

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### REDUNDANCY ELIMINATION AND ENHANCED PERFORMANCE FOR PREPAREDNESS GRANTS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H.R. 3980, the "Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act". I would like thank my friend and colleague, Representative CUELLAR, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the cosponsor, Representative RICHARDSON.

Congress instructed FEMA in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 and in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to develop performance metrics for its homeland security grants programs. As the House Committee on Homeland Security discovered in our October 27th subcommittee hearing for the Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response Subcommittee, these requirements remain poorly implemented and difficult to comprehend.

What is most disconcerting is that FEMA still cannot determine our Nation's overall preparedness or how homeland security grants have helped to protect our Nation from acts of terrorism.

It is for these reasons that I come to you today to ask for your support of H.R. 3980, the Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act.

This legislation would require FEMA to work in conjunction with state, local, tribal and territorial stakeholders to develop a plan to: Streamline homeland security grant reporting requirements, rules and regulations to eliminate redundant reporting; create a strategy including a set timeline for establishing the much needed performance metrics for grant programs to ensure that the funds are being directed to the areas where they will be best spent; and require FEMA to take inventory of each homeland security grant program to include the purpose, objectives and performance goals for each.

The plan will be submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security no later than 120 days after the bill's enactment. It will be updated bi-annually to ensure that the Committee is able to maintain a watchful eye on redundancies in the law that might confuse grant recipients. Finally, this bill will help identify inefficiencies with the DHS grant programs and this bill will increase the quality of services received by DHS grant recipients.

It is for these reasons that I rise in support of Representative CUELLAR's legislation before us, and why I encourage my fellow Members to do the same.

### RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 494 as a cosponsor of this important resolution. It honors the 30th Infantry Division of World War II, which included National Guard soldiers from my state of North Carolina, as well as troops from Tennessee. The long history of the 30th Infantry goes back further, though, to include the service of individuals from across the South. Each time they were called to duty, they answered the call with distinction and bravery.

Their service during World War II was particularly exemplary, and I appreciate my colleague Congressman KISSELL, whose father served in this division, for bringing forward a resolution to honor their valiant work. The achievements of the 30th Infantry Division were so exemplary that military historians of the day singled it out for distinction as the first among infantry divisions, noting both "outstanding" battle service and efficiency that preserved the lives of its members. Eisenhower's chief historian, S.L.A. Marshall, called the 30th the "most efficient fighting division in Europe."

Although the 30th Infantry Division was not involved in the actual invasion of Normandy, it engaged in a pivotal battle in Mortain, France that contributed to the Allied victory at Normandy. Serving with bravery and distinction at St. Lo, France, the 30th enabled the Allies to outflank the German Army in what came to be called the St. Lo Breakout. The 30th was also instrumental in breaching the Siegfried Line in October 1944, and the capture of Aachen, Germany. In short, the 30th Division, Old Hickory, played a significant part in our eventual victory over the Axis in WWII.

Today, North Carolina's National Guard soldiers serve with honor in Iraq and Afghanistan, bravely doing their part in defense of our Nation. As they do so, they are part of a valiant heritage that goes back to the founding of our Nation. Each time they are called to service, they do North Carolina and our Nation proud, as they are doing today.

North Carolinians are proud of the service and history of the 30th Infantry Division. We thank soldiers for safeguarding freedom and our way of life, in World War II and today in Afghanistan and Iraq. These courageous soldiers accomplished feats of heroism and bravery which preserved a way of life on two continents. They represent a proud fighting tradition and have earned every accolade we can give.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 494, I strongly support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the soldiers that have and continue to protect our freedom.

### HONORING SAMUEL BRADLEY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Bradley, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

### HONORING BARRY BAUER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Barry Bauer upon being awarded the "Distinguished Citizen Award" by the Sequoia Council, Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Bauer will be honored on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the annual Distinguished Citizen Dinner in Fresno, California.

Mr. Barry Bauer was born and raised in Fresno, California and attended Fresno High School. As a child, Mr. Bauer helped at his father's liquor and sporting goods store. He was a busy child, involved in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. During his scouting career he had accumulated enough merit badges to become a Star Scout and worked his way to becoming a Life Scout.

Mr. Bauer graduated from California State University, Fresno with a bachelor's of science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1968. During college, he worked evenings at Bank of America, taught data processing classes at Fresno City College and during the summer recess he worked as a programmer for IBM at various accounts around the Central Valley. During his senior year in college Mr. Bauer joined the Air National Guard unit in Fresno. He held various positions, including Base Comptroller and Combat Support Commander. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 23 years of service.

Upon graduation, Mr. Bauer was offered a position with IBM, working from the Fresno and Bay Area offices. He retired after 25 years of service with IBM. Mr. Bauer has always been very active in a multitude of activities; he

• 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.

has a commercial pilot license, a real estate broker license, a lifetime junior college teaching credential and a ham radio license. Since 1998, he has served as President of the family business, Herb Bauer Sporting Goods.

Mr. Bauer is currently a member of the Fresno County Recreation and Wildlife Commission that reports to supervisor Debbie Poochigian. He has been active consultant to legislators regarding firearm issues, and has served as the chairman of the Fresno Friends of the NRA for 10 years. With this position, he has approved over \$20,000 in grants to improve the shooting range at Chawanawkee. He also provides a discount to all scouts purchasing scouting related products at his store.

In his spare time, Mr. Bauer and his wife of 40 years, Rosemarie, enjoy traveling around the world.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Barry Bauer upon being awarded the "Distinguished Citizen Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Bauer many years of continued success.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION  
FOR THE ARIZONA BUILDERS'  
ALLIANCE 15TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DAY

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arizona Builders' Alliance which is celebrating its fifteenth annual Volunteer Day this week by renovating the Marshall Home for Men in Tucson.

More than 150 volunteers from the Southern Arizona Division of the Alliance will participate in the December 5 event. Thanks to the generosity of Alliance members, \$125,000 worth of renovations will be donated to the Marshall Home.

The Marshall Home for Men was founded in 1931 as a safe haven for men who were struggling to find work during the Depression. A rancher, John Ryland, welcomed the men with food, shelter and companionship as they sought jobs during the tough economic times. The support that the current residents will receive from the Builders' Alliance continues that caring tradition.

Today, the Marshall Home is a non-profit, state licensed personal care facility for elderly men with limited means. Fifty-two men—many of whom have earned military commendations such as the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Navy Cross and Purple Heart—live at the Marshall Home.

Thanks to the Arizona Builders' Alliance, the Marshall Home will receive new doors, bathroom upgrades, painting, air conditioning and ductwork, new locks, tile replacement, an irrigation system and extensive landscaping work.

This is the fifteenth time that the Southern Arizona Division of the Arizona Builders' Alliance has come to the aid of a community service organization. Previous events have contributed more than \$1.2 million worth of work.

I am proud to join with a grateful community in commending the Arizona Builders' Alliance for their long history of giving. This is a great

organization whose members are the backbone of our southern Arizona economy and whose charitable works have made significant contributions to non-profit agencies and the people they serve.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWER  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose suspending the rules to pass H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act.

I understand this legislation must be reauthorized by December 31 to ensure satellite television viewers have continued access to local stations. In many rural areas—including large portions of my district—satellite television carriage of local stations is one of the only sources for up-to-the-minute news and weather. It is vital we maintain that link.

I am pleased this legislation addresses two issues of concern to my constituents. It includes language allowing satellite carriers to provide in-state public television signals to all viewers in the state, regardless of television market, DMA. This means the thirteen counties in my district served by the Denver DMA will have improved access to the quality programming of NET—Nebraska's statewide PBS station.

The bill also takes steps to encourage satellite carriers to carry all 210 DMAs. Currently, 31 DMAs, including the city of North Platte in my district, are not carried by either of the two major satellite carriers and another 76 are carried by only one of the two. These unserved and underserved markets are typically small, rural areas and are often in the greatest need of satellite carriage for distant viewers to receive their signals. I am pleased the bill takes steps to encourage their coverage rather than implementing strong new mandates on these private companies.

However, I must oppose passage of this legislation under suspension of the rules. It does not contain language to address the needs of consumers in out-of-state DMAs who wish to receive in-state broadcast programming over satellite. Under suspension of the rules, no member will have the opportunity to offer an amendment to address this issue.

Under this legislation the thirteen counties which would gain access to Nebraska public television would still be forced to watch local broadcast programming from the Denver DMA. This includes places such as Sheridan and Cherry Counties which are over 400 miles from Denver and have three closer and arguably more local markets unavailable to them on satellite—North Platte, Scottsbluff-Cheyenne, and even Rapid City, South Dakota.

With this in mind, I must oppose suspending the rules to pass this legislation today in hope that this bill can be brought back up under a rule with the opportunity to make these needed changes for my constituents.

HONORING GARRETT JONES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Jones, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1360, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garrett has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garrett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN HONOR OF VALENTINO W.  
NARDO, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Valentino W. Nardo, Sr. Mr. Nardo is a fellow Delawarean who has dedicated his life to serving his community in the truest sense of the word.

A man of great compassion, Val is known across Delaware as a champion of the less-fortunate. His organization, Val's Needy Family Fund, began as a food drive which he ran out of his Newark-based barbershop. In 1969, Val's Needy Family Fund was able to provide 10 baskets of holiday meals. The project has grown exponentially over the past 40 years, distributing as many as 1,500 baskets at a time. Each year, Val and his volunteers help prepare and deliver the food baskets, answering calls for emergency aid from churches, social services and organizations.

Val has always been a supporter of the non-profit Newark Area Welfare Committee, and Val's Needy Family Fund is now formally affiliated with this long-time community organization that stocks food cupboards and provides other avenues of assistance for those in need. The collaboration has allowed Val's Fund to reach more of the people who are most in need and will ensure that Val's dedication to the less-fortunate continues well beyond his lifetime. In 2008, Val was awarded a Jefferson Award for public service. The Jefferson Awards are given annually to honor individuals who make a difference in the community in which they work and live. The bestowal of this award is particularly salient for Val, as recipients of Jefferson Awards are nominated by the public. Val's peers and I firmly agree that he is a shining example of how one person truly can make a difference. And his dedication to the community shows no sign of stopping; each year, he does not sit down to Christmas dinner until all of the holiday food has been distributed. At 90, Val possesses a

commitment and a desire to help others that is not just admirable, but contagious. Indeed, the food drive that was once run out of his shop has grown today to need a warehouse.

In addition to being a committed community member, Val is a loving husband and devoted father. He and his wife, Mary, recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary, and Val's family members share in his mission of giving, enabling Val's Needy Family Fund to be a year-round effort. With his dedication to the hungry and less-fortunate, Val has done and continues to do our great state of Delaware an immeasurable service.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Val's Needy Family Fund, I would like to recognize the unequalled devotion of Valentino W. Nardo, Sr. Val has given his time, his energy, and his heart in support of Delawareans. His influence and contributions have reached far and wide, affecting all of our communities. I commend Mr. Nardo for his tireless dedication and look forward to his continued success in serving those in need.

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT  
BRADLEY GARR FOR RECEIVING  
THE SILVER HORNADAY MEDAL

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bradley Garr, a young Eagle Scout from my district, for his inspiring and conscientious efforts to protect Arizona's fragile Sonoran Desert.

Bradley, an 8th grader at Copper Ridge Middle School in Scottsdale, recently developed and led a day-long conservation effort to remove and relocate cacti and other delicate desert plants along a major power line corridor. The plants would otherwise be destroyed to provide maintenance access to the lines.

Bradley first built a partnership between the Boy Scouts, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Arizona Public Service and the City of Scottsdale. He then led a team of more than 50 volunteers to complete the work. This was Bradley's fourth major conservation project completed as part of his Eagle Scout responsibilities. In addition, Bradley is also a past winner of the Boy Scouts Medal of Heroism for helping his father, Bill Garr, pull a woman from a wrecked and burning vehicle two years ago.

For his outstanding conservation and environmental efforts, the Boy Scouts of America have nominated Bradley for the prestigious Silver Hornaday Medal. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bradley on these outstanding accomplishments and in wishing him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE KEARNEY HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Coach Greg Jones and

the Kearney High School football team for winning the Missouri Class 4 state championship. The Bulldogs, led by seniors Tyler Funk, Stephen Juergens, Joe Windsor and many others, displayed the work ethic, teamwork, and sportsmanship of true champions during their 27–15 victory Friday afternoon.

