

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. This bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian shall be considered a federal agency.

This bill was introduced in the Senate in 2008, and I saw it then and now as complementing my Smithsonian Modernization Act and my Smithsonian Free Admission Act. I introduce this bill today along with the other two because its purpose, like those, is to make the Smithsonian accountable for the 70 percent of its funding that comes from annual federal appropriations. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and had always been treated as a federal agency. However, in the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. Indeed, the Smithsonian's website clearly states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

The lack of transparency is of great concern, particularly in light of the Smithsonian's recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Smithsonian Board had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight, had overcompensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million in six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagements.

While the Smithsonian now has new leadership that is moving away from the mistakes of the past, its transparency should not depend on who is in charge. A federally supported entity must be accountable to the American people. The American people have a right to know that their interests are being served.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

### HONORING 19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEGISLATORS OF TEXAS

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and voice my support for a new monument that will be unveiled at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas, on March 30, 2010, to commemorate the state's African-American legislators of the 19th century.

This monument will serve as a reminder to all Texans of the role that African Americans have played in Texas political history and give credence to the first steps that these legislators made for the black community in the state. There were 52 African-American men who served in either the Texas legislature or were Constitutional Convention delegates during the last half of the 19th century, and while their time in office may have been short, their impacts can still be felt today.

I often reflect on the endurance and tenacity of these men who served a disenfranchised community during a politically volatile time in Texas history. They truly were political pioneers entering a system of government for the first time and working diligently to ensure a future for all African Americans and Texans. This work is not lightly forgotten, and that is why this monument is so important for people across the state and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me today in remembering the 19th century African-American legislators of Texas and to honor them by supporting this monument that will help Texans understand the work and sacrifices of these great legislators.

### HONORING LEWIS F. GOULD, JR.

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lewis F. "Lew" Gould Jr. for his longstanding selfless and passionate service to Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County.

As a four-term Lower Merion Township Commissioner, Lew has been a leading voice for fiscal responsibility and sound stewardship of community resources. He has earned the respect of his colleagues for his frankness and his willingness to mentor younger community leaders on the duties and responsibilities associated with governing the largest municipality in the 6th Congressional District.

Lew's efforts have earned him the 2010 Service Award from the Republican Committee of Lower Merion and Narberth. The

award will be presented during the Committee's annual Lincoln Day Dinner at the Merion Tribute House in Merion Station, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in extending our deepest appreciation to Lewis F. "Lew" Gould Jr. for his exemplary leadership, civic engagement and dedication to making Lower Merion Township a great place to live, work and raise a family.

### CONGRATULATING THOMAS THAYER FOR RECEIVING THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

#### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Thomas Thayer, the owner of International Truck Sales of Richmond, for his receiving of the International Circle of Excellence Award.

Tom's business, International Truck Sales of Richmond, is headquartered in Ashland, Virginia, where it was founded in 1998. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the pre-eminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation, with 109 employees and three dealer locations serving Richmond and its surrounding counties. In 2005, it was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. With this most recent award, International Truck Sales of Richmond has now received the Circle of Excellence Award under Tom's leadership a total of 13 times.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the international dealer organization, Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction.

Tom has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He has also built a successful truck leasing business, Idealease of Richmond, is the current chairman of the Truck Renting and Leasing Association, and is the past chairman of the Make a Wish Foundation. He is also involved with the Rotary Club, the United Way and the American Cancer Society. Despite all these activities, he still finds time to work the concession stand at James River High School on Friday nights, and serves as a band booster for his son, Robert, and his daughter, Leah.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you

● 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.

and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Thomas Thayer for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and Nation.

HONORING ROBERT WORKMAN ON  
THE ADMISSION OF HIS WORK  
TO THE MUSEE DU LOUVRE

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Workman, an acclaimed artist from Mt. Greenwood, Illinois. On January 15, 2010, Robert Workman's pen and ink drawing became the first American work of the 21st century admitted to the internationally renowned Louvre Museum in Paris.

A passionate artistic practitioner, Mr. Workman is a graduate of the Ecole du Louvre and the Art Institute of Chicago—two of the pre-eminent art institutions in the world. In addition to having a place in the Louvre, his work is part of the Archives of the Musees Nationaux de France. The specific piece of art admitted to the Louvre was a pen and ink work featuring an ancient Egyptian theme—mixing the human form with an array of hieroglyphic text. This work was credited by the head of the Department of Sculptures with bearing “witness to the international renown of the Louvre.”

Mr. Workman's art is only part of his contribution to society. He is a tireless author and illustrator, and has published numerous children's books and a graphic novel.

I ask you to join me in honoring Robert Workman for his remarkable achievements in art, and his recognition by the Musee du Louvre.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE BEIJING DEC-  
LARATION AND PLATFORM FOR  
ACTION AND INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 8, 2010, the world will mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action—the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace.

