day.

Due to his achievements and obvious dedication to his fellow airmen, it was no surprise he was chosen as the thirteenth Command Chief for the Air Force Reserve Command. During his two-year assignment, Chief McIntosh was responsible for advising the Commander on the health, morale, and utilization of over 55,000 assigned airmen. He developed and executed several pivotal programs helping transform the Air Force Reserve enlisted force into the successful Total Force partner they are today.

Chief McIntosh could not have been such a tremendous leader without the love and unflinching support of his mother, Jeannette, his father Connie Joe, his two daughters Tess and Kali, and his beautiful granddaughter Addison Marie.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere respect and appreciation to Chief Master Sergeant Troy J. McIntosh for his outstanding service to the United States Air Force and our great nation. We wish him the very best as he transitions into retirement. Chief McIntosh is a true professional and a credit to himself, his family, and the United States Air Force Reserve and we thank him for his service to our country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American University of Beirut Medical Center, AUBMC, upon being designated as the first "Magnet" facility in the Middle East by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program.

The "Magnet" program recognizes nursing excellence in the delivery of care to patients, promoting quality health care services in an environment that supports professional nursing practice, and providing a mechanism for the dissemination of best practices for nursing services. AUBMC is the first health care institution in the Middle East and the third in the world outside the United States to receive this award.

"Magnet" recognized organizations set the global standard for professional nursing care and innovative health care reform that meets the needs of patients, families, and communities. Only five percent of all hospitals in the United States are "Magnet" recognized institutions, including such prestigious hospitals as Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Johns Hopkins Hospitals. Special recognition is in order for Gladys Mouro, Assistant Hospital Director for Patient Care Services, who spearheaded the 6-year effort to secure "Magnet" recognition.

I am absolutely delighted that this extraordinary designation was achieved at a U.S. recognized and supported institution, the prestigious institution of higher learning in the Middle East, the American University of Beirut. Congratulations to the AUB administration, faculty, and the entire AUBMC medical staff for their 6 years of hard work to achieve this goal.

HONORING LAWRENCE J. SUFFREDIN, SR.

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I submit this extension of remarks on behalf of

myself and my friend and colleague Representative QUIGLEY.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to and remember the life of Lawrence J. Suffredin, Sr. He died on November 23, 2009.

Lawrence J. Suffredin, Sr was born on June 1, 1921 at Garfield Park Hospital to Frank and Isola Suffredin. He was the second of their three children, Mary and the late Vincent. He attended Presentation Grade School, Crain High School, and DePaul University.

A true American hero, Larry, Sr. entered the Army in 1942 and served until 1945, with combat service in Africa and Europe. He was awarded a Bronze Star for valor in the face of the enemy, a Purple Heart, and other combat and campaign medals.

After the war, Larry, Sr. was a Chicago policeman, and then he became the "Printer to South Water Market." As the owner of Chicago Produce Publishing Company, he published numerous reports on the Chicago fruit and vegetable market, and published a newspaper, "The Chicago Fruit and Vegetable Reporter", 5 days a week from 1955 to 1986. He lived in Westchester, where he and his wife raised their family from 1948 until 2000. He was a founder and former president of Westchester Baseball, a former officer of the Holy Name Society of Divine Infant Parish, former co-president of the Parents' Association of Loyola University, and a former 25 year bingo worker for IHM High School. He married the late Patricia Mulrainey Suffredin on July 6, 1946.

A dedicated family man, Larry, Sr. leaves behind eight children: Lawrence, Jr., Genna, Paul, Susanne, Patricia, John, Peter and Michelle and thirteen grandchildren: Tom, Liz, Courtney, Nicholas, Stephen, Kevin and Morgan Suffredin, Andrea and Daniel Erikson, Erin and Bob Brown and Ethan and Henry Moskal. His wife, Patricia, died in December of 1990.

Wherever Larry went, he brought joy and laughter. His joy will be missed by all.

On behalf of our families, and those lives in our districts that Larry, Sr. touched over the years, we send our deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act, H.R. 3961, legislation that would ensure that physicians are reimbursed fairly for treating Medicare patients. Improving this payment system is vital to improving our Nation's health insurance system.