After two disappointing early season defeats, this team pulled together and let their true colors show by winning their final 10 games and a state title. A state championship not only reflects the outcome of one final game but also the hard work and dedication these young men have shown over several years. I join the entire Kearney community in expressing how very proud we are of the success the players and coaches of the Kearney football team have attained.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Kearney Bulldogs on their state championship.

A TRIBUTE TO OREGON CATTLE-  
MEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT  
BILL MOORE

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues the story of Bill Moore and his life-long efforts in support of agriculture and the western ranching industry. Bill is the president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, OCA, and a tremendous friend to rural America. At the end of this week, Bill will turn over his gavel to another to lead this fine organization but he will continue his leadership in the field of agriculture. Before he relinquishes his current role, I would like to pay tribute to his leadership over the last several years.

A long list of organizations have recognized Bill's enduring support and promotion of the agriculture community's continued viability. Prior to serving as OCA president, Bill served as president of the Malheur County Cattlemen's Association. In his current role as leader for family ranchers throughout Oregon, he serves on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association board of directors. He was honored by the Ontario Oregon Chamber of Commerce in 2000 as the Agriculturalist of the Year. He has served on the local Farmer's Supply Cooperative board of directors, the Burnt River Irrigation District's board of directors and, in what is surely one of the most difficult positions anyone can have, as a member of the Burnt River School District budget board.

During his tenure as OCA president, Bill promoted and protected the interests of the cattle ranchers of Oregon. He initiated a new "Positive Producer Image Project," which utilizes a combination of traditional media and DVD production to showcase the valuable impacts ranchers have on Oregon's economy, wildlife, clean water, open space, and cultural heritage. This is the first ever video created by OCA, and it has received national accolades and become the blueprint for other states to follow as they also embark on positive producer image projects.

Born in Ontario, Oregon to William and Christine Moore, Bill has a rich history in eastern Oregon. Bill grew up with his five brothers

and sisters on a small family ranch near Vale, Oregon. After high school, Bill graduated with honors from Oregon State University with a bachelor of science degree in wildlife management in 1977. He worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 5 years during and after college. In 1978 Bill married Nancy Ingle and that same year they began their own cattle herd with the purchase of eight cows. They leased land and began to grow their business. During the growth years, Bill worked for Arco Seed Company eventually becoming vice president in charge of seed production. Bill later owned his own seed distribution company.

In 1999, Bill and Nancy purchased a ranch near Unity, Oregon where they now center their ranching operation. It is truly a family operation where they have very little hired or outside help and rely on the American tradition of neighbor-helping-neighbor and family-helping-family to grow their business. Bill and Nancy have two children and three grandchildren which they treasure. Bill and Nancy take great pride and joy seeing yet another generation value and learn the ranching business and lifestyle that has meant so much to them.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Bill Moore, who has served so ably as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

ENHANCED S.E.C. ENFORCEMENT  
AUTHORITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in support of H.R. 2873, the Enhanced S.E.C. Enforcement Authority Act, which will give the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, nationwide service of process. I support this legislation because I believe that it is important that the agency responsible for oversight of our financial system have the necessary tools for legal action against potential violations of the law.

I would like to first thank my colleague, Congressman JOHN CAMPBELL, for introducing this valuable piece of legislation. On December 11, 2008, nearly one year ago, Bernard Madoff was arrested for securities fraud, money laundering, and perjury in one of the largest Ponzi schemes in the history of this country. Estimates of the magnitude of the Madoff scheme were between \$50 and \$65 billion. The presiding judge in the case declared the crimes, "extraordinary evil." Congress and the American people were appalled by this scandal. The country wondered how our regulatory agencies could fail to recognize fraud of this magnitude for so long.

In the year since the Madoff scandal first came to light, both the Securities and Exchange Commission and Congress have worked to enhance the ability of the SEC to conduct oversight. Internal procedures have been reformed to make it easier for the SEC to open investigations into violations of securities law. New personnel at the SEC, such as the Director of Enforcement, have been hired to ensure that oversight efforts were carried out with the appropriate level of enthusiasm.

Congress has also worked to improve the tools of the SEC to conduct oversight. This bill is in line with the effort to reform the oversight of securities and ensure that massive fraud that was committed on the scale of Bernard Madoff never happens again.

Currently, the Securities and Exchange Commission has to issue subpoenas in the judicial district where the trial takes place or within a "100-mile bulge" of the courthouse. This unnecessarily burdens the staff, which has to travel to the courts where the trial takes place, wasting both time and money. Furthermore, by requiring the SEC to seek action in remote district courts, civil cases may be weakened. Witnesses in cases filed by the SEC are frequently located outside of the trial court's subpoena range. Because witnesses who are not able to travel would have to provide an alternative to live testimony, such as a videotaped deposition or written testimony, the impact of their statement is lost. Additionally, securities violations using the internet involve persons across jurisdictions.

H.R. 2873 will streamline the SEC's ability to investigate potential cases of violations of securities law. This bill will allow nationwide service of subpoenas in civil actions brought by the SEC in Federal courts. By granting the SEC this authority, this legislation will eliminate repetitive depositions. While the Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation, logically, this legislation will reduce costs for the SEC. The costs of creating and presenting videotaped depositions will be reduced. Additionally, SEC staff will no longer have to travel to file motions in remote district courts, saving the staff time and the taxpayer money.

Other agencies with similar mandates have long had the authority for nationwide service. This body has already considered and passed this provision: during the 110th Congress, the House of Representatives passed a law of this nature in Section 19 of H.R. 6513, the Securities Act of 2008. Furthermore, the SEC already has this authority in administrative proceedings.

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HONORING THE MOUND CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Mound City Panthers High School football team in defeating St. Joseph Christian, by a score of 50-8, to claim victory in this year's Show-Me Bowl.

Once again, the Panthers were able to be crowned champions this season through hard work and tireless effort. This is the second straight year that the Panthers have beaten the Lions in the 8-man title game. These young men have worked tirelessly for years on sharpening the skills needed to achieve the success they most definitely deserve. I join with the community of Mound City in expressing how proud we are of the team under the leadership of Coach Brian Messer and his coaching staff. I wish them the very best and look forward to continued success in the future.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the Mound City High School football team on their state championship.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN BRADHAM  
COMMEMORATING HIS RETIREMENT FROM SCRA

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of Dr. John Bradham, a life-long patriot and public servant to the citizens of South Carolina and the United States. Born and raised in Sumter, John's unyielding desire to learn and succeed led him to the University of South Carolina for his undergraduate studies and to Texas A&M for multiple advanced degrees. John has a rich history of putting others' needs before his own with the utmost honesty and integrity. He served 24 years in the United States Air Force where he filled numerous leadership roles including command of Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computer, C4, programs, as well as environmental research on aircraft systems, radar, and various energy communications systems. John's contributions and service to his country have gone above and beyond the call of duty, evident by the fact that he retired from the Air Force as a full colonel before joining the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA.

I have had the pleasure of working with John during his tenure at SCRA on a variety of high-level programs that have benefited South Carolinians, our warfighters, and the United States' national security. As the Senior Vice President at SCRA and head of the Institute for Solutions Generation, ISG, John has been an impetus for ingenuity and a driving force for upholding the highest standards of professionalism.

Dr. Bradham's technical knowledge has been crucial in SCRA programs and other projects for pushing the limits of technology and expanding the capabilities of our manufacturing sector to increase America's defense readiness.

I commend Dr. John Bradham for his outstanding service to the United States and for embodying the ideals and morals of what we hold a true American to be. His dedication to his family, friends, and colleagues is unmistakable and seen through the respect and honor he has earned and so righteously deserves. I wish John the best of luck in his future endeavors including his decision to teach and share his technical expertise with the youth of South Carolina. May God bless John, his wife Becky, their two children, and five grandchildren.

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HONORING JOHN J. RUFÉ

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John J. Rufe of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Serving his community as a presiding judge in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas for twenty years, John J. Rufe has embodied what it means to be a public servant.

He has been responsible for authoring several landmark decisions on open space preservation zoning and has presided over the county's asbestos liability litigation for over a decade. In addition, John has been recognized by many for his attentive and considerate mediation in the complex and difficult field of child custody litigation.

John has also served as the President of the Bucks County Bar Association. He has been a contributor to Continuing Legal Education panels and has been a valuable resource for many beginning lawyers by offering constructive comment and guidance.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Honorable John J. Rufe for his outstanding commitment to public service, his community and his country. I am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

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PROTECT RELIGIOUS MINORITIES  
IN IRAQ

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution designed to raise awareness and express support for Iraqi religious minorities. The war in Iraq and the subsequent ethnic and sectarian violence has created a massive humanitarian crisis, and led to the displacement of millions of people. Iraqi religious minorities are particularly vulnerable, and are often specifically targeted in gruesome and random acts of violence, such as murder, rape, and abductions.

Many who have escaped Iraq to seek refuge in neighboring countries are forced to live in poverty, unable to legally work and lacking sufficient support from their host government. Those who remain in Iraq live a life of constant fear. They are forced into hiding and are vulnerable to emotional and physical attacks. Iraqi religious minorities lack the resources and sturdy community foundation necessary to defend themselves, and thus remain underrepresented politically, legally, and economically. Muslims and non-Muslims alike are exposed to such attacks, but the smaller religious sects remain more vulnerable, including Chaldeans, Syriacs, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, and Yazidis. Catholic Christians have witnessed the killing of Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho and the ancient Iraqi Jewish community has seen itself diminish to a population of only ten members.

This resolution calls upon the combined efforts of the United States Government and United Nations to ask the Iraqi Government to protect religious minorities by encouraging free and fair elections, training Iraqi security forces and providing safe places to worship. It also seeks an investigation into human rights violations, and calls for an end to the abuse of Iraqi religious minorities. Finally, the resolution calls for United States to work with the Iraqi government to ensure the physical and economic safety of those wishing to return to Iraq.

It is no longer possible to stand by and watch as millions of religious minorities are

subjected to torture, abuse, and discrimination, which is why I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.

HONORING THE SAVANNAH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' GOLF TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Coach Tammy Steinkamp and the Savannah High School girls' golf team on their victory in the Missouri class 1 state championship. After a long, hard season these young women showed their true character by bringing home the state title.

A championship is not only a reflection of the final tournament of the year but also the hard work and dedication required in getting to that point. These young women have worked tirelessly for years on sharpening the skills needed to achieve the success they most definitely deserve. I join the community of Savannah in expressing how proud we are of this team and their incredible accomplishments. I wish them the very best and look forward to more success in the future.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Savannah High School girls' golf team on their state championship.

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 861, which supports the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month. The fact that our star-spangled banner yet wave is a testament to the courage and honor of our military which is reason enough to thank the men and women of our military for the safety we have here in America; equally important are the loved ones they leave behind each tour, who support them and help keep them going day in and out.

In 1996, the Armed Services YMCA expanded Military Family Week, which usually occurred around Thanksgiving, into Military Family Month. Just like the week grew into a month long celebration in appreciation, so to have military families grown in number. "When I came in the service back in the Dark Ages, most of the troops were single. Everybody was single," said retired Navy Rear Adm. Frank Gallo, director of the Armed Services YMCA. Now, he added, 65 percent to 70 percent of service members are married, many with children. Families are a big part of the military, and the health of those families is also a big part of the readiness of the military, he said.

Military Family Month puts a little extra focus on supporting the families who support the men and women of our military. This has especially been true since the beginning of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq as more of our soldiers are deployed.

The men and women of our military, through trial and tribulation, carry on; which they do in the name of many things, namely freedom, justice, democracy as well as in the name of their family and loved ones. The support necessary to keep a person going in such an atrocious environment is unfathomable, yet their families too, carry on. In my home district, the 18th District of Texas, we currently have, according to the Department of Defense, approximately 400 men and women in the military. With President Obama's planned deployment of 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, there is bound to be more families left without sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers here at home. National Military Family Month will help provide encouragement to military families who in turn support our military men and women.

Military families, through their sacrifices and their dedication to the United States and its values, represent the bedrock upon which the United States was founded and upon which the country continues to rely in these perilous and challenging times. The month of November, which includes the Veterans Day holiday, is an appropriate month to observe National Military Family Month, which recognizes the sacrifices and dedication of military families and their contributions to the United States. H. Res. 861 will also encourage the people of the United States to observe National Military Family Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

HONORING EDDIE ROBERT STEFFNE

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eddie Robert Steffne as he is honored by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan. A dinner will be held in his honor on Sunday, December 6th in Mt. Morris, Michigan.