While we reflect on this milestone and celebrate the advancements of women thus far, we also need to pause and take stock of what more can be achieved. To fully live up to the goals of equality, development and peace it is imperative that we continue to promote opportunities for women to directly shape these policies by being involved in politics at all levels, and in all countries. Without this perspective, equality is no more than a hollow word.

The 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy states that true democracy cannot be achieved unless there is a genuine, equal and complementary partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society.

Even we in the United States, where there are only about 15 percent of women in legislative positions and only 33 percent in ministerial positions, have a long way to go to fulfill this principle. It is important that lawmakers, both here and abroad, advocate for policies that empower women. In many countries that I've traveled to, I have seen firsthand the need for support from governments, international bodies, NGO's, and local communities. It is especially important that we educate young women and girls from an early age in order to give them as many opportunities later in life.

Just this last Congress the United States joined the list of countries that have shattered the glass ceiling of female leadership in parliament, with the appointment of Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. We have yet to elect a female President—although we will surely see that day soon.

However, the leadership and courage of strong women in the United States who have broken down tough barriers continues to inspire many around the world. These women have demonstrated remarkable accomplishment our nation, and women across the globe can be proud of. They are a testament to the power of women everywhere.

Likewise we look to groundbreaking female leaders in other countries and praise their confidence and ability in forging the path for others to dare to fill their shoes and even go beyond. One of the best examples of this, is Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. She inspired many when she addressed a Joint Session of Congress.

The challenges faced by peoples everywhere are faced with the help of strong women. And today many women still face challenges fully acceding to all of the positions and roles formerly reserved for men. The impact and involvement of women is critical in reducing poverty, improving education and health care, reducing the violence against them, enhancing human rights on the whole, and even recovering from the brunt of the global economic crisis.

We celebrate these advancements, but continue to pursue and address the various challenges and inequalities women face day to day. I would like to thank the Inter-Parliamentary Union for its great work on this front and for calling this gathering today, in the spirit of cooperation and progress toward achieving the goals of equality, peace and development.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS FROM  
THE EAST VALLEY RETIRED  
AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PRO-  
GRAM

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the accomplishments of 11 retired Seniors from the East Valley who have been awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. This prestigious award honors those who have provided more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service over the course of their lifetime. The President's Volunteer Service Award program was created as a way to thank and honor Ameri-

cans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

This year's recipients of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement are exceptional individuals who epitomize the true meaning of service. These 11 honorees exhibit a sincere commitment to helping others and creating positive communities.

As a representative, I am fortunate to have such benevolent and dedicated individuals serving within my district. Each one of the recipients should serve as an inspiration for us all and encourage us to make service a central part of our lives.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to officially recognize Kay Fisher, Shigeko Godsey, Kenneth Hawkes, Marietta Hopkins, Gertrude Huhn, Rena Johnson, Peter Loguda, Pamela Manaos, Helen McShane, Susanne Ulbrish and Grant Whitney for their outstanding service to our community.

HONORING MR. PAUL HAZZARD

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Paul Hazzard. Mr. Hazzard served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Busti Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Hazzard served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Hazzard is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING NATIONAL PEACE  
CORPS WEEK

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week as National Peace Corp Week.

In October of 1960, when then-Senator John F. Kennedy was campaigning for the Presidency, he visited the University of Michigan. At about 2:00 AM in front of the University of Michigan Union, he first outlined his plan to create a program that would send Americans to countries around the globe for 2 years of service. He said that night:

“ . . . I think Americans are willing to contribute. But the effort must be far greater than we have ever made in the past. Therefore, I am delighted to come to Michigan, to this university, because unless we have those resources in this school, unless you comprehend the nature of what is being asked of

you, this country can't possibly move through the next 10 years in a period of relative strength."

Since that speech, more than 200,000 Americans have spent 2 years of their lives in parts of the world that many of us have never heard of. And right now, dozens of Peace Corp volunteers from the Seattle area alone are serving in countries as far as Mali, Turkmenistan and Cambodia. Participants have worked on everything from helping farmers produce more food to stave off hunger to teaching computer skills and helping governments bolster their technology infrastructure. While I've heard from many Peace Corp volunteers that their years of service are far from easy, they also tell me about the tremendous impact those years have on their education and how their time abroad helps build their character and self-esteem.

But the program does far more than just provide services to communities in other countries and enrich the lives of its volunteers. It helps participants come back with a far better understanding of other cultures. I have long believed that America's ability to operate in the world depends on how well we understand what's going on in other nations. President Kennedy understood that our nation's strength depended on our level of engagement in the global community, and the Peace Corp each year provides thousands of emissaries to places that the U.S. might not otherwise touch. In many ways, the Peace Corp is like community-based diplomacy.