There is broad consensus that the current Medicare formula for reimbursing physicians, the Sustainable Growth Rate, SGR, is fundamentally flawed. This formula would be eliminated by this bill and replaced with a better structure for Medicare physician payments. Without this necessary action, doctors' payments would be cut 21 percent in 2010, forcing many doctors to stop accepting Medicare patients and undermining the ability of millions

of Medicare beneficiaries to get the care they need to stay healthy. I am pleased that this new formula would compensate physicians fairly for their services to seniors.

As a U.S. Representative and the spouse of a physician, I have heard from many physicians, nurses, and other health care providers frustrated with the annual ritual of preventing major Medicare physician payment cuts. I am pleased that this legislation, a crucial part of health care reform, would stop this cycle and reset the Medicare physician payment baseline to ensure seniors continue to have access to their doctors. In addition, this bill recognizes the importance of primary care, a key component of health reform, and would provide seniors with greater access to primary care practitioners. This would help seniors with greater coordination of their medical care and promote medical care that keeps seniors healthy.

Additionally, the legislation we are considering today would require all new spending to be paid for and not increase the debt by instituting pay-as-you-go budgeting as law. I support pay-as-you-go rules because fiscal discipline must always be a hallmark of our government. In the 1990s with pay-as-you-go as the law, we turned the massive deficits of the 1980s into a record surplus under President Clinton. Pay-as-you-go is only one tool, but it is a strong one to return our Nation back to fiscal stability.

I voted in favor of this bill to help physicians and health care providers continue to provide excellent service to our Nation's seniors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALTHEA  
THOMPSON THOMAS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Althea Thompson Thomas of Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. Thomas currently serves at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church as the church's organist. In June of 1955, she was hired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and from her unique vantage point seated in the organ pit, she was able to witness his sermons each Sunday with an up close and personal view of the pulpit.

Mrs. Thomas is an accomplished composer, musician, artist, writer and educator. She has written and arranged musical pieces throughout her life and published musical compositions including four musical dramas, eleven books of piano works, three books of organ works and 25 choral works.

She has served as organist for several churches and her artwork has been exhibited across Alabama and the Southeast.

Over the years, she taught band, choral music and art in the Montgomery Public Schools and taught art, organ, piano, music theory and appreciation at Alabama State University and Alabama State Laboratory High School. She most recently worked at Alabama State University as an Adjunct Professor. Since 1982, she has taught piano, organ, wind instruments, percussions and guitar at the Thompson Legacy Studios (House of the Arts).

She is the daughter of the late H.O. Thompson and the late Faustine Hilliard Thompson. She is married to Wiley Thomas, Jr. and the mother of 6 children.

Mrs. Thomas has touched the lives of children and adults alike through her teaching, and I commend her for her dedication. I congratulate her on being honored at Dexter Avenue Memorial King Baptist Church for her contributions to the arts.

CONGRATULATING FIRM OF  
COONEY, FAULKNER, AND STEVENS  
ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the accounting firm of Cooney, Faulkner, and Stevens on their 10th Anniversary. In 1999, the firm was founded by partners Thomas Cooney, Crystal Faulkner, and Charles Stevens. Just five years later, in 2004, it was named Small Business of the Year by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce—the first accounting firm to receive such an honor.

Many Cincinnati institutions have come to rely on the firm's accounting experience and expertise over the past ten years. The firm is also routinely recognized for its many philanthropic and volunteer endeavors. Just recently, the firm participated in the 10th Accounting for Kids Day. Cooney, Faulkner and Stevens founded this event to promote financial literacy.

Many Cincinnatians are familiar with Thomas Cooney and Crystal Faulkner's weekday radio show titled BusinessWise on 89.7 WNKU. And Crystal Faulkner is the weekly host of Business Report on WCPO Channel 9.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Cooney, Faulkner, and Stevens on their 10th Anniversary and in wishing them continued success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$12,113,047,538,115.42. We have added \$102,485,795,900.21 to the national debt since the last day we were in session, November 19th.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,474,621,791,821.62 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
FRANCIS P. COSGROVE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Francis P. Cosgrove. For 35 years, Judge Cosgrove has served on the Philadelphia Municipal Court, and in December he will celebrate his retirement after decades of service to his community.