A lifelong resident of Genesee County, Michigan, Eddie Steffne served in the U.S. military after attending Beecher High School. He received his honorable discharge in 1957 returning to the Flint area and attended Flint Community College. He became a master mechanic and worked for Sears and Roebuck, Midas Muffler, Draper Chevrolet, Summerfield Chevrolet, Hunter Engineering and Applegate Chevrolet.

Eddie joined the Montrose Masonic Lodge No. 428 in 1976. He served as Worshipful Master in 1982 and 2006. Also in 1982 he was appointed District Deputy Instructor then in 1992 he was appointed Regional Grand Lecturer. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan elected him Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer.

Active in the community, Eddie has supported the Shriner's Children Hospitals, the Old Newsboys of Flint, the city of Flint Police Mounted Patrol and Canine Unit, and he is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and supports their charities. Eddie and his late wife, Ruth Ann, had 4 children: Eddie Ray, Gregory, Shannon and Todd. Eddie Ray passed away in 1978.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Eddie

Robert Steffne as he gathers with his family, Masons from throughout Michigan, friends, and his special friend Cynthia Allard, to celebrate his work and contributions to Masonry and the Flint area. I wish him the best for years to come.

HONORING THE MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Coach Chris Holt and the Maryville High School football team for winning the Missouri Class 2 state championship. After a hard fought season, the Spoofhounds finished the year with an impressive 35-0 victory in the state final and a 14-1 record.

Not only should these young men be proud of the enormity of their accomplishment but also the manner in which it was achieved. Throughout the season the Maryville football team played with heart, class and great sportsmanship. I join the entire Maryville community in congratulating the players and coaches on their many successes throughout the season and look forward to the seasons to come.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Maryville Spoofhounds on their state championship.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL UNION MISSION

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring the House's attention to an important milestone taking place in the District of Columbia. The Central Union Mission, the longest serving social service organization in the District, is celebrating its 125th anniversary of helping transform the lives of the least, the lost, and the last in Washington.

Beginning in 1884, the Central Union Mission, a highly effective faith-based nonprofit, has provided a compassionate helping hand to literally thousands of the District's homeless and addicted men, women and children. For some veterans of the Civil War who returned to Washington down and out, they turned to the Mission for assistance and the Mission faithfully provided it. During the Great Depression, the Mission was the nexus of the City for many who were jobless and penniless. Veterans of two world wars enlisted the Mission to help them fight battles of addiction and homelessness.

Just a short drive from this magnificent Capitol building, the Mission has been in operation continuously throughout 24 presidential administrations. The Mission has changed from what we would think of as a traditional homeless shelter providing food, clothing, and a safe place to sleep for the night, to a sophisticated transitional facility. The Mission provides emergency services to the homeless, life skills and job training, education and computer programs, group and individual therapy, clinical

services, community work and outreach, and physical, emotional and spiritual renewal. Through a variety of programs, the Mission provides services to not just the homeless, but to the addicted, at-risk youth, gang members, and criminal offenders. The Mission accomplishes this important work with the strong support of and partnerships with foundations, associations, businesses, churches, other social services, and local governments in the District, in Virginia and Maryland.

The Mission's work to the poor never seems to end. In fact, the problems of homelessness, addiction and other related problems continue to increase. The demand for programs offered by the Central Union Mission is more vital now than ever because of the severe economic crisis which hits hardest those who are most vulnerable.

Today, in Washington, D.C., there are more than 12,000 men, women, and children who are living in shelters, transitional housing, or on the streets.

Madam Speaker, the Central Union Mission is on the front lines working to meet the needs of those who are in need of its services. Last year alone, the Central Union Mission provided 152,275 meals to the hungry, more than 50,000 men with shelter through residential programs, and 4,408 individuals received counseling, medical, and legal assistance. Nearly 1,000 individuals were given the tools for a self-sufficient life through long-term addictions counseling and literacy programs.

The impact doesn't stop there. Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. This past year, the Mission provided nearly 5,000 families with clothing, food, and household goods; more than 3,000 children were given backpacks, supplies for school, and gifts around Christmas time; and hundreds of impoverished urban children were treated to a real summer camp experience at the Mission's Camp Bennett location in Maryland.

The demand for services provided by the Central Union Mission continues to grow. The Central Union Mission is regularly forced to turn away people who are hungry, hurting, and in need of vital services because of regularly operating to capacity. As we enter the winter months, the Mission becomes an even more critical safety net for thousands of individuals and families who seek out the warmth and shelter it provides.

The assistance the Central Union Mission has provided since 1884 is best told through the stories those whose lives have been transformed. One such person, "Timothy," says about the Mission:

For nine years I had been struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. Going in and out of jails and institutions, wandering, hopelessly waiting for my life to end or a miracle to happen. At some point, I decided I didn't want to live anymore. My wife and children had been gone from my life, and my life was in shambles. I decided, during a deep depression, that I was going to take my own life. Then, the miracle happened.

I walked to the Central Union Mission, which was only 4 blocks away. When I arrived I was embraced by men who were concerned for me. I came into their STP program with barely any hope. But several days into it, I started to feel better. I realized that I have certain responsibilities, and that life is really what you make it. Somehow, I made it through the Mission's program and my life has really turned around.

Today, my wife and children know me, they're proud to say they have a changed husband and daddy. My relationship with my family has been restored, my sanity has been given back, and I look forward to a better future. All thanks to the Central Union Mission.

"Reginald" had a similar experience:

I entered Central Union Mission depressed, tired of life, and sick. I needed help.

I was at the Mission for almost two weeks, which allowed me time to recuperate, think, and spend time with other men who were just like me, when my mind began to clear. I started to focus on the important things in my life—my faith, family and getting better.

The Mission is just what it says it is—a mission, a place that's there for the people who are in need, and so they can get better. Just watching all these people bring in donated things to help people they don't even know amazed me. Watching men and women who have very little, like me, enjoy working on the food depot, seniors day, birthday celebrations, back to school, and things like that, makes it seem more like a family here. Basically, they really care. It helps me to realize how important I really am.

I thank God for David Treadwell and his staff. They are wonderful at what they do for people in need. The time they put into helping us is from the heart and that's what God wants from all of us—the best of what's in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me in congratulating the Central Union Mission and expressing our gratitude for the vital work the Mission is doing here in Washington, D.C. I encourage all Members to visit the Mission, which is just a short drive from this chamber to witness first-hand the power of compassionate service that has helped the Mission transform so many thousands of lives of the least, the last, and the lost for 125 years.

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SATELLITE HOME VIEWER  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill provides much-needed improvements to the current legal structure governing the transmission of satellite signals to American consumers. We've come a long way since the days where satellite companies were fledgling businesses with small customer bases and large backyard dishes. Now this industry is robust and competitive and holds its own in the world of multi-video providers.

With this increased popularity comes an increased responsibility to those who subscribe to satellite services. I sponsored an amendment to the bill that was adopted in the Energy and Commerce Committee which underscores the importance of the rights of satellite customers.

My language will finally end DISH Network's discrimination against noncommercial High Definition signals. Many of you know these noncommercial stations as educational and Public Broadcast Stations. DISH has roughly 14 million subscribers and they all deserve ac-

cess to Public Television's signals. DISH had been providing preferential treatment to high-paying networks for the transmission of programming, but denying equal carriage for a television service supported by tax dollars. DISH gets privileges under this bill and with those privileges comes the obligation to serve the public interest.

The premise of my language is simple.

It requires satellite carriers to provide their customers with local noncommercial HDTV transmissions when carrying other local broadcast HD signals.

It provides for carriage compliance for 50 percent of the stations by the end of 2010, with an extra year for the remainder, thus accelerating the FCC 2013 date.

It ensures that when new service is initiated, noncommercial stations get equal treatment.

And, it gives carriers one last opportunity to sign a carriage contract because anyone who has one, has a safe harbor from the language here.

Most importantly, this language locks the door and rips off the knob—it not only accelerates the carriage date, it precludes potential waivers of that date extending well into the future.

It's important to note that Direct TV offers HD channels of 106 local public television stations in their local markets. DISH is carrying HD in local commercial broadcasts in 152 markets covering 93 percent of U.S. households. But they only carry local public television HD broadcasts in Alaska and Hawaii—where they are legally obligated to do so.

Consumers in all states have the right to view publicly funded programming. My preference would have been that some time during the past three years of negotiations with PBS, DISH would have decided to serve the public interest and provide equal treatment for noncommercial stations. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. There's been adequate notice of a serious problem, but no action. I encourage DISH to continue negotiating with PBS to reach a viable compromise on this issue before this measure passes the Senate as well. Otherwise, there will be no additional flexibility—and DISH will be legally obligated to carry those HD signals.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I look forward to final passage of the Satellite bill, and especially the anti-discriminatory section which is part of it.

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HONORING THE PENNEY HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY  
TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate the Penney High School girls' cross country team for winning their sixth Missouri Class 1 state championship in a row. Runners Erin Esry, Makayla Moon, Lindsey Vollmer, Bethany Jakopic, Brooke Flook, Saige Dille, and Kathleen Clevenger along with managers Ashley Cramer, Olivia Allen and Coach Mark Vollmer all deserve many congratulations for their enormous success. Over the years, Coach Vollmer and his runners have displayed the hard work, determination, and class that is indicative of six-time champions.

Winning a state championship is not only a reflection of the results of a race but also the character of it competitors. Every member of this team can walk with her head held high knowing that she has achieved what very few could. I join the entire community of Hamilton in congratulating these young women and their coach on their achievements and look forward to more success to come.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Penney High School girls' cross country team on their sixth straight state championship.

TEMPORARY FORBEARANCE FOR  
FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CON-  
TAMINATED DRYWALL

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 197, "Encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages". I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. GLENN NYE, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

Contaminated drywall affects thousands of Americans—since January 2009, over 1,300 cases of this structural condition have been reported from 26 States and the District of Columbia. When in 2006, more than 495 million pounds of drywall was imported into the United States from China, my home city of Houston was one of the major recipients.

Earlier this year, America's Watchdog, a national advocacy group for consumer protection, confirmed defective drywall in homes in Michigan, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Maryland, North and South Carolina, New York and New Jersey, with an estimated 10,000 homes in Florida and more than 100,000 nationwide affected. At least a dozen companies manufactured defective drywall in China and about 100 builders in Florida used the product, dating back to 2004.

Noxious gases released from contaminated drywall can cause serious health effects involving the upper respiratory tract, such as bloody noses, rashes, sore throats, and burning eyes; and toxins released from contaminated drywall can corrode metals inside the home, such as air conditioning coils and electrical wiring.

The dangers and health risks posed by contaminated drywall have forced thousands of families out of their homes and into temporary living situations, and many such families are unable to afford an additional financial burden. Because of this, some Americans who pay their mortgages on time are now suffering from both financial problems and health complications through no fault of their own.

Banks and mortgage servicers can help families affected by this scourge by providing temporary forbearance with respect to their

mortgage payments to help such families afford the costs of an additional residence while they are removed from their primary homes. That is why I join this body in encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT O. HUBER

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Robert O. "Bob" Huber, who was recently awarded the Ben E. Nordman 2009 Public Services Award by the Ventura County Bar Association in recognition of his many years of community service.

This award recognizes outstanding community contributions by a Ventura County, California, attorney through charitable and public services activities. One would be hard-pressed to find someone more deserving of the award than Bob.

I have known, and been friends with, Bob for more than 30 years. We served together on the Simi Valley City Council in the early 1980s and he was one of my first and most fervent supporters when I decided to run for Congress.

Bob became an attorney after 13 years as a mortician. He runs his own law office in partnership with Russ Takasugi and has served as a Judge Pro Tem since 1981. In 2004, he returned to elective office as a Ventura County Community College District trustee. He currently serves as board president.

As examples of his leadership, Bob initiated the first Affordable Housing Committee in the state of California while serving on the Simi Valley City Council. As a College District trustee, he prompted the board to launch an emergency response system to protect students at the district's three campuses after the Virginia Tech massacre. The district was the first college or university system in California to launch an emergency program and earned the district a special commendation from the State Chancellor's office.

Throughout the years, Bob has also served on a number of governmental boards and commissions. He also became active in the private sector starting at an early age. For instance, he was 27 years old the first time he served as president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he has also headed his Rotary Club, the Simi Valley Boy Scout District, the Southeast Ventura County YMCA and the Administrative board of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. He was a founding steering committee board member for Leadership Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Education Foundation and the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

He has also provided pro bono legal work for the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Rotary Club, the Boys & Girls Club, the Free Clinic of Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Community Foundation and the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Foundation.