And when participants return, many continue their service. Some, like my colleagues Senator CHRIS DODD, and Representatives HONDA, GARAMENDI, FARR, DRIEHAUS and PETRI, go on to serve in Congress. Other alums go on to serve in Foreign Service, including stints in USAID, the Organization of American States and the Department of State. Others serve in the non-profit sector in organizations like the Sierra Club and Catholic Relief Services. And many others join the National Peace Corp Association, an organization of some 30,000 former Peace Corp participants that helps keep them engaged in service and advocacy.

The Peace Corp has done enormous good around the world, so let us recognize the thousands of Americans who sacrificed and served. Let us reaffirm this week as National Peace Corp Week.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKAWAYA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE BAKERY'S 100  
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mikawaya on the occasion of its 100 year anniversary. This historic Los Angeles-based family-owned bakery has been a fixture in Little Tokyo in the heart of my congressional district since its founding in 1910.

Under the current dedicated leadership of Frances Hashimoto—the grand niece of the bakery's original founder—this successful enterprise continues to satisfy the sweet-tooths of Angelenos and dessert lovers throughout

the country with its wide assortment of delicious and original bakery items.

Mikawaya manufactures and sells traditional Japanese pastry and confectionary (wagashi), mochi ice cream, and gelato. In addition to its traditional "mochi-gashi" and "manju" that have been the foundation of the family business, Mikawaya has obtained nationwide popularity and success as the creator of Mochi Ice Cream along with its gelato offerings.

Madam Speaker, as Mikawaya celebrates its 100-year anniversary at the Kyoto Grand Hotel on March 8, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the entire Hashimoto family and their dedicated employees for bringing smiles to the faces of generations of customers who have enjoyed the unique and delicious Japanese-inspired ice cream and pastries that this one-of-a-kind bakery has to offer.

I extend to them my best wishes for many more innovative, productive and profitable years ahead.

To fully capture the remarkable story of the Hashimoto family and the 100 year history of their bakery, I would also like to submit the following historical overview:

"Just after the turn of the 20th century, two Japanese entrepreneurs decided to open a manju bakery. One of them was from Mikawa, an old Japan province in the area that today forms the eastern half of Aichi Prefecture. The "ya," or store in Japanese, was added to the end of the name to create the name "Mikawaya."

In 1910 Ryuzaburo Hashimoto purchased the company, which was located at 365 East First Street in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district. His nephew, Koroku Hashimoto and his wife Haru, took over the operations 15 years later and reopened at the newly built Olympic Hotel on North San Pedro Street, also in Little Tokyo. Five years later, they moved the company back to First Street where they remained until 1942, when the U.S. entered World War II.

From 1942 to December 1945, Mikawaya closed its doors as Executive Order 9066 forced more than 110,000 Japanese Americans, including the Hashimoto family, into U.S. internment camps for the duration of the war. On December 23, 1945, the Hashimoto family proudly reopened Mikawaya at 244 East First Street, next door to their pre-war location.

In 1970 Frances Hashimoto, their youngest daughter, took over the family business. Having the foresight that the surrounding First Street area would become prime redevelopment property, she planned and built a new bakery on 4th Street, which was completed in 1974.

With the new location on 4th Street, Mikawaya was able to expand its operations and product offerings. Hashimoto's husband and Mikawaya's Chief Financial Officer, Joel Friedman, happened on an idea when he visited Japan in 1984. In 1994, after spending 10 years of research and testing, his brainchild—mochi ice cream—became a reality.

Mochi ice cream, which is a serving of ice cream surrounded by a thin layer of mochi (pounded sweet rice), has become a recognized addition to American pop culture like sushi and sake. Today, it is Mikawaya's signature product with mass appeal that has reached beyond Asian American tastes. Currently there are seven flavors of mochi ice cream, including: chocolate, coffee, green tea,

mango, red bean (azuki), strawberry, and vanilla.

Mikawaya's traditional Japanese confections and pastries are still available and made daily at its Los Angeles factory and are still a favorite in the Asian American community.

Always innovators, Mikawaya now manufactures and sells gelato—Italian-style ice cream made from milk, sugar, real fruit and other ingredients.

Along with Mikawaya's centennial anniversary, the company opened a new 100,000-square-foot facility in Vernon, California. This facility is designed to meet the increasing demand for Mikawaya's products and will be the headquarters for new product research and development of frozen desserts. All of Mikawaya's desserts are manufactured in Southern California and are still held to Mikawaya's standards of high quality and taste.

The bakery presently operates retail stores in Japanese Village Plaza, Little Tokyo Square, Pacific Square Shopping Center in Torrance, Mitsuwa Marketplace in Gardena and Shirokiya Department Store in Honolulu, Hawaii."