Judge Cosgrove served on active duty in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953. He graduated from LaSalle College in 1956 and received his Juris Doctorate from Temple University School of Law in 1963. After his graduation, Judge Cosgrove became a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association and went into private practice from 1964 to 1973. In November of 1973, he was elected judge to the Municipal Court of Philadelphia. Judge Cosgrove served in this capacity from 1974 through 1998. On February 18, 1998, he was appointed to Senior Judge status for the Philadelphia Municipal Court. On December 31, 2009, Judge Cosgrove will retire from the bench after 35 years.

In addition to his service on the Municipal Court, Judge Cosgrove is a member of several committees and organizations dedicated to bettering the Philadelphia community and beyond. He is a part of the Catholic War Veterans, St. Thomas Moore Society, Knights of Columbus, Polish American Citizens League, Polish-America Congress, and is a gold card carrying member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft workers.

Judge Cosgrove's long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Judge Cosgrove for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE 90  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the ninety years of service by the West Virginia State Police.

Audiences throughout the world have always been transfixed by the American lawman, from the earliest days of radio with the Lone Ranger and Dragnet, to today's televised prolific forensic adventures. In West Virginia this week, we shall go a long way in setting the record right, celebrating the real human spirit, and illuminating the costly sacrifices of the steadfast mission galvanized by the shields worn proudly across our state, "To Serve and Protect."

The West Virginia State Police have given the people of West Virginia nine decades of dedication and commitment by an unbroken long line of forest green. This remarkable group of professionals, our nation's fourth oldest state police agency, has a storied history and rich tradition of service.

In acknowledgment and with gratitude, the West Virginia Department of Culture and History is opening a splendid exhibit entitled, "Celebrating Ninety Years of the West Virginia State Police," which will stand as a permanent display in the West Virginia State Museum, in tribute to this fine organization.

Stretching over 90 years of history, born in the trademark forest green uniforms worn today, the West Virginia State Police force armed with 21st century tools, technologies, and expertise is the foundation for law enforcement in our democratic society. Theirs is a story of an admirable path of honor and bravery. It is one of men and women who are known, respected and recognized nationally for their efforts in law enforcement.

Throughout their proud legacy and often in the face of great change, West Virginia State Police officers have been at the ready, answering trouble, turmoil, and even tornadoes of one form or another, with speed, accuracy and more often than not, a deep understanding of those they serve. For all this we are, and will forever be, grateful.

Today, as we celebrate roads well travelled and those yet to be blazed, I share great pride with the people of West Virginia.

And, to all the men and women of the West Virginia State Police—past and present, uniformed and non-uniformed—I express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks for their service and commitment to the safety and security of the people of West Virginia.

I hope my colleagues here in the Congress will join me in congratulating everyone with the West Virginia State Police and their families on their 90th anniversary and offer our sincerest best wishes for their continued success.

#### MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3961, the Medicare Physician "Payment Reform Act. We recently made history when we passed H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act and now we must pass H.R. 3961 to guarantee access to physician-provided benefits in Medicare.

As we work to overhaul our flawed system to improve health security for all Americans, we must fix policies that consistently threaten to reduce access to care for seniors and people with disabilities. H.R. 3962 makes substantive improvements to the Medicare program. We lower Medicare drug costs, eliminate cost sharing for preventive services, and strengthen federal oversight on deceptive marketing practices in the Medicare Advantage program. Unfortunately, unless we act, Medicare physicians will face a 21 percent rate cut in less than 2 months. So, too, will physicians serving military members, retiree and families in TRICARE, where rates are linked to Medicare payments.

We need to fix that problem and create a new payment system that will fairly and adequately reimburse doctors. Time and again we have shied away from permanently fixing the

Medicare payment system. This is a time for big ideas and bold health care changes. The time to act is now. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3961.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SMART CAR WASH IN WOODBRIDGE, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a bold and innovative new business breaking ground in my district. The Smart Car Wash is raising the bar for environmental stewardship in the car wash industry with its new LEED certified conveyor car wash in Woodbridge, Virginia.

The new car wash facility will be the first such facility to achieve LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council. The building uses advanced water recycling beyond the industry standard, to include rain-water capture and advanced water cleansing with technology borrowed from the marine industry. This includes reclaiming and reusing over 90% of the water from car wash operations and using car wash chemicals that are bio-friendly. To reduce overall energy consumption by 50% most of the facility's equipment will use Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) technology.