There is more but, in short, Bob Huber is very deserving of this honor.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Robert O. "Bob" Huber for earning the Ben E. Nordman 2009 Public Services Award and in thanking him for his many decades of service to his community.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE L.  
CATRAMBONE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George L. Catrambone and his decades of service to the children of the Long Branch Public Schools. Mr. Catrambone is known as an innovator in the field of education and he has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of instruction for thousands of students. He recently announced his retirement after over 37 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Catrambone began his career at the Elberon Elementary School where he first worked as a teacher for the handicapped. He became the school's senior special education teacher before rising to the position of Coordinator of Special Education for the entire Long Branch School District. Mr. Catrambone rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools in 2002. In this position, Mr. Catrambone was a key force behind the implementation of the education policies of New Jersey's Governor and Commissioner of Education.

Mr. Catrambone has played a vital role in the implementation of the Whole School Reform initiative. He has helped to implement the initiative's curriculum advancements, including the provision of a full school day for preschool age children. He was also instrumental in the design and construction of new schools, athletic facilities, and playgrounds for use by the children of the Long Branch Public Schools.

As a member of several professional organizations, Mr. Catrambone has contributed a great deal to New Jersey's community of educators. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, the New Jersey Education Association, and the Principal and Supervisors Association are included among the many different organizations of which Mr. Catrambone is a valued member.

Mr. Catrambone has been the recipient of several honors during his distinguished career. He has been awarded the Rotary Club of Long Branch's prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award and he has been presented with the Long Branch Board of Education's Achievement resolution for his work with handicapped youth. Mr. Catrambone has also been honored for the work he has done on behalf of the Special Olympics.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Mr. Catrambone's remarkable career. His impressive record of resilient achievement serves as a model for educators across the State of New Jersey.

HONORING THE PENNEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Penney High School Hornets football team in defeating Valle Catholic, by a score of 21–17, to claim victory in this year’s Class 1 Show-Me Bowl at the Edward Jones Dome.

A championship is not only reflective of the final game of the year but also the hard work and dedication required in getting to that point through diligence and discipline. Knocking off one of Missouri’s historically great football programs and owner of 9 previous state titles is no small achievement and the Hornets should be commended for their efforts in doing so.

Additionally, I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of Coach Dave Fairchild, who earned his first state title in his 26 years of coaching. Through his vision and guidance, the Hornets were able to repeatedly deliver solid results and achieve the honor of state champions.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Penney High School football team on their state championship.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JEANNE M. MERSHON

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to a long-time employee of the House of Representatives, Jeanne M. Mershon, who, on November 30th, retired after more than 27 years of dedicated service to this body. Ms. Mershon is a constituent of Virginia’s 8th Congressional District, born and raised in Springfield, Virginia and currently resides in Arlington. Jeanne is a proud graduate of the Northern Virginia public school system and her alma mater, the College of William and Mary.

Ms. Mershon began working for the House of Representatives in 1982 in the Office of the Clerk after a stint at the Federal Election Commission. She started in the Office of the Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services and later joined the Chief Administrative Office in the Office of Facilities Management. After over a decade of making sure the operations of the House ran smoothly, in December of 1995, she joined the Parking Security Office for the House Sergeant at Arms, where she has since served as Assistant Director.

Ms. Mershon is known by her peers as thorough and detail oriented, as well as someone they are able to turn to at any time, even with the most difficult questions. This past September, Ms. Mershon was the recipient of the Office of the Inspector General’s “Employee Excellence Award,” a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts. We are fortunate to have had Ms. Mershon’s service for so many years. She will be sorely missed by all her friends and colleagues. I wish her the best in all of her future

endeavors and a lifetime ahead of even greater reward.

MS. BERTHA M. JONES—  
AGRICULTURALIST,  
THROPIST, CHAMPION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and legacy of one of America’s most prolific champions of agricultural education and science, Ms. Bertha M. Jones.

Ms. Jones is a native of Huntsville, AL, where she first found her love for agriculture and appreciation for the mystical wonders of nature. Ms. Jones graduated from State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute in Alabama, currently known as Alabama A&M in 1945, receiving her Bachelor’s of Science in Home Economics. After completing her undergraduate studies, Ms. Jones began her career in Luverne, Alabama as a Negro Home Demonstration Agent servicing Crenshaw County for more than a decade.

In 1956, Ms. Bertha received her Master’s of Education in Home Economics from Penn State University and shortly thereafter served as a State 4–H Agent for Negro Girls at Tuskegee Institute, currently known as Tuskegee University. During that period Ms. Jones was responsible for 4–H publications and 4–H administration for 37 county agents. Her desire for scholastic achievement led her to further her studies at both Prairie View A&M and George Washington University.

Ms. Bertha Jones lives by the motto, “4–H Is Life”, devoting countless hours towards the educational and economic growth of young people throughout the region. Ms. Jones believed that every young person should be exposed to the 4–H experience because it was instrumental in life skills development. Ms. Jones served multiple roles both locally and nationally for 4–H related junctures, including membership on the National and State 4–H Congress Committees, the 4–H Food Preservation and 4–H DOT Committees as well as the 4–H Advisory Committee. Ms. Jones was also the first State Leader for Urban 4–H in both Mobile and Huntsville, AL.

Ms. Jones has authored and co-authored numerous publications dedicated to advancing agricultural studies among rural and urban communities. Some of her works are comprised of the 4–H Officer Training Handbook, Clean Look and Your Health, and the History of Negroes in Cooperative Extension, which she co-authored with Dr. Richard Bailey. Not only has she authored and co-authored publications, Ms. Jones also has been featured in publications such as *They Too Call Alabama Home: African American Profiles, 1800–1999*, written also by Dr. Bailey.

Ms. Jones is a noted philanthropist of local 4–H efforts, giving not only financial resources but also substantial amounts of time towards helping enrich and increase the growing knowledge among young people about 4–H procedures and practices, willing monetary support for those wishing to expand their knowledge through involvement in 4–H activities or pursuit of higher education.

During the course of her career, Ms. Jones received a number of plaques, certificates and awards of recognition and achievement. Some of her most treasured awards include a Presidential Citation for the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education as well as her 2004 induction into the National 4–H Hall of Fame. Not only has Ms. Jones received citation and notary inductions but she also has a conference room dedicated in her honor at Alabama A&M in the Home Economics Department.

Ms. Jones was a faithful steward of the Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, AL where she served as an active member of their congregation since 1970. During her membership Ms. Jones served in several capacities including the choir, the Pastor’s Aid Committee and as a devoted Sunday school teacher.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize one of the finest agricultural icons in American history, Ms. Bertha M. Jones. Her achievements and contributions to the world of agricultural science will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 and Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

For Tuesday, November 17, 2009, I ask that the Record reflect that had I been present I would have voted “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 892 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3360), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 893 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 842), “No” on rollcall vote No. 894 (on approval of the Journal), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 895 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 891).

For Wednesday, November 18, 2009, I ask that the Record reflect that had I been present I would have voted “No” on rollcall vote No. 896 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 214, which provides for a conditional adjournment of the two Houses), “No” on rollcall vote No. 897 (ordering the previous question on the Rule for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009), “No” on rollcall vote No. 898 (on agreeing to H. Res. 909, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3791), “No” on rollcall vote No. 899 (on agreeing to the Perlmutter Amendment to H.R. 3791), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 900 (on agreeing to the Flake Amendment to H.R. 3791), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 901 (on passage of H.R. 3791).

HONORING THE KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement

of the Kearney Bulldogs High School girls cross country team in capturing their first-ever Class 3 state championship.

Winning their first state championship was even more sweet for Kearney, as they beat the powerhouse team of West Plains, who just last year squeaked past the Bulldogs by three points to win the state championship. This year, the hard work and dedication paid off as all seven Kearney runners placed in the top 50 in a field of 165.

Additionally, I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of Coach Jeff Roberts. Through his vision and guidance, the team was able to deliver solid results and achieve the honor of state champions.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the Kearney High School girls cross country team on their state championship.

NADINE GULIT AND "OPERATION  
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS"

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the co-founder of an organization that provided comfort and support for thousands upon thousands of our brave service men and women.

For nearly eight years, Nadine Gulit has freely given nearly all her time to support and run "Operation Support our Troops." Whenever I hold Veterans Fair's in my district, the 8th of Washington, or attend veterans or service member rallies, Nadine is always present. Providing aid and comfort to our brave soldiers was the work of her heart and soul and she poured 100 percent of both into "Operation Support Our Troops."

As the story goes, Operation Support Our Troops started after Nadine's daughter Sheryl Sheaffer received a message from her son Scott serving in Iraq. At that point, Nadine and Sheryl were active in a grassroots organization called "Operation Home Front," a support our troops grassroots effort. But after receiving Scott's call, Sheryl and Nadine took supporting our troops to a new level.

"Operation Support Our Troops" has held many, many rallies in support of service members around Western Washington and is in regular contact with thousands of military supporters around the State. "Operation Support Our Troops" has sent care packages to tens of thousands of our soldiers at a time and has touched the lives of many more.

Nadine's family has a long history of service to this country and a deep respect for the work our soldiers do at home and abroad. Nadine and her group have been honored and recognized for their tireless efforts before, and I felt strongly I needed to add my name to the list. Their contributions will be missed but they have provided a blueprint for patriotic Americans to follow.

On November 5, Specialist Aaron Aamot—a 22-year-old soldier from Custer, Washington—was killed in Afghanistan by an IED. His father Mark, reflecting on his son's death and the outpouring of support from his community and country, quoted 19th century French historian Alexis de Tocqueville: "Amer-

ica is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great." Madam Speaker, Nadine is the kind of American de Tocqueville was talking about. She is good and people like her continue to make America great.

INTRODUCING THE ENDOCRINE  
DISRUPTING CHEMICALS PRE-  
VENTION ACT OF 2009

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009," legislation that will not only established a much-needed comprehensive research program to identify chemicals that interfere with human reproduction and development, but that also will require regulatory agencies to provide an appropriate public response as to how they will respond to the scientific findings and what actions they will take to protect humans from exposure to such chemicals.

Recent studies have convincingly demonstrated that a disturbing increase in the number of disorders of the human endocrine system is seriously undermining the health of our Nation. These disorders include autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, asthma, juvenile and adult diabetes, juvenile cancer, autoimmune diseases, obesity, osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's dementia. These disorders began to increase noticeably in the early 1970s when the first generation exposed in the womb to post-World War II synthetic chemicals reached maturity. Today, 1 in 3 children and 1 in 2 minority children will develop diabetes; 1 in 6 children is born with neurological damage; 1 in 100 children has an autism spectrum disorder—among boys the occurrence is 1 in 58; and in 2007, an age-independent decline in testosterone levels over the past 20 years was discovered in American men. Evidence from human epidemiological and laboratory animal studies have linked these disorders to prenatal exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), yet the hands of federal agencies remain tied under existing law.

In 1996, Congress recognized the need to study endocrine disruptions when it directed the EPA to develop an endocrine disruption screening program as part of the Food Quality Protection Act. Unfortunately, for various reasons, many being political, the program has been plagued by delays. Here we are, 13 years later, and it wasn't until October of this year that EPA announced the availability of initial assays and testing guidelines for a limited number of chemicals. Moreover, many question whether any testing conducted under EPA's program will even be as relevant or effective as it could be, as scientists' knowledge and understanding of endocrine disrupting chemicals, and how to best detect them, has increased rather profoundly since that time, and will continue to do so. Using a modernized 21st century testing paradigm that recognizes the known unique, subtle, and complex properties and effects of EDCs is necessary, as only then will we have accurate, practical data to inform appropriate and expeditious regulation of them.

In the legislation I am introducing, the science, not politics, will set the stage for action to be taken by regulatory agencies. First, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) will undertake a comprehensive research and testing program, using the best available science, to identify chemicals with endocrine disrupting potential. In addition, an independent expert panel, guided by the scientific research, will develop a list of the chemicals and evaluate the potential threat they pose. If the expert panel expresses even a minimal level of concern over the potential threat a chemical poses, regulatory agencies will be required to explain how they plan to respond to the scientific findings. Hopefully, this process will lead to a greater public awareness of potentially dangerous chemicals, as well as a swift appropriate response by our regulatory agencies that will limit or prevent exposure to them.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and I ask that the full text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of these remarks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 915, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF JAY DUNN'S RETIRE-  
MENT FROM IBEW LOCAL 146

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the long and dedicated service of Mr. Jay Dunn, an outstanding member of IBEW Local 146 in Decatur, Illinois. Jay retired from the Local on November 30, 2009 after a distinguished career serving the people of Decatur and his brothers and sisters in the labor movement.