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER TAX  
CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION ACT

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Act.

The purpose of this bill is simple: to prevent those who are here illegally from claiming the refundable first-time homebuyer tax credit, which is worth up to \$8,000. According to a January 25, 2010 Dallas Morning News article by Steve McGonigle entitled "Feds find dubious home tax credit claims from Texas," close to 1,000 claims from Texas have come from individuals "employing a special taxpayer identification number primarily used by illegal immigrants, who are not entitled to the credit." This is just plain wrong.

Currently, the IRS does not require an individual to provide a Social Security number in order to claim the first-time homebuyer tax credit. Rather, if the individual does not have a Social Security number, the individual can still apply for the credit so long as they are able to get an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from the IRS. The problem here is that illegal immigrants are getting these numbers from the IRS. According to the previously mentioned article, "the IRS has acknowledged that more than half of ITINs are filed by illegal immigrants." In an effort to prevent illegal immigrants from claiming the credit, my bill proposes that a taxpayer must provide a Social Security number rather than an ITIN. Doing so will help to prevent fraud and in turn protect the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS  
DURING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS  
WEEK

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the important contributions of the Peace Corps during National Peace Corps Week.

President Kennedy's inspiring inaugural quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," sparked the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961, and since then, almost 200,000 Americans have answered to this call to service.

For five decades, participants in the Peace Corps have made significant strides to advance the cause of peace and human progress in countries around the world. Just as important, these dedicated volunteers often continue making a difference in their local communities in the United States once they return home.

At the present time, almost 7,700 volunteers serve in 76 countries across the globe. They continue to work tirelessly to provide meaningful assistance to people in need, helping to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

The Peace Corps remains a strong symbol of our nation's commitment to service and progress. This program epitomizes the human desire to make a difference and the American spirit, rooted in a willingness to help improve the lives of others. I encourage my colleagues to take this opportunity to recognize the important and meaningful work of the Peace Corps, and I hope they will join me in commending the Peace Corps' achievements and commitment to service.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, March 2, 2010, marked Texas Independence Day: 174 years ago, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

This is an important day for Texas identity and patriotic Texans observe this occasion with great pride. If it were not for the Texas Primaries, I would have been on the floor, paying tribute to Texas Independence Day Tuesday.

In 1824, a military dictatorship took over in Mexico abolishing the Mexican constitution. The new military dictatorship refused to provide trial by jury, freedom of religion, public education for their citizens, and allowed the confiscation of firearms, this last one being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

The Texas Declaration of Independence states that Texas' government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

It stated that because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision to "the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

The Texas Declaration of Independence was fully justified because this military dictatorship had ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people of Texas.

Failure to provide these basic rights violated the sacred contract between a government and the people, and Texans did what we still do today—stand up for our rights by declaring our independence to the world.

In response, the Mexican army marched to Texas waging war on the land and the people, enforcing the decrees of a military dictatorship through brute force and without any democratic legitimacy.

As delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos, General Santa Anna's army besieged independence forces at the Alamo in San Antonio.

Four days after the signing, the Alamo fell with her commander Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis, Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texan defenders.

All these men were killed in action, a heroic sacrifice for Texan freedom. If this tragedy were not enough, later Santa Anna's army massacred over 300 unarmed Texans at Goliad on March 27.

In a dramatic turnaround, Texans achieved their independence several weeks later on April 21, 1836. Roughly 900 members of the Texan army overpowered a much larger Mexican army in a surprise attack at the Battle of San Jacinto.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Texas in our district. The monument is larger than the Washington Monument here in DC.

Today we give thanks to the many Texans that sacrificed for the freedom we now enjoy. God bless Texas and God bless America.

PREVENTING HARMFUL RE-  
STRAINT AND SECLUSION IN  
SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Keeping All Students Safe Act, a commonsense measure to provide guidance for teachers and schools on the use of seclusion and restraints.

Last year, the Government Accountability Office found hundreds of cases of alleged abuse of seclusion and restraints, including cases that resulted in death. And while federal law provides minimum safety standards for the use of these interventions in hospitals and other facilities supported by federal dollars, there are no federal rules for public or private schools.

Today's bill sets basic standards and gives states 2 years to implement their own policies, procedures, monitoring, and enforcement systems to meet them. It provides grants to help train school staff and implement positive behavior support programs. And it increases transparency and oversight by requiring states, for the first time, to collect and report data annually to the Secretary of Education.

With these measures, we can ensure the safe learning environment that all our students deserve. I encourage my colleagues to join me and support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on March 3, 2010, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 78. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS CHAPTER  
74 OF THE NATIONAL ASSO-  
CIATION OF WOMEN IN CON-  
STRUCTION

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Association of Women in Construction, NAWIC, Las Vegas Chapter 74 for their representation of women in the construction industry.