This new venture is just one of the high quality investments businesses are making around the country. The Smart Car Wash received a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan to finance a project that will bring fifteen new jobs to the Woodbridge area. The SBA's 504 lending program recently received funding from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act to provide opportunity's to entrepreneurs hoping to show confidence in the American economy with new investments. The Smart Car Wash stands as a shining example of our nation's commitment to creating jobs and tackling the world's most pressing energy issues.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in showing our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of The Smart Car Wash team. It is through courageous investments and initiatives like this one that our country will continue to realize a robust and cutting edge economy.

#### KENTUCKY SPACE JOINS NASA PROJECT FOR EDUCATIONAL AND BUSINESS RESEARCH ON SPACE STATION

**HON. BEN CHANDLER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kentucky Space's role in exciting new developments in space. Recently, this Kentucky enterprise partnered with NanoRacks LLC, a Houston-based aerospace company chosen by NASA to design, coordinate, and conduct research on the International Space Station to further the needs of both educational and commercial clients. Kentucky Space has been called upon by

NanoRacks to assist in the design and integration of U.S. research payloads which will fly aboard the international space station starting in mid-2010.

The possibilities of what we can do outside the Earth's atmosphere are endless and include great promise for all nations and all people. This broadening of our current use of the space station opens doors to the endless opportunities for research in technologies ranging from new medical treatments and equipment to alternative clean energy. These technologies will create jobs and can improve quality of life as well as save lives. The need for this expansion is clear, and I am proud that Kentucky Space is a pioneer in this new realm.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in applauding Kentucky Space along with NASA, the Augustine Commission and the White House for their work and support in furtherance of cost-efficient space research. The movement toward new uses of our space station will assure the continued leadership of the U.S. in our exciting exploration of the universe.

#### RECOGNIZING THOMAS DUGAN

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize a heroic resident of the 4th District of California, Thomas Dugan of Roseville. This 11-year-old boy scout displayed courage and selflessness when he dove into a pool to save his young neighbor.

On September 20, 2008, while attending a neighbor's birthday party, Tom heard his 2-year-old neighbor, Cine, fall into his neighbor's pool. Without hesitation, Tom dove into the pool to save the drowning girl. Barely able to keep his head above water to breathe, Tom treaded water until he was able to push young Cine out of the pool and onto the deck.

For his bravery, Tom has been awarded the Boys Scouts of America Heroism Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Tom, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Interior Appropriations Act, 2010, H.R. 2996.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2996

STAG

City of Monroe, Louisiana

Monroe Wastewater Treatment System—\$500,000. Portions of the wastewater collection system were constructed in the 1920s and

1930s and are in severe state of deterioration. Even with maintenance, breaks have developed along the pipeline and in manholes. These breaks allow excess rainwater and groundwater to enter the collection system adding extreme pressure to an overtaxed system resulting in Sanitary Sewer Overflows, SSOs, which are violations of the Clean Water Act. The City has entered into a Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, that requires the City to pay a fine of \$235,000 and implement of a costly sewer rehabilitation program to eliminate SSOs within 11.5 years. The cost of this program is estimated to cost over \$150 million. To date the City of Monroe has spent \$110 million toward this goal, implementing many of the projects needed to upgrade its wastewater treatment system as mandated by the Consent Decree. This effort has put a severe financial strain on the City's resources limiting chances to fuel economic growth in areas of the City. Funding assistance from the federal government is imperative if the City is to meet the remaining requirements of the EPA Consent Decree, in particular, rehabilitation and general I/I abatement work, SSO corrective action.

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EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act Conference Report.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Account: EPA; STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Fostoria, Ohio

Address of Requesting Entity: 213 South Main Street, Fostoria, OH 44830

Description of Request: \$500,000 for the City of Fostoria for the planning, design and construction of a new sanitary pump station and force main. The existing sewer system within the project area is required to be studied in detail. The study will include the investigation of sewer alignments, sizes, catchment areas, and capacity. The study may also include the development of the most economic protocol to full/partial separate sanitary and storm sewers, redirecting inflow to the East Branch of the Portage River. This project will significantly expedite the City's compliance with the Clean Water Act. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

STATEMENT ON: AFFORDABLE  
HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 01, 2009*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Today marks an historic day for the health of all Americans. Today, this Congress joins with the American people to say that health care is not only a policy issue, but an issue of morality; and no longer will the conscience of this country allow Americans to go without access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage. I want to thank Speaker PELOSI and the House leadership for their steadfast determination; and Chairmen RANGEL, MILLER, and particularly Chairman WAXMAN of the Energy and Commerce committee on which I am proud to sit, for their thoughtful leadership on this issue.