A long-time resident of Decatur, Jay started in the labor movement when he was accepted into IBEW Local 146's apprenticeship program in 1973. After starting work in July of 1973, Jay completed his first year of classroom instruction and on-the-job training and was initiated into the local in August 1974.

Jay became a journeyman wireman in May 1977 after an extensive 4-year apprenticeship program and since then has held many roles in the local, including serving as a job foreman, general foreman, and steward. He served on and chaired numerous committees for the local and was a member of the executive board at the time of his appointment to business manager/financial secretary.

Jay took great pride in building the labor community's presence in the Decatur area. This culminated in Jay being named the president of the Decatur Building and Construction Trades in 2000. His tenure was marked by his aggressive representation of working men and women. His many accomplishments include

successfully pushing an effort to recruit minorities into area unions and his work in setting up programs designed to prepare individuals for entry into an apprenticeship program. He also worked tirelessly to get members of labor registered to vote and elected to office.

Jay's love of service goes beyond his work with his fellow tradesmen and women. Jay has maintained a long career in public service and has served on the Economic Development Corporation of Decatur/Macon County, the City of Decatur Electrical Commission, and currently the Macon County Board as its chairman. Jay has shown a dedication to our community that is second to none.

I wish Jay, his wife Cheryl and his family the best as Jay prepares to retire.

HONORING THE LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Liberty High School Varsity Cheerleading team in capturing their second straight state championship.

Once again, the Liberty Varsity Cheerleaders were able to be crowned champions this year through hard work and tireless effort. This is the second straight year in a row the Blue Jays have won the state competition and the first time that Liberty High School has won consecutive state championships. To accomplish this feat was no easy task. The team started training in April and worked vigorously through each day of the summer.

Additionally, I want to recognize the exceptional leadership of coaches Brenda Moats, Daisy King, and Allison Kenealy. Through their vision and guidance, the Blue Jays were able to repeatedly deliver solid results with great athleticism and finesse.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the Liberty High School Varsity Cheerleading team on their state championship.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S UKRAINIAN SERVICE

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service on its 60th Anniversary and to honor this organization for its commitment to broadcasting accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to Ukraine.

Founded in 1949, the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service broadcasts two hours of television programming per week to approximately 4.7 million viewers in Ukraine. This service provides up-to-date information on international and American news, as well as feature stories about American life and social trends.

Voice of America's Ukrainian Service has been a steady source of unbiased information for Ukrainian citizens from the height of the Cold War to the collapse of the Soviet Union. More recently, this service was a vital source of commentary and analysis during the Orange Revolution in 2004, which saw the election of a pro-Western Ukrainian majority.

Thanks to the dedication of its staff, Voice of America's Ukrainian Service has played an important role in promoting United States diplomacy and democratic values to Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians continue to benefit from the service's commitment to journalistic excellence.

Voice of America's Ukrainian Service will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on December 11, 2009 at Voice of America headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service for reaching this milestone and commending the continued efforts of this service to aid in the full integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SHIRLEY LAI

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Shirley Lai for her lifetime of community service to the people of Guam. Shirley passed away on November 28, 2009. Shirley was born in a small village in Canton, China on September 5, 1931 and later moved with her parents and four siblings to Hong Kong.

Shirley and her husband, Kwong Choy Lai, and her eight young children, moved to Guam in the late 1970s. Shirley started the Estimewa Restaurant, one of Guam's first restaurants specializing in Chinese cuisine. In 1983, after renting a vacant barbershop in an old hotel in Hagåtña, the capital of Guam, she opened her first coffee shop with only two employees. Shirley blended flavors of American, Chinese, Filipino and local Chamorro cuisine, and a short time later Shirley's Coffee Shop quickly grew from a nine table coffee shop into a chain of six restaurants, four in Guam and two in Saipan.

Throughout her life, Shirley continually gave back to her community. Just as she contributed much to the community of Guam, she taught her children to be generous and that success is best measured by the community's reciprocity in trust and respect. She and her family provided assistance to the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Make-a-Wish Foundation as well as several sports leagues for children. She also assisted in disaster relief efforts during times of recovery in our region.

Like many who knew her as a close friend and community leader, I will miss Shirley. My thoughts and prayers are with her sons and their families; her daughter and husband; her fifteen grandchildren; and her great grand-daughter.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 225th birthday anniversary of former President Zachary Taylor. President Taylor was born in Orange County, Virginia, on November 24, 1784, to a family with a background in military service. His father, Richard Taylor, fought in the Revolutionary War, and Zachary followed in his footsteps in 1808 as he started a military career of his own. Zachary Taylor was personally appointed by his cousin James Madison to serve as a first lieutenant in the War of 1812, and he led many successful battles thereafter.

Because of Zachary Taylor's military accomplishments, he achieved national recognition, and won the Whig Party nomination for President in 1848. Subsequently, he became the twelfth President of the United States, joining the ranks of presidents born in Virginia. As President, Taylor implemented an effective foreign policy, especially in regards to forming a strong alliance with Great Britain.

Sadly, on July 4, 1850, after having served as President for only sixteen months, Zachary Taylor died unexpectedly. He served his country well both in the military and political fields. In honor of President Taylor, the United States Mint will be placing a Zachary Taylor coin into public circulation.

Please join me in remembering the many outstanding contributions of President Zachary Taylor.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OMNIBUS AUTHORIZATION ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act is a welcome committee innovation designed to achieve greater efficiency in handling local District of Columbia matters, most of which are of little importance or concern to Congress, but must come to Congress because they are restricted by Federal statute and cannot become D.C. law until approved by congressional action. All of the provisions in this bill have been passed or approved by the District of Columbia.

This bill contains several land-transfer provisions. In an important effort to continue to balance the city's growing need for land with the National Park Service's (NPS's) mission to protect park land, we are encouraged by the NPS's willingness to move forward with a few small land transfers. The land transfers consist of six small, unused parcels of land scattered throughout the city. Two of the parcels complete a previous Federal transfer to allow the development of the southwest waterfront to move forward. The other four small land transfers, mainly parts of schools and libraries, include a portion of the Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center in northwest Washington,

the old Meyer Elementary School site, the Shaw Junior High School recreational fields, and the southwest library site. Each of these small parcels will allow the District to develop play fields, encourage new development, and improve livability in the District of Columbia.

Also transferred is full ownership to the southwest waterfront, another important effort in the continuing revitalization of undervalued and underused areas, burdened by Federal ownership, which the Federal Government has no interest in using. The District of Columbia has created a new vision for the southwest waterfront that will draw visitors down 10th Street from the National Mall to the waterfront area. However, for reasons largely forgotten from the time of the original transfer of land to the District of Columbia from the NPS in 1960, the original law restricts the use of the land along the waterfront to lease-only arrangements, effectively cutting the city off from building any multi-use structures on the site and driving down its useful value. The restriction on the land, allowing the District only to lease the land, cuts off the District from moving ahead with residential plans that are necessary for badly needed taxpayer growth. Neither the NPS nor the Federal Government has any interest in the waterfront land, nor does it have interest in the future of the southwest waterfront parcels, other than the Maine Lobsterman Memorial and the Titanic Memorial, which have been carved out of the transfer.

An issue integral to the southwest waterfront development is the authorization to narrow the Washington Channel. This bill would narrow the Washington Channel from its current 400 feet to 200 feet, allowing the District to build new piers out into the Washington Channel, to repair existing piers, and to facilitate the redevelopment of water-based activities on the waterfront. The Army Corps of Engineers is supportive of the change, but cannot make this change administratively, and the Coast Guard has indicated that there are no safety concerns in the proposed changes.

In addition to the land transfers, the bill makes several small, noncontroversial statutory changes that also are of no importance to the Federal Government, but will help the District run more smoothly and effectively. For instance, section two of the bill would eliminate the unnecessary restriction on the sale and advertising of lottery tickets in the "federal enclave" and in the Shipstead Luce area, which both include areas of downtown D.C. The current prohibition has a tremendous fiscal impact on the District and on private businesses.

Section three of the bill will allow the District to spend unanticipated local revenue that comes in after the District has submitted its budget to Congress, and will give the District authority to take money out of its cash reserve fund for cash-flow management, not to exceed 50 percent of the balance of the fund. Congress has approved these measures in the past, and this legislation simply seeks to make them permanent.

Section seven would exempt bonds issued by the District of Columbia from Federal, state, and local taxation. Currently, tax-exempt bonds issued by the District of Columbia are exempt from taxation only by the District and by the Federal Government. In contrast, bonds issued by Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are exempt from taxation by each of the 50 States. This change is necessary to

avoid disadvantage to the District in the sale of its bonds because this tax-exempt status will increase the demand for the District's bonds and, lower the interest rates that the District bonds pays on its bonds.

Section eight amends the D.C. Code to give the D.C. courts necessary authority and flexibility to operate efficiently and effectively. First, section eight eliminates the District's statutory requirement to hold judicial conferences on an annual basis. Given how accessible literature and information are through the internet, and specifically from the D.C. courts' websites, annual conferences are an unnecessary and time-consuming expense. This section simply gives the D.C. courts the discretion to hold judicial conferences either annually or biennially. In addition, this section gives the D.C. courts authority to delay or toll judicial proceedings in an emergency. The D.C. courts recognize the need to prepare for a catastrophic event, such as a terrorist attack or an act of nature. The D.C. courts already have authority to conduct sessions outside of the District if emergency conditions within the city prohibit normal operations. However, in emergency situations, conditions may impede the transfer of operations to outside of the District for a period of time. In these situations, the D.C. courts must have the authority to delay or toll proceedings. Similar bills have been introduced here in Congress regarding the Federal court system, and several States have enacted similar legislation. Finally, this section will give the D.C. courts authority to offer voluntary separation incentive payments or buyouts. These buyouts will allow the courts to respond to their future administrative and budget needs. Currently, Federal agencies and the Federal courts have the authority to offer buyouts.

Section nine of our bill makes minor changes to the District's Home Rule Charter. This section would permit an increase to the salary of the District's Chief Financial Officer, CFO, currently set at level I of the Executive Schedule. The charter mandates that the District's CFO "shall be paid at an annual rate equal to the rate of basic pay payable for level I of the Executive Schedule". The current law does not allow deviations either below or above that level. The District must have the authority to offer a higher annual salary to allow the District to compete with other jurisdictions to hire and retain the most qualified CFO. This section also reduced the timing for special elections for ward council members in the District from 114 days to 70 days to reduce the lapse in local representation, which is necessary and important to the citizens of the District. Current law already permits appointments for vacancies in the office of the Mayor, city council chair, and at-large council seats. This provision simply fills a necessary gap. Further, this section would amend the Home Rule Charter to allow the District to spend from its contingency reserve and emergency reserve funds when they exceed the minimum required balance as set by the charter. The District will continue to be required to replenish the funds if they fall below the minimum required balances.

We ask that the House pass this bill in a bipartisan manner, as it always has done for the D.C. omnibus authorization bills.

HONORING DAVE WILSON  
NURSERY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dave Wilson Nursery upon being named a "Legend of Agriculture" by the Ag Hall of Fame. Mr. Wilson was honored on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the twelfth annual Ag Hall of Fame Dinner in Turlock, California.