Las Vegas Chapter 74 has been representing women in construction for 48 years.

The NAWIC Las Vegas Chapter 74 has benefited Southern Nevada through numerous educational and development programs.

The Las Vegas Chapter 74 has unceasingly promoted the employment and advancement of women in the construction industry.

The construction community, represented by the Las Vegas Chapter 74, has been a driving force in fostering community development through renovation and beautification projects, promotion of skilled trade careers, and a positive vision of the future.

They have sought to achieve successful results for Las Vegas and surrounding areas in a cooperative spirit with other organizations.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the Las Vegas Chapter 74 and their many dedicated volunteers for their steadfast work to support women in construction. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization.

HONORING JACK WALKER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack

Walker, a veteran of the Normandy campaign in northern France during World War II and beloved family man.

Mr. Walker was born on July 1, 1913 and grew up in Longview, Texas. He enlisted in the army in 1942 and reenlisted again in 1945. He served in northern France on the Normandy Campaign and received several citations and decorations including the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, a Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Walker returned to Dallas, Texas after he left the military and gained employment at Southern Methodist University. He was widely regarded in the community for his cheerful nature and love for the United States and the United States Army. On June 4, 2004 he passed away, and he continues to be remembered with great affection by his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, America is stronger today because of the sacrifices of individuals like Jack Walker. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing the bravery of this man and honoring his service to our country.

HONORING MR. ROSS SZABO

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Ross Szabo, director of youth outreach for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign. After 8 years with National Mental Health Awareness Campaign—as one of the leading young advocates for mental health education in the Nation—Ross will be leaving soon for Botswana to begin work with the Peace Corps.

The National Mental Health Awareness Campaign, launched following the 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health, is a nationwide public education initiative which seeks to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness. Ross joined the Campaign 8 years ago as a speaker for the youth campaign. Using his own story of bipolar illness, Ross' success as a motivational speaker has highlighted the importance of talking about mental illness, the effectiveness of treatment, and one's ability to live successfully managing the illness.

After taking over as director of youth outreach, Ross expanded the speakers' bureau, "The Heard," into the only peer-to-peer youth mental health speaker's bureau in the country. His leadership has encouraged more young people to share their stories through the Campaign, and has reached millions of students and adults in schools and military settings in 45 states. Although Ross has already trained the next generation of speakers so that this crucial outreach program is continued, his efforts will be sorely missed in the mental health community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ross Szabo for his leadership, dedication, and advocacy. I thank him for his service to our great Nation as he embarks on this next challenge.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD BELL HIGH SCHOOL'S 1A BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the outstanding young athletes of Edward Bell High School in Camp Hill, Alabama, for winning the 1A Basketball State Championship. This is the first State Championship in school history for the Edward Bell Bears, and it was well deserved.

On February 25, the Bears held on to their lead over J.F. Shields for a thrilling 66–65 win. Coach Mitch Joiner and Assistant Coach Brownie Caldwell taught their fourth ranked Bears how to work together and strive under pressure. Both skills were put to the test throughout this season—and were proven successful in this final win.

All of us across Tallapoosa County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these young people for Edward Bell High School's first championship win. We congratulate them on this achievement.

OBAMACARE 2.0

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, from the townhalls of August to the voting booths in Massachusetts, the American people have spoken. The American people want health care reform, but they don't want a government takeover of health care.

And despite the president's latest polished pitch, ObamaCare 2.0 is still a government takeover of 1/6th of our economy—and the American people know it.

The latest version of ObamaCare is a government takeover because:

1. It will mandate private citizens purchase health care, whether they need it or want it.

2. It will cause millions of employers to cancel the health insurance they currently offer employees and force tens of millions of Americans into a government-run Exchange.

3. It will create a health care czar to impose price controls on private health insurance that will lead to shortages and force even more people into government-run care.

Mr. President, government mandates, government-run insurance and more government control is a government takeover of health care.

COMMENDING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

SPEECH OF

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to express my support for H. Res.

1117, a resolution congratulating the California State University system on its 50th anniversary. Its Chico campus is located in the Northern California Congressional District 1 represent and provides residents of the North State with exceptional academic opportunities. In fact, 69 percent of students currently attending CSU Chico are from Northern California.

CSU Chico is a vital part of the community. It was established in 1887 and offers its 15,797 full-time students over 300 academic programs and 66 undergraduate majors. To better enrich the lives of its students, the university is home to almost 240 student organizations. Its commitment to academic excellence, coupled with the many opportunities it offers students, enable CSU Chico to produce informed and well-rounded individuals that contribute greatly to our local communities and the Nation.