Access to affordable health care has the power to break the shackles imposed on Americans today who are fearful of leaving their job, starting a new business, or going to the doctor due to their lack of coverage. In my district alone, this bill has the power to provide coverage for 30,000 uninsured residents; improve employer-coverage for 524,000 residents; provide credits to help pay for coverage for up to 120,000 households; improve Medicare for 84,000 beneficiaries, including closing the prescription drug donut hole for 7,400 seniors; allow 20,000 small businesses to obtain affordable health care coverage and provide tax credits to help reduce health insurance costs for up to 18,600 small businesses. Additionally, this legislation will protect up to 1,100 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs; and reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and health care providers by \$28 million.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce committee I was able to fight to include several provisions that will improve access to affordable health care in Washington state, the most important of which is President Obama's public health insurance option. Like our President, I believe that it is important to protect the interest of the consumer by providing choices so that people may decide which health insurance solution works best for them and their family. That is one reason I am a strong advocate of a public health insurance option. The President's public health insurance option will be offered in a health insurance exchange, created in this bill, alongside coverage sold by private insurers; thereby using natural market competition to control the rising cost of health coverage while protecting consumer choice. The implementation of this exchange will make insurance affordable for an additional 36 million Americans, raising the share of legal, nonelderly residents with health insurance coverage from 83 percent to 96 percent. The public insurance option will bring competition to the marketplace and consumer interests will be protected by addressing affordability and access issues that plague our current system.

Washington state is a leader in high-quality, efficient health care. Our doctors and hospitals produce some of the country's best health care outcomes. We have a culture of medicine that places emphasis on patient safety, outcomes, and care. And yet for decades we

have been penalized for our efficiency by receiving lower reimbursement rates per service under the Medicare fee-for-service reimbursement model. On average our providers are reimbursed fifteen to fifty percent less per service than their counterparts in other parts of the country. The reason for this discrepancy is that our statewide efficiency gives the appearance that it merely costs less to deliver care in the state because our overall patient costs are lower.

Opponents have argued that practice expenses vary by geography. But, on November 5, 2009, the American Medical Association (AMA) released the results of its 2007–2008 study that included physician practice expense information from over seventy medical specialty societies and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Physician Practice Information (PPI) survey. The results of the study showed that expenses did not differ significantly by either metro location or census region and reconfirmed what providers in Washington state have known for decades—that the Medicare physician payment formula is flawed.

To this end, I was honored to be one of eight Members chosen by Speaker PELOSI to negotiate a resolution to this geographic disparity issue that has plagued our country for decades. The result, after four months of negotiations, is an agreement that will move the nation to a system that rewards high quality, cost-effective care; reimbursing for the value rather than the volume of services. It will fix existing Medicare geographic payment inequities and will cover both physician and hospital payments. This will provide an historic transformation of the Medicare payment system to ensure better care for patients and reduce health care costs over the long term.

The first part of the agreement addresses the geographic variation in the rates doctors are paid per service. The bill instructs the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct a study to evaluate and make recommendations to improve the geographic adjustment factors in the Medicare reimbursement formulas which will be completed one year after enactment. The Secretary of HHS will then implement a new Medicare payment rate that takes into account the IOM recommendations. An initial investment of \$4 billion per year in 2012 and 2013 is allocated to make payment rate adjustments. After 2013 reimbursement adjustments will become budget neutral.

Geographic variation in the utilization of services is addressed in the second IOM study on high value care. The IOM will make recommendations on how to transform the Medicare payment system to reward value and quality of care. Value is defined as the efficient delivery of high quality, evidence-based, patient-centered care. The study will be completed by April 15, 2011. No later than ninety days after the report is completed, the Secretary of HHS will submit to Congress a preliminary implementation plan based on the IOM study, which MedPac and GAO will evaluate within forty-five days. The IOM's quality and value-based payment recommendations will automatically go into effect unless the House and Senate pass joint resolutions of disapproval by May 31, 2012. The goal was to finish all studies and changes before the public option goes into effect in 2013 so the recommendations would be incorporated.