Mr. Dave Wilson began his career working at Kirkman Nursery, a prominent tree nursery. It was at Kirkman Nursery that Mr. Wilson had the opportunity to grow and develop Junebudded orchard trees. After fourteen years, Mr. Wilson departed from Kirkman Nursery and established his own nursery in 1938. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, he and his wife, Isabel, along with his wife's sister and brother-in-law, Pearle and Walter Mann, operated Empire Nursery, a garden center located east of Modesto, California. The nursery was renamed to Dave Wilson Nursery in the early 1940s. At this time, Mr. Wilson's son-in-law, John Wynne, joined the family business.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Wynne grew commercial orchard trees in a partnership until the company was incorporated in 1957. Mr. Wynne became president of the nursery in 1962 and five years later purchased the new headquarters for the nursery along the Tuolumne River east of Hickman, California, where the headquarters remains today. In the mid 1960s, the nursery established a sales and distribution facility in Hughson, California. In 1966, Dave Wilson Nursery introduced the first tree fruit varieties developed by Floyd Zaiger, and the nursery remains the primary propagator and exclusive licensor of Mr. Zaiger varieties, with annual sales of over a million trees of patented varieties and rootstocks. In 1986 the sales and distribution facility was relocated to the nursery's growing grounds in Hickman to better facilitate management of the operation. In 1979, an office, test orchard and sales yard was established in Selma, California, which was later relocated to Reedley, California in 1995.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dave Wilson Nursery upon being named as a "Legends of Agriculture." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dave Wilson Nursery many years of continued success.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION  
FOR THE LIFE OF ISIAH JESSIE  
WILLIAMS, III

HON. CORRINE BROWN  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Isiah Jessie "Ike" Williams, III.

We are deeply and profoundly saddened by the loss of our dear friend, mentor and brother

"Ike" Williams. This man of great stature and bearing was the epitome of a gentleman and a scholar. We were moved by his passion, emboldened by his commitments, honored by his friendship and made all the better by his innate wisdom and his belief in the integrity of the human experience. His was a purposeful life and one that helped shape the destinies of historical figures with whom he conversed, and equally so that of the common man and woman, in whom he placed unwavering faith. We came to know him as a dedicated servant to his people and just causes, a scholar and historian without comparison. We were assured for we came to know the absoluteness of his word, the sanctity of his promise, the depth of his intellect, the breadth of his worldly experiences, his place in history, and of his true love for his wife, his family and his friends.

We come now to remember the man, the Korean War Veteran, the lawyer, the educator, the editor and publisher and most precisely we come to remember our friend. We are poised to remember him as repository of our histories—spoken, written and shared. His was the force of change through direct action, intervention, education and by challenging the very fabric of society. By his very being we were blessed; and in this moment in our collective memories, we pray for the family and find solace in the knowledge that "Ike" has found that eternal peace in the embrace of his Heavenly Father.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCED ACT

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, depression and bipolar disorders affect one in five people and are the leading cause of disability among individuals between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States. The economic burden of depression is estimated at \$83.1 billion each year. With medication, psychotherapy, or combined treatment, most people with mood disorders can be effectively treated and resume productive lives. Yet, one-third of those suffering from depression—nearly five million Americans—do not receive the necessary treatment.

For these reasons, I am proud to introduce the Establishing a Network of Health-Advancing National Centers of Excellence for Depression Act of 2009 (the ENHANCED Act) with my colleague, Representative TIM MURPHY (R-PA). This legislation would establish national centers of excellence for the treatment of depressive and bipolar disorders. Currently, clinicians lack universally accepted multi-disciplinary approaches and real-time clinical and care management guidelines they need. As a result, about 50 percent of the time the diagnoses of depression and bipolar are missed. Better diagnostic approaches are needed in primary care, other medical settings, and mental health programs.

To combat this, the ENHANCED Act would create a national network with a pathway for developing and expanding up to 30 depression centers of excellence to increase access to the most appropriate and evidence-based

depression care. This concept is based on work done informally by 16 academic research institutions across the Nation that have joined together to create a network of depression centers that take academic research and translate it into practice, standardize diagnoses, treat early and more effectively, and prevent recurrences of depression and bipolar disorders, as well as eradicate the stigma associated with these diseases. These centers will develop and disseminate evidence-based treatment standards, clinical guidelines, and protocols to improve accurate and timely diagnosis of depression and bipolar disorders.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the passage of this critical legislation.

#### CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JERRY EDISON HOCKADAY

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Edison Hockaday on the eve of his retirement after 50 years with the Angier and Black River Fire Department in Angier, North Carolina.

Mr. Hockaday was born on May 28, 1941 and joined the Angier and Black River Fire Department on January 1, 1960 when he was just 20 years old. He quickly rose through the ranks and has been the Deputy Fire Chief for the last ten years. In his 50 years with the Angier and Black River Fire Department, he has responded to fires, auto accidents, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, electrical storms and other various rescue situations. He has shared his knowledge with young firefighters, many of whom have continued on to become officers with the department or other professionals with the fire service. Jerry is a tireless servant of the community and the Angier and Black River Fire District has been fortunate to have him.

I know how important it is to have firefighters ready for action with the training and resources they need. The Angier and Black River Fire Department is part of a vast network of fire officers and other public safety personnel who devote their lives to protecting their communities and responding to crisis situations. When a person dials 9-1-1 in an emergency, the phone doesn't ring in Washington, D.C., it rings right here in our community. I served on the House Committee on Homeland Security from its inception until this past year, and one of my highest priorities on the committee was to make sure the Department of Homeland Security works as closely as possible with local emergency management officials and first responders. The responsibility of the Federal government must be to protect the American people, and a large part of that is supporting local fire departments in their work.

The job of a fireman is not easy, and Jerry risked his life everyday for his neighbors and his community. He is a true American hero. I am proud to have Jerry in my community, and I ask my colleagues to join in congratulating his bravery and half a decade of diligent service.

#### HONORING ARTHUR GOLDEN

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Arthur Golden of Longboat Key, Florida, whose family members are my constituents. Mr. Golden was born in October 1923, and is the second child of Russian Jewish immigrants. His parents taught him to value freedom and emphasized the important role each individual has in ensuring freedom and equality for all.

After graduating from City College of New York, Mr. Golden married and enlisted in the Army. During World War II, he fought on the front lines in France and stood stoically in the streets of Marseilles as the American soldiers were honored on VE Day. When he returned from war, Mr. Golden entered the workforce as an accountant to take care of his extended family and shortly thereafter began his lifelong career and dedication to civil liberties. He volunteered his time with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Golden and his wife were actively involved in the fight for equal opportunity housing projects and exposing landlords who refused to rent to African Americans and minorities. They were honored to have Dr. King visit their home and become friends with the family. When Dr. King was murdered, Mr. Golden immediately flew to Atlanta to be with Mrs. King and to assist with her financial matters.

After Mr. Golden retired, he and his wife moved to Florida and continued their commitment to the civil rights struggle, discovering injustices in the Jamie Poe Housing Project in Sarasota. They formed a committee and fought for the residents to keep their homes.

Mr. Golden's children are extremely proud of him and remember being taken to countless civil rights meetings, demonstrations, marches, protests, and community events. His family was touched when upon Barack Obama's election, tears flowed from a man who rarely shows emotion.

Mr. Golden, an eighty-six-year-old World War II veteran and lifelong civil rights fighter, has been an inspiration to his family, his community, and his Nation. His lifelong dedication to standing up for others in need and fighting for civil liberties is a legacy that is being carried on today by his children, grandchildren, and countless others influenced by his example.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the lifetime achievements of Arthur Golden and the contributions he has made to our Nation and our community.

#### HONORING JACK WILLIAM WAGNER

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the late Jack William Wagner. Jack passed

away on November 30th at the age of 85. His funeral is tomorrow in Mt. Morris, Michigan.

Jack Wagner was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving in World War II aboard the destroyer USS *Sampson*. When the war ended he returned to the Flint area and began working for General Motors. He was active in the United Auto Workers throughout his career. Elected by his peers, Jack served as President of Buick Local 599 before becoming the International Representative for UAW Region 1-C, and Assistant Regional Director of Region 1-C. He was the National Chairman of the 30 and Out Committee that became part of the 1970 National Agreement and continued to serve as Honorary Chairman of the 30 and Out Committee.

Mourning his passing are his two sons, Bryan and Jack, his step daughter, Susan Norling, his sisters, Miriam Routely and Verda Mello, several grandchildren and great grandchildren, friends including Don Spillman, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, his son, Gary, and his sister, Mildred Burgoyne.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life and work of Jack William Wagner. He was a committed, passionate advocate for working men and women; a devoted family man and a good friend. I will miss his wisdom, his insight, and his enthusiasm. My condolences go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

STATEMENT OF THE CO-CHAIRS  
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS  
ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS  
AND TURKISH AMERICANS

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WHITFIELD and myself, as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, Turkey Caucus, want to welcome Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to the United States. We believe the Prime Minister's visit reaffirms the longstanding strategic partnership between the United States and Turkey, and is a unique opportunity to enhance and foster economic, political, and security relations.

As many of our Congressional colleagues know, our NATO ally Turkey valiantly stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States and European partners throughout the Cold War. Over the past 20 years, Turkey has been integral to American and NATO efforts in the Balkans and has worked to enhance peace and stability in Central Asia and the Middle East. Turkey has also played a critical leadership role along with America and the international community in both Afghanistan and Iraq. We are hopeful that Turkey will continue to play a leading role alongside the United States, P5+1 partners and the international community with respect to Iran's nuclear program.

We also want to highlight and praise the historic steps recently taken by Prime Minister Erdoğan and his government to normalize Turkey's relations with its neighbor Armenia. With the support of the United States, both countries on October 10, 2009 signed two proto-

cols to achieve this goal. We believe that, with the continuing support of the United States and the international community, these protocols will provide a new impetus for the solution of other conflicts in the South Caucasus region.

Many of our colleagues appreciate the growing importance of our strategic relationship with Turkey which was described by President Obama during his visit to Turkey in April as a "Model Partnership." We are heartened by the fact that the Turkey Caucus, which began over 8 years ago, now numbers one hundred members.

The growth of the Turkey Caucus is a testament to the importance that members of Congress place on U.S.-Turkish relations and a recognition of the longstanding partnership between our two nations. Again, we welcome Prime Minister Erdoğan to Washington, and believe that his discussions with President Obama and the Administration will only serve to strengthen the U.S.-Turkish partnership as we face difficult global challenges.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$12,090,825,003,370.26. We have increased the national debt \$1,598,537,727.69 since just yesterday.

On January 6, 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 \$1,452,399,257,076.46 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 \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. IRENE KHAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the Obama Administration, in forging a new foreign policy that is more humane and less antagonistic towards other nations, would do well to follow the lead of the late Tom Lantos, who dedicated his life to the cause of human rights, an issue that has now become his legacy. Indeed, it is rare for the House to name an entity after one of its own, but the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, chaired by our colleague Jim MCGOVERN, can rightly claim that distinction.

Throughout his public career, Tom Lantos and his wife, Annette, maintained a deep and enduring commitment to human rights. Among the members of this chamber, Tom Lantos was widely respected across the political spectrum for his knowledge of foreign policy

and commitment to human rights. The issue was the very core of his beliefs and his eloquent voice became this chamber's conscience on many international issues.

Few in today's world can match Tom Lantos' commitment and achievements in the cause of human rights, but if there were such a person, it would be Dr. Irene Khan, who in 2001 became the first woman, the first Asian, the first Bangladeshi and the first Muslim to hold the position of Secretary General of Amnesty International.

Dr. Khan's caring about human rights victims and the poor dates back to her native Bangladesh's early struggle for independence, as she witnessed widespread poverty and multiple threats to human dignity. It has been a combination of her personal outreach to human rights victims and case studies from around the world, combined with her professional involvement in U.N. Organizations, that led to her being selected to head Amnesty International.

In her recently published book, *The Unheard Truth*, Dr. Khan describes the divergent tracks of a fellow Bangladeshi who was born in the same household and she grew up with, and while Khan went on to be a successful lawyer, her friend, Fajal, suffered a lifetime of violence and unemployment, and is now disabled, living in a shack in one of Dhaka's sprawling slums, surviving on handouts.

For Dr. Khan, this is a grim reminder of how people remain hopelessly trapped in poverty, often due to circumstances beyond economic conditions but rather the result of political repression, famine, war, or simply the insecurity and fear inherent in their local surroundings.

In her book, Dr. Khan reveals a more acute understanding of the forces that bring about human rights abuses. Poverty, she argues, is more than the lack of material resources, it is all about fighting deprivation, exclusion, insecurity and powerlessness.

As the numbers of people living in poverty swell to upwards of 2 billion, she argues that poverty is the world's worst human rights crisis. By raising the issue of rights, Dr. Zhan is not pointing fingers but providing a formula for sustainable and equitable solutions, and giving people the means to change the power imbalance that keeps them in poverty.

To achieve Tom Lantos' vision of the banner of human rights waving "over every corner of the world," I recommend that international leaders adhere to Dr. Khan's compelling message on the need to empower the world's poor with the basic economic, social, political, and legal rights to assure them a strong voice in shaping their own future.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA'S COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Alma Mater, the Collegiate High School Football team on winning the 2009 Virginia Independent Schools Division I State championship. Led by Coach Mark Palyo, the Cougars compiled an impressive

10-1 record culminating in a 48-28 win over the Liberty Christian Academy Bulldogs in the Championship Game on November 21, 2009.