I offer my congratulations to the entire CSU system on this noteworthy occasion, and wish it many more years of providing a high quality education to students from California and across our Nation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate March 1–7, 2010, as National Peace Corps Week. On March 1, the Peace Corps celebrated its 49th anniversary, an impressive accomplishment.

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps has inspired nearly 200,000 Americans to volunteer their time to improve the lives of individuals in 76 countries across the globe. The Peace Corps has volunteers in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. There are 7,000 people currently serving in the Peace Corps, 18 of whom are from Virginia's 10th District.

The Peace Corps has a strong legacy of promoting peace through the efforts of these selfless volunteers. In particular, the agency has tasked its volunteers with working on initiatives dealing with education, business development, agriculture, information technology, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment. These volunteer efforts have significantly improved the lives of countless people around the world.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating National Peace Corps Week and recognizing the nearly 200,000 people who have served their country and other communities overseas as Peace Corps volunteers.

HONORING G. RUSS TRIMBLE AND SOUTHWEST INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, INC.

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate

G. Russ Trimble, on the occasion that his business, Southwest International Trucks, Inc., has been awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009 by the international dealer organization, Navistar, Inc.

The Circle of Excellence Award honors international truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mr. Trimble's business, Southwest International Trucks, is headquartered in Dallas, Texas, where it was founded more than 25 years ago. Under his leadership, it has grown into a remarkable, locally owned and operated truck dealership with 305 employees and five dealer locations throughout Texas. With this most recent award, the business has now received the Circle of Excellence Award under Mr. Trimble's leadership a total of 16 times. Additionally, his success has been recognized by the industry and his business is a multi-year IdealGold Winner for Excellence.

Mr. Trimble has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to the industry and to the community. A dedicated family man, he has been married to his high school sweetheart for almost 49 years. They have three daughters, ten grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and are expecting another great-granddaughter in a few weeks. A cancer survivor, Mr. Trimble supports the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Red Cross, Frisco Family Services, Collin County Services, and many others.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, Mr. Trimble has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Russ Trimble for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to the North Texas community, the State, and the entire Nation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, I was not present for 3 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 75—yea, roll No. 76—nay, and roll No. 77—yea.

#### THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARGARET'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the historic Saint Margaret Roman Catholic Church in Middle Village, New York.

Throughout their history, Saint Margaret's has withstood the test of time by wholeheartedly committing themselves to education, faith and service. Ever since its inception, the parish has continuously strived to reach out and respond to the changing needs of the community.

On March 18, 1860 Father Goetz broke ground on the first Catholic Church in Middle Village. Much of the original parishioners were farmers concerned for their crops and animals. To its parishioners, Saint Margaret's acted as the protector of those animals against life threatening epidemics and the crops against harvests that brought harsh weather. During the civil war, Father Goetz and numerous other priests from Saint Margaret's made regular visits to rebel prisons, which housed prisoners captured by Union soldiers.

A small frame school was built to house 20 pupils in 1890. Now that school holds 600 pupils with over 50,000 graduates. Their mission is comprised of community, charity and goodwill, in which they are tenaciously dedicated to pursuing. Throughout the years, Saint Margaret's Church has worked with some of the most extraordinary pastors and presiders in the country, and has developed a cadre of priests who have nurtured and challenged this ministry to continue to grow in purpose and commitment.

St. Margaret's School works at building a family spirit while providing an education where excellence is encouraged and Christian values permeate. They have dedicated their existence to these values and their ongoing service to the community, serving in such things as Ministry to the Homebound and their food pantry for the less fortunate.

I am pleased to note the 150th anniversary of Saint Margaret's Roman Catholic Church.

#### SALUTING AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICEWOMEN OF THE KOREAN WAR ERA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 369TH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AWARDS CELEBRATION

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and honor African American servicewomen who served their Nation with distinction and great courage as the 369th Historical Society pays tribute to women in the military in celebration of their Annual Women's History Month Awards Dinner Dance taking place at the elegant Eastwood Manor in the Bronx, New York.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, in which I served in the United States Army. In recognition of the 369th Historical Society's salute to women in the military this month, I would also like to pay special tribute to all of the no longer forgotten heroes, African American Servicewomen who served our Nation valiantly during the Korean War Era, and during a time when the military was ordered to desegregate.

On July 28, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 mandating equality of treatment and opportunity for all

persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin, initiating an end to segregation in the Armed Forces and in the military. African American servicewomen, because of their small numbers, were often the first and, sometimes, the only to train, command, work and live in desegregated settings.