This deal is a real victory for Washington state. Correcting the fundamental inequalities in Medicare reimbursement rates that underpay Washington state physicians will ensure access to Medicare physicians for Washington state seniors and Medicare beneficiaries. Additionally, this provision sets in motion a fundamental shift in the way we will reimburse for medical care going forward; moving away from a fee-for-service model and towards an outcome-based model. This shift will provide real cost containment by incentivizing and reimbursing for the quality, not the quantity, of medical care across the United States; saving the country billions of dollars.

A compounded issue resulting from Medicare reimbursement disparity is the reliance on Medicare Advantage plans by Medicare beneficiaries in low cost areas. Medicare Advantage plans in Washington state have played a critical role in providing seniors with access to care because they have been able to reimburse providers at a higher rate than traditional Medicare, thereby attracting providers into the network who would otherwise be unable to treat Medicare beneficiaries due to cost. It is for this reason that I fought tirelessly to ensure a quality bonus for high-quality, efficient Medicare Advantage plans. Under the language I negotiated in the House bill, four-star rated plans and above, in the bottom thirty percent of costs to the system, would be eligible for a 1.5 percent bonus in 2011; a 3.0 percent bonus in 2012; and a 5.0 percent bonus for each subsequent year. These bonus payments will ensure the continuation of high quality health care for Medicare Advantage recipients in Washington state.

Washington state is not only a leader in patient care, but also in medical innovation. The biotech industry is an important health care partner in Washington state. Across the state roughly 1,060 biotech companies employ 23,047 Washingtonians. The state ranks

eighth in National Institute of Health grants and in the past two years academic bioscience research expenditures totaled \$685 million. The innovation occurring in the state has led to some of the leading biologic therapies for life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and many serious rare diseases.

Biologics are living organisms, different and more complex than small molecule drugs. Biotech medicines can be determined to be the "same" as the original drug, but science is not yet at a point where they can be determined to be "identical." And even small differences between a copy and an original biologic can cause differences in effectiveness, and, in some cases, serious side effects. Therefore it is necessary that policy reflect the uniqueness of these therapies, and ensure drug efficacy and patient safety. I believe a pathway for the approval of biosimilar biologics is the critical next step to providing patients with increased access to lifesaving therapies. I also believe that we can create a pathway that provides patients with lower-cost medicine without sacrificing safety or eliminating incentives to create breakthrough medicines.

This is why I, joined by my fellow committee members ANNA ESHOO and JOE BARTON, introduced H.R. 1548, the Pathway for Biosimilars Act. The legislation protects patients by ensuring patient safety, recognizing the scientific differences between small-molecule drugs and biologics, maintaining the physician-patient relationship, and preserving incentives for innovation. I was proud to co-sponsor an amendment in the Energy and Commerce Committee markup of H.R. 3200 that incorporated key pieces of our legislation. The amendment includes twelve years of data exclusivity for innovator biologics, ensuring not only that these life-changing and life-saving biologic treatments are more accessible and affordable, but

that we also foster continued research and development investment needed to search for new cures and treatments. The strong bipartisan votes in both the House and Senate on this issue demonstrate that Congress is committed to a fair and safe pathway for biosimilars. I commend the House for adopting my legislation as part of HR 3962, and it is my sincere hope that it will be included in the final conference agreement.

A few other provisions that I want to highlight are great examples of how Washington state's health care leadership has helped shape federal health care legislation. Earlier this year the state passed a common sense law that will save billions of dollars in administrative health care costs by standardizing insurance claims and forms processes, and I was proud to fight for the inclusion of similar language in the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Washington state has also been innovative in health care plan structures allowing for the emergence of direct primary care medical home plans that provide low cost coverage of primary care services. This model has granted access to care for a population that has been shut out from traditional health care coverage due to high costs. I was grateful to see the inclusion of this coverage model in the health care reform legislation. I am proud to represent a district and state that is leading the way on health care policy.

Once again I would like thank Speaker PELOSI and the House leadership for their continued determination that brought all facets of the Democratic Caucus to the table and ensured that each member had a voice in the debate. As a result the House of Representatives has produced a health care reform bill that will provide access to affordable health care and bend the cost curve; and I am once again proud to offer my support.