The Collegiate Cougars were successful in defending their state title which they have been awarded five out of their last seven seasons. I join the Richmond community, family and friends in proud recognition of the Collegiate High School Football team's fantastic achievement and undoubtedly bright future.

I commend the Cougars on their successful season and ask you to join me in celebrating their victory.

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THE HONOR FLAG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the American Flag always brings our Nation together in good or bad times. Shortly after the tragic September 11, 2001 attacks on our great Country, Americans all over the world raised up 'old glory' in patriotic understanding of the events which had just befallen our country. One of these many flags was the symbol of our nation's perseverance, humbly flown over Ground Zero. This flag continues to fly today all around this great Nation in support of our heroes, because of Texas Patriot Chris Heisler.

In the wake of September 11th, Chris Heisler, felt compelled to take action after witnessing his country come under attack. Chris was instrumental in organizing one of the longest police motorcades in the history of the United States; carrying a flag that was gifted to him by the Texas House of Representatives he set out for Ground Zero. The American flag is a symbol to revere, respect, and honor and Chris' profound respect for America's symbol should be commended.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, patriotism surged in the United States. Many new recruits enlisted to help fight the war on terrorism. Chris Heisler was part of this movement, and at the age of 34 he put his business career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army. While serving his country, Chris carried his revered flag with him to Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq so it could fly with soldiers in combat zones.

Soon soldiers would refer to this flag as one of honor, and the flag is now named the United States Honor Flag. The United States Honor Flag continues to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting the freedoms we all hold dear. Chris Heisler's patriotism is a lesson for us all.

Madam Speaker, betterment in our country often originates from the efforts of just one person. The establishment of the Honor Flag serves as an important reminder of the daily sacrifices our Nations heroes make, and recognizes the freedoms of Old Glory. In recognition of Chris Heisler's patriotism, in remembrance of the tragic events on September 11, 2001 and for those who continue to fight to preserve our liberty, I am proud to salute Chris Heisler for his loyalty to America, and to the United States Flag.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT HEALTH AND REAL MEDICATION ACCESS COST SAVINGS ACT OF 2009

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, prescription drugs are among the most expensive components of the American health care system. Unfortunately, the system for delivering drugs that has emerged since Congress created the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit program continues to needlessly drive up these costs for taxpayers and consumers.

Falling on the promises to deliver prescription drugs more efficiently, effectively or at lower costs, pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, are reducing consumer choice and adding billions of dollars in costs for government and private health care plans.

As a result, today I will introduce the "Patient Health and Real Medication Access Cost Savings Act of 2009" to ensure cost savings, accountability and transparency. The bill will ensure that taxpayers, providers and patients can escape the mandates, secret pricing schemes, and marginal savings provided by PBMs in favor of an improved pharmacy model that guarantees choice, transparency and measurable savings.

Madam Speaker, nearly 60 large employers that collectively spend \$4.9 billion for prescription drugs recently dropped or forced PBMs to disclose their costs. The University of Michigan started the trend in 2005, and reported an annual savings of \$2.5 million when it dropped its PBM in favor of direct purchases. Officials at the University of Michigan are on record as saying that most of its derived savings came from eliminating fees from its former pharmacy benefit manager and from using the claims data to help school officials better negotiate prescription drug prices.

Additionally, companies like Caterpillar are leading the trend away from the PBM model. According to a recent report in CFO.com, Caterpillar's pharmacy benefit manager indicated that the company "found that there was a great deal of waste inherent in a system that uses PBMs as middle men."

This information led the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia to hold a hearing on June 24, 2009 to assess the value PBMs are providing to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). At that hearing, the subcommittee chairman indicated, "federal employee plans pay substantially more for drugs than other agency programs, including those run by the departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense, and Medicare, Medicaid and the Public Health Service."

Mark Merritt, who represents PBMs as president of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA), told the subcommittee that PBMs contributed to an annual reduction in drug spending by the FEHBP of 3–9 percent. At the same hearing, however, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Inspector General Patrick McFarland testified that the PBM contracts with FEHBP make auditing them "almost insurmountable."

There is no question that if Congress is to produce large savings as part of its efforts on

health care reform, it must challenge the PBM model that has emerged over the past few years with new models that contain costs and improve efficiency and transparency.

PCMA successfully lobbied Congress from 2001–2003 to allow PBMs to manage the massive new Medicare Part D drug delivery program. As a result of the industry's expanded market power, PBMs are now using new tactics to divert patients into higher-cost services, and to divert taxpayer savings into higher PBM profits. These practices represent a significant abuse of taxpayers and patients in the health care system. PBMs should be held accountable to taxpayers. No other providers in the health care sector are allowed to conduct business like PBMs.

With regards to patient data, pharmacists have complained for years to regulators that PBMs violate patient privacy laws by using their prescription data to push new products and steer patients to pharmacies owned by the PBMs. By comparison, physicians who "self-refer" to facilities they own face very serious legal liabilities. In addition, there is a concern that pharmacy benefit managers routinely sell patient drug histories to drug companies without the knowledge of patients, doctors or plan sponsors.

According to the Association of Community Pharmacists (ACP), patients receive letters every day from PBMs that use the confidential patient data pharmacies must collect to force them to move to pharmacies the PBMs own. ACP has collected thousands of petitions from patients who are asking Congress to stop this abuse of patient confidentiality. ACP has also collected actual letters to patients from PBMs that threaten to cut off pharmacy benefit coverage unless the patients fill their prescriptions at PBM-owned pharmacies.

In fact, PBMs have merged with pharmacy chains to accommodate this new marketing model, which relies on monopolization of drug care for patients in plans that are administered by the PBM. For example, CVS purchased the Caremark PBM company as soon as Congress passed the Medicare Part D program, which directs virtually all pharmacy services to go through PBMs. CVS/Caremark now mandates that all patients in its system use CVS exclusively to fill any prescriptions not mailed by Caremark. Patients who opt out, even if they are not near a CVS store, must pay 100 percent of their prescription costs regardless of how much they have paid in premiums for drug coverage. As a result, CVS now fills one of every seven prescriptions in the U.S.

PBMs also use predatory practices to steer patients away from competing pharmacies and into mail-only prescription drug services. For example, PBMs allow patients to obtain 90-day prescriptions—usually at big discounts—from their mail-order services. While this can be a bargain for patients, the retail pharmacies where patients may prefer to fill their prescriptions are prohibited from offering the same terms to the patient.

Coupled with the lack of enforcement action by the Federal Trade Commission, these PBM tactics are combined with a practice of systematic underpayment to any pharmacy that provides services to a patient whose drug benefit is managed by a PBM. The Association of Community Pharmacists has collected thousands of examples from pharmacies across the country that clearly demonstrate

that PBMs are refusing to reimburse any pharmacy for its actual cost of a drug if the pharmacy is competing with the PBM to serve the patient. This is despite the fact that the pharmacies are required under Medicare and other federal programs to submit all costs they incur for the programs to the PBMs for reimbursement. Today, these tactics are being used to consolidate market power and destroy competition. The result is higher prices for taxpayers and consumers.

An additional concern for Congress, taxpayers and consumers is the complete lack of information about the actual prices PBMs pay for drugs. As a result, we have no way of knowing just how much PBMs profit from underpayments to pharmacies. I am also sure that many of my colleagues here are unaware that PBMs require pharmacies filling prescriptions under their plans to sign non-disclosure agreements that cover drug prices. This includes pharmacies that must deal with PBMs through Medicare and other government programs.

The role of the PBM has evolved in a relatively short period of time. PBMs emerged during the advent of managed care as pharmacy benefit administrators. Their role was to help large plans simply process drug benefit claims. The companies evolved into pharmacy benefit "managers" when they reached a scale large enough to steer volume sales for drug manufacturers.

Today, PBMs have tremendous and questionable impact on the rising costs in the current drug program. Community pharmacies purchase drugs from wholesalers to fill prescriptions, and submit reimbursement forms to the PBMs for any patients covered by the PBM plan.

PBMs that own their own pharmacies or mail programs simply pay the pharmacies below their actual acquisition cost for the drugs and pocket the difference. This provides two benefits to the PBMs. First, they make big profits on the spread between the low reimbursement they pay for the medication and the inflated price they charge the program. Second, it drives the competing pharmacies out of business, which allows further market share gains and increased pricing power.

More recently, the PBMs have developed an additional revenue stream. When Congress passed the Medicare Part D program, large pharmacy chains realized the value of merging with PBMs. The merged companies now control huge shares of the prescription drug market, and use this control to extract fees from competing pharmacy retailers that service Part-D patients.

In short, Madam Speaker, PBMs have simply placed themselves in the middle of the drug supply chain between manufacturers or wholesalers and retailers without any proof that they add value. The "Patient Health and Real Medication Access Cost Savings Act of 2009" will help end these abuses by requiring transparency. It will also ensure that lower-cost generic medications are prescribed when appropriate whenever taxpayers are paying the bill. Most important, the bill will make sure that Congress and the taxpayers we serve can actually measure the savings they have been promised.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me say that my home state of North Carolina is a model for how to achieve savings by moving away from the PBM model in its state administered

drug benefits program. Under its plan, generic utilization has already increased, and the state projects annual utilization to reach nearly 75% in the first year. The North Carolina model proves that when retail pharmacies manage the drug benefits for plans, generic utilization increases even more. I am proud of what has been accomplished in my state, and can only hope that Congress will choose to focus on this issue so that all Americans can reap the benefits and savings from a similar approach at the federal level.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to an illness, I was absent for votes on November 16, 17, 18 and 19. Please see a list of votes I missed.

Rollcall vote No. 889: S. 1314: To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon, As the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office."

Rollcall vote No. 890: H.R. 3539: To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 427 Harrison Avenue in Harrison, New Jersey, As the "Patricia D. McGinty-Juhl Post Office Building."

Rollcall vote No. 891: H.R. 3767: To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 170 North Main Street in Smithfield, Utah, As the "W. Hazen Hillyard Post Office Building."

Rollcall vote No. 892: H.R. 3360: Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act: H.R. 3360.

Rollcall vote No. 893: H. Res. 841: Expressing Support for Designation of November 29, 2009, As "Drive Safer Sunday."

Rollcall vote No. 894: On Approving the Journal.

Rollcall vote No. 895: H. Res. 891: Expressing the Gratitude of the House of Representatives for the Service to Our Nation of the Coast Guard and Marine Corps Aircraft Pilots and Crewmembers Lost Off the Coast of California on October 29, 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 896: H. Con. Res. 214: Providing for a Conditional Adjournment of the Two Houses.

Rollcall vote No. 897: Previous Question on H.R. 3791, Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 898: Rule for H.R. 3791, Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 899: Perlmutter of Colorado Amendment to H.R. 3791.

Rollcall vote No. 900: Flake of Arizona Amendment to H.R. 3791.

Rollcall vote No. 901: H.R. 3791: Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 902: Previous Question on H.R. 2781 to Amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to Designate Segments of the Molalla River in Oregon, As Components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for Other Purposes.

Rollcall vote No. 903: Rule for H.R. 2781 to Amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to Designate Segments of the Molalla River in Oregon, As Components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for Other Purposes.

Rollcall vote No. 904: S. 1599; Reserve Officers Association Modernization Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 905: H.R. 2781: To Amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to Designate Segments of the Molalla River in Oregon, As Components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for Other Purposes.

Rollcall vote No. 906: H. Con Res. 212: Expressing the Sense of Congress on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Historic Events in Central and Eastern Europe, Particularly the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, and Reaffirming the Bonds of Friendship and Cooperation Between the United States and the Slovak and Czech Republics.

Rollcall vote No. 907: Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 3961: Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 908: Motion to Recommit H.R. 3961: Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 909: H.R. 3961: Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009.

Rollcall vote No. 910: H.R. 1834: Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE WORLD MARCH FOR PEACE AND NON- VIOLENCE

#### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution commending the participants and organizers of the inaugural World Peace March.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, "Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man."

The idea for this march was developed during the Symposium of the World Center for Humanist Studies in Punta de Vacas, Argentina. The result is a 90-day global voyage to raise awareness about the importance of peace and nonviolence. More than 100 participants will visit 45 countries encouraging a global movement towards peace.