Women like Army Nurse Captain Eleanor Yorke, Private Sarah Keys, Dovey Johnson Roundtree, Mary Teague Smith, Helen Gentry, Freddie Mae Hopson, Annie Graham and Ann Lamb not only served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, but they were major factors and contributors in bringing down and wiping out Jim Crow in the United States military.

In 1952, Army Nurse Captain Eleanor Yorke was the only female passenger among 4,200 men sailing on military transport from the Far East to San Francisco. Captain Yorke had spent more than two years in Japan and eight more months in Korea treating war wounded. On the 13-day trip home, her fellow passengers treated Captain Yorke like a queen. Besides being the only woman aboard military transport, Captain Yorke was one of only about 600 women, only a few of whom were African American, stationed in Korea during the entire three years of the Korean War.

"It was a terrible eight months, but I was too busy to be scared. We received the wounded 20 to 45 minutes after they were hit, treated them on the spot and then shipped them to the rear depending on how badly they were wounded. They came by helicopter and ambulance. The helicopters flew continuously from dawn to dusk and the ambulances rolled on constantly. It got pretty rough at times, working under artillery bombardment, and many times, I was rocked to sleep in my army cot from the reverberations." Captain Eleanor Yorke, Army Nurse Corps, speaking to a reporter from the Baltimore Afro American in May 1952.

Also in 1952, two African American military women challenged segregation law to end Jim Crow policies on interstate transportation. Private Sarah Keys was on leave, travelling in uniform on a bus from New Jersey home to North Carolina. When the bus reached Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina after midnight, there was a change of drivers. The new bus driver requested that Private Keys, seated toward the front of the bus, exchange seats with a white Marine, also in uniform, seated near the back of the bus. Keys refused. She was arrested, detained overnight in jail, and fined \$25.00. Convicted of disorderly conduct, Keys began a legal battle against discrimination and prejudice.

Dovey Johnson Roundtree, a former WAC officer and then an attorney in Washington, DC, agreed to take the Keys case. In 1942, Roundtree had volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) at the advice of her mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune. Bethune had worked for years to desegregate the military, both men's and women's services, and actively recruited qualified African American candidates. Roundtree became one of 36 African American women to graduate in the Army's first class of commissioned officers. After World War II, she attended Howard University Law School on the GI Bill, becoming one of the school's first female law students.

Dovey Johnson Roundtree and her partner Julius Robertson initially filed suit for Keys in

the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in October 1952, but the court decided the suit was out of their jurisdiction and refused to hear the case. Roundtree then filed suit with the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). The suit, *Keys v. North Carolina Coach Company*, stated that Keys had experienced unjust discrimination, undue and unreasonable prejudice, and false arrest and imprisonment on the basis of race and color. In 1955, an eleven-man ICC commission agreed with Keys and Roundtree and reversed the separate-but-equal Jim Crow policy in force on all interstate transportation since 1877. A few months later in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus, and a 381-day boycott ensued. The Supreme Court subsequently ruled that state and local segregation laws for public transportation were unconstitutional.

In Fort Lewis, Washington, Mary Teague Smith, the Detachment Commander of a predominantly African American WAC Unit noticed that women in her unit were promoted more slowly than white women in other units. Commander Smith complaints went up the chain of command without results, and by 1952, she was reassigned to Japan. Desegregation efforts usually meant placing African Americans into white military units. White women assigned to the detachment complained because they were in the minority; the Secretary of the Army informed a congressional committee on the armed services of intentions to reassign personnel so that African American women would comprise only 20 percent of the unit. The detachment at Fort Lewis, Washington was an exception. It remained predominantly black throughout the Korean War.

Helen Gentry remembered the transition of the Air Force from segregation to desegregation.

"I experienced the termination of the Air Force segregated by race when our base unit was integrated in 1949–50. As an Intelligence Specialist I was assigned to a Fighter Wing headquarters at McChord Air Force Base, Washington. My top secret clearance attuned me to world wide events long before public revelation, events such as our extensive spy plane flights over the Soviet Union."

In 1949, the first flight of African American Women in the Air Force (WAFs) graduated from an eleven-week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. These 17 women from 11 states were a small group compared to the 330 trainee strength of white flights, but on graduation day, they came in third in the first "All Basic Training Parade," competing against over 10,000 men. In 1949, the Air Force officially mandated desegregation and the service disbanded Jim Crow units.

In the United States Navy, African American servicewoman served in desegregated units. Freddie Mae Hopson enlisted in the Navy in early 1952. In 1953, she received an assignment to Hawaii as the assistant to the Foreign Liaison Office of the Port Control Office at Navy Headquarters where she once served as hostess for a USO dance for soldiers returning from Korea. "There were 3000 men and 1000 females . . . the band would play three songs . . . 1000 men would be allowed into the hall and at the end of the third song, they would be sent out one door and the next 1000 would be let in the front door . . . That was indeed an experience." Stated Freddie Mae Hopson.