On the 140th anniversary of Mahatma K. Gandhi's birth, the World March for Peace and Non-Violence began in Wellington, New Zealand. The participants have since traveled across Asia, Europe, and Africa, through many countries in opposition to militarism, war, and violence. Upon arriving in the United States, the teams divided to travel across the country and to Canada before beginning the final leg of their journey through Central and South America en route to Argentina.

I applaud the participants for their commitment to nonviolence and their determination to follow in the footsteps of Gandhi and Dr. King. Earlier this year, I led a congressional delegation to India to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. King's pilgrimage. Upon return, I introduced H.R. 3328, the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009, a bill to establish initiatives through the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Institute of Peace to rededicate our nation and educate our future leaders about the power of peace.

Madam Speaker, I have dedicated my life to Gandhi's words, "Nonviolence is a weapon of the strong." Nonviolence was the foundation of the Civil Rights and Quit India movement. I hope that all of my colleagues will appreciate the value of nonviolence as a means to achieving both domestic and global peace. I hope they will join me in support of this very simple resolution.

**DARÍO SILVA-SILVA: A GREAT  
COMMUNITY LEADER**

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Darío Silva-Silva for being such an inspiring member of our south Florida community and for his community service and humanitarian work. His exemplary work and dedication to journalism, his church and our community.

Darío, born in Colombia, has been a Protestant preacher, social commentator and journalist for more than 30 years. His service has been promoted through numerous print media, radio stations and television channels. Silva is the minister of the Christian church The House Over the Rock, with twenty congregations in Colombia and one in Miami. He is the director of the television show "Hechos y Crónicas", which is seen in various countries in Latin-American. In addition, he is a visiting professor at the Continued Studies School at the University of Miami Koubek Memorial Center and is a member of the Advisory Logo Counsel of the Christian College in Jacksonville. In 2001, the city of Miami recognized Darío for his inspiring work and dedication by declaring December 15 as the "Day of Reverend Doctor Darío Silva-Silva."

Once again, I would like to express my admiration of Darío for his dedication to journalism, his faith and the community. I wish him well and know that he will spend many more years serving his fellow man.

**HONORING THE STUDENTS,  
TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT  
WAXHAW ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the students, teachers and administrators at Waxhaw Elementary School in Waxhaw, North Carolina. During the month of November, Waxhaw Elementary students collected 2,742 food items for the school's 2009 Food Drive.

The food went to provide Thanksgiving meals to twenty-five families in the area. Families were able to come to the school to "shop" for Thanksgiving items, and were able to select either a ham or a turkey to complete their meal.

At a time when families across our area struggle to put food on the table, I am so impressed by the compassion and willingness to

help others shown by the Waxhaw Elementary family. Students not only contributed to the food drive, but were able to experience the reward that comes with helping others. What better lesson can we teach our young people, especially during the holiday season?

Madam Speaker, I am honored to say that I represent Waxhaw Elementary School. In a day and age where people tend to think only of themselves, here is a shining example of a group of young people who have reached out to make their community a better place by helping the less fortunate. I hope that this wonderful effort will continue at Waxhaw Elementary for many years to come.

**HONORING MR. STEPHEN  
HODGKINS**

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to congratulate Mr. Stephen Hodgkins as he ends a successful term as President of the Memphis Area Homebuilders Association.

As homebuilders in Memphis and across Shelby, Fayette and Tipton County continue to weather an unrelenting storm of economic uncertainty, Stephen has provided a strong and steady hand of unwavering leadership that has shined as a beacon of hope and instilled confidence in MAHA members when his organization has needed it the most.

Throughout the course of his term as President, Stephen has been a relentless advocate for homebuilders and has worked tirelessly in reaching out to legislators in Nashville and in Washington, DC. Throughout our many discussions I have always found Stephen's advice to be insightful as we continue to look for ways to reinvigorate the housing market and alleviate the hardships that continue to face homebuilders across West Tennessee.

While the forecast for the housing market still remains unclear one thing that has always been certain is that Stephen's success as a leader is deeply rooted in the skills he has developed over 36 years as a mortgage banker and later through the launch of his home building company Oaktree Homes LLC.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Stephen Hodgkins for a successful term as President of the Memphis Area Homebuilders Association and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

**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.

In addition to stopping the Medicare physician payment cuts, the legislation also would implement the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act. This Act 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 MEMORY OF NAO TAKASUGI

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Nao Takasugi, a former California assemblyman and Oxnard mayor, who passed away last week after 87 years of dedication to family, friends, his country and his community.

Nao and I served together on the Ventura County Regional Sanitation Board more than 30 years ago and he and his wife, Judy, quickly became friends with me and my wife, Janice. I have also been friends with his son Russell for more than 30 years through Russell's law partnership with Bob Huber. They are a close and strong family.

Nao was an incredible gentleman. I don't think I ever heard him raise his voice. His strength was in quiet determination, a will to do good always, and an undyingly optimistic outlook.

Nao's parents immigrated to the United States from Japan and set up shop in Oxnard, California, where Nao was born on April 5, 1922. When World War II broke out, Nao was

a junior at UCLA and he was called home to help his family pack their belongings. With thousands of other Japanese-Americans, the Takasugi family was sent to internment camps, first at the Tulare County fairgrounds and then at Gila River, Arizona.

Nao's parents would have lost the Asahi Market his father had owned and operated since 1907 if it hadn't been for an employee, Ignacio Carmona, who offered to run it in their absence. When the family returned, Ignacio handed the keys over and thanked Nao's father for the opportunity to run the business.

Nao's family spent the entire war in an internment camp but Nao was offered an opportunity to continue his studies through a program run by the American Friends Service Committee and the Quakers in Philadelphia. He completed his business degree at Temple University in 1945 and went on to earn his master's from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Then he returned to Oxnard to help run Asahi Market.

In Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, Nao described the internment camp experience this way: "I find that I am compelled to remember the best—not the worst—of that time. To focus not on the grave deprivation of rights which beset us all, but rather on the countless shining moments of virtue that emerged from the shadows of that dark hour."

Nao's road into politics mirrored my own. When the city denied his plans for a new sign, he decided politics needed a businessman's perspective. He was appointed to the planning commission, ran for city council and won, ran for mayor and won consecutive terms, ran for the California Assembly and was elected to three terms, then was elected to two terms on the Oxnard Harbor Commission.

Nao experienced the best and the worst that America had to offer during often trying times. Many Americans experienced the best America has to offer because of Nao's friendship, compassion and dedication to his country. I will miss him.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our condolences to Judy, their children, and all their family and friends, and in remembering a gentle man who left an indelible mark.

HONORING SHANNON BOAZ OF  
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shannon Boaz, wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend and inspiration to all who came in contact with her, who passed away November 21, 2009, after a long battle with leukemia.

Shannon was an extraordinary woman who did not let her terminal diagnosis dampen her fighting spirit. She was first diagnosed with leukemia in June 2008, but by December of that year, the disease had remarkably gone into remission. She immediately began working with the committee in her hometown of Healdsburg, California to organize the annual anti-cancer "Relay for Life," which was held in

June 2009 and was named the Relay's Survivor Honoree.

Fate intervened on the last day of the Relay when her doctors determined that her cancer had returned. During the last four months of her life, much of it spent in the hospital, she continued to work with and comfort other leukemia and cancer patients.

To family and friends, Shannon would often state that she had the perfect life with her husband, Healdsburg Fire Captain Jason Boaz, and their two young sons, Jackson and Austin.

Shannon was born in Los Angeles on November 22, 1970, and moved to Sonoma County when she was five years old. She graduated from Geyserville High School in 1988 and received a degree in Business Administration from California Polytechnic State University in 1993.

Following college, she worked as a flight attendant for United Airlines and was in the air on 9/11, flying from Boise, Idaho to San Francisco. Shannon took a furlough following 9/11 to raise her family and manage the construction of the family home in Healdsburg. She worked as a realtor at Full Spectrum Properties in Healdsburg for the last few years of her life.

Madam Speaker, Shannon Boaz was a respected and well loved member of the Healdsburg community who will be missed by her family and friends. It is therefore appropriate that we remember and honor her today.

HONORING RON EMERZIAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ron Emerzian upon being named "Citizen of the Year" by the American Legion, Post 74. Mr. Emerzian was recognized on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at the 62nd annual Citizen of the Year dinner and Veterans Day observance in Modesto, California.

Mr. Ron Emerzian was born and raised in Modesto, California. Upon graduating from Stanford University, he moved back to his hometown. He went to work for E & J Gallo Winery, where his primary focus was on sales and distribution. He also served as the vice president of sales, vice president of organizational development and vice president of corporate giving and community affairs for the company. After 47 years with E & J Gallo Winery, Mr. Emerzian retired.

Since his retirement, Mr. Emerzian has turned his attention to community involvement. He has served as the chairman of the board for several local non-profits, including California State University, Stanislaus, the United Way, YMCA, Stanislaus Partners in Education, and the Education Foundation of Stanislaus County. Currently, Mr. Emerzian serves as the chairman of the United Way Children's Council and the After-school Coalition of Stanislaus. He serves on the board of Save Mart Cares, Juline's Foundation for Children, and the United Samaritans, which serves 35,000 meals to the hungry every month. He is also a member of the Modesto Rotary. Earlier this year, Mr. Emerzian was named chairman of the board for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto.

Mr. Emerzian has been married to Janice for 44 years. They have two sons, Michael and Matthew. Michael attended Stanford and the University of California, Los Angeles, and is currently a physician living in Sacramento with his wife and their two children. Matthew attended the University of California, Los Angeles for his bachelor's degree and his graduate work. He currently lives in Los Angeles and has recently co-authored a book "Every Monday Matters".

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ron Emerzian upon being named "Citizen of the Year." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Emerzian many years of continued success.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING  
COLONEL DANIEL L. RUBINI

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend Colonel Daniel L. Rubini.

Colonel Daniel L. Rubini, or Larry as we all know him, has dedicated his life to the rule of law, traveling across the globe to help struggling nations, often engulfed in devastating conflicts, establish the fundamental elements of a successful democracy. A 40-year Bucks County resident, Colonel Rubini has lent his expertise and commitment to make life better for veterans and military families across our region, always lending a hand when his brothers and sisters of the Armed Forces find themselves in need.

It's been my privilege to work alongside Colonel Rubini as we fought to finally bring a Veterans Cemetery to Bucks County, an honor long overdue for the veterans of southeastern Pennsylvania. He's been the driving force to clean up the unmarked graves at Washington's Crossing Park to make sure that those first American soldiers get the recognition they deserve. I have been proud to partner with Colonel Rubini to help the men and women of Iraq and Afghanistan who have risked their lives to assist the American military as translators. Those brave souls have no greater advocate than Colonel Rubini, who has helped countless men and women find safe haven from those who seek to harm them because they stood up for their country and fought for democracy. No matter what, Colonel Rubini is always there to make sure returning soldiers receive a warm welcome home, as well as a warm meal.

Colonel Rubini will be receiving the William H. Eastburn III Award from the Bucks County Bar Association for his contributions to the Bucks County judicial system. The award goes to someone who has encouraged a greater respect and understanding for the law, and challenged others to take personal responsibility as citizens.

Colonel Rubini has done great things, not just for this Nation, but for countries throughout the world. He has helped to bring the rule of law to places like Kuwait and Haiti, while continuing to fight for justice in Pennsylvania. He's a true veteran's advocate and I'm proud to call him my friend.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we honor and congratulate Colonel Daniel L. Rubini for his contribution to Bucks County but also to the rest of the world. He's a true American hero.

WARM WISHES FOR A FULL  
RECOVERY FOR JAMES P. RIDDEL

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my warmest wishes

for a full recovery to retired Fairfax County Police Officer, Jim Riddel. Jim retired from the Police Department in 1980 as a Special Police Officer, having spent 20 years protecting Fairfax residents. The Fairfax County Police Department continues to be recognized as one of the best in the nation, so it is no slight to the current and former officers, but instead a true compliment to Jim, that he has been called by a number of sources, the best Detective that the County has ever had. Although Jim has been retired for 19 years, his hard work on behalf of the community continued. Jim was particularly active in organizing the Fairfax County Retired Police Officers Association, providing

a helpful fellowship for retired police officers and their surviving spouses. He remains a tireless community activist, constantly working on behalf of his neighbors. Jim successfully exited surgery today, and I look forward to his speedy convalescence and his return to a lifetime of selfless service to Fairfax County.