African American women were not allowed in the U.S. Navy until 1944 after months of debate to define the service's racial policies. Once they were allowed to join, women in the Navy served in desegregated assignments, but the numbers were minute. In early 1948, the Navy could claim only one African-American woman officer and only six African-American women among an enlisted force of 1,700. New York's first African American Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., charged that the status of black women in the Navy proved that the service was practicing "not merely discrimination, segregation and Jim Crowism, but total exclusion." The Navy worked to improve its public image and during the Korean War, announced the achievements of African American women through black newspapers.

In the Marines, African American women had never served in the Marines until Annie Graham and Ann Lamb volunteered in 1949. Annie Grimes became the third to enlist in 1950 and the first black woman officer to retire after a full 20-year career. Segregation shaped many of their experiences. Off-base they were not welcome in public places with their fellow Marines and on-base, white beauticians would not cross the color line to provide standard personal services.

The American cultural climate of the time relegated most women to non-professional, low-paying jobs and promoted a feminine ideal of domesticity and maternalism. The armed forces reflected this attitude, offering women "pink collar" jobs with little room for advancement. As the Korean War began, the effects of decades of protest, and political and legal activism had made few inroads into racial segregation. The inequities of the "separate-but-equal" doctrine of the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision still shaped public policy, race relations and white attitudes in most of America.

Madam Speaker, African American women who volunteered in the military during this period broke through barriers to gender and race in order to serve their country and test new policies.

The 369th Historical Society is an all volunteer non-profit organization, chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Established in 1960 to collect, preserve and maintain artifacts, books, papers, photographs, film and articles on the history of the 369th Regiment, its allies and affiliates, and of African American soldiers who served in the Military Service of the United States. The 369th Historical Society Museum is housed in the 369th Regimental Armory, home of the famous Harlem Hellfighters. The Museum's holdings consist of an extensive collection of photographs and artifacts of the 369th Soldiers from WWI to the present.

As we remember and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War, let me thank the President of the 369th Historical Society, Major General Nathaniel James, Ret. and all of the officers and staff for your annual tribute to women in the military and for preserving the history and contributions of African American servicemen and servicewomen whom served our nation with distinction, courage and honor.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE  
CHARLES "CHUCK" BURRIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the Honorable Charles "Chuck" Burris, a man who dedicated his life to improve Georgia. An accomplished public servant who was devoted to his community, state, country, his family, and friends, Chuck passed away on February 12, 2009. Tomorrow, on what would have been his 59th birthday, we celebrate his life.

Chuck Burris' numerous accomplishments span an incredible career. He began as a Merrill Scholar at Morehouse College and received proclamations from the Georgia State House and Senate. Chuck was a leader, serving as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., 100 Black Men (DeKalb Chapter), Leadership DeKalb, DeKalb Democratic Club, National Democratic Club, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta, Bethsaida Baptist Church (Stone Mountain), Martin Luther King March Committee, Stone Mountain Memorial Association, Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, Georgia Conference of Black Mayors, National Conference of Black Mayors, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and as the Third Vice President of the World Conference of Mayors. He was appointed by Governor Roy Barnes to sit on the board of Stone Mountain Park and was an invited guest of First Lady Hillary Clinton at the 1998 State of the Union Address. These roles and accolades are merely titles, and do not fully explain the extent of his work.

His legacy is best remembered through his initiatives. While serving as Executive Director of the Southern Regional Council, Chuck led an initiative, which was cosponsored by the Carter Center Library, to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education. As Mayor of Stone Mountain, he installed a 5,000-pound "Freedom Bell" on Main Street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s declaration to "let freedom ring from Stone Mountain, Georgia!"

As the first African-American mayor of Stone Mountain, he did more than bridge a racial gap. One of Chuck's first accomplishments as Mayor was uniting Stone Mountain by installing six miles of sidewalks. By making Stone Mountain pedestrian-friendly, he connected downtown businesses with residential areas, saying, "When people walk through town, they get to know their neighbors, and this enhances their sense of community."

The community was not always an inclusive one. Stone Mountain was once dominated by the Ku Klux Klan, but Chuck declared there's "a new Clan in Stone Mountain." He spelled it with a C: C-L-A-N, for Citizens Living As Neighbors. Now, it is a home where all are welcome, due in part to the tremendous dedication and work of Chuck Burris. Chuck did everything he could to honor Stone Mountain and the state of Georgia, and it is fitting that he be honored tomorrow.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate Read Across America Day, designated as March 2nd, 2010, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. For the past thirteen years, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers across our nation have participated in Read Across America Day by bringing together families and books. It is a pleasure to use this occasion to also recognize the importance of reading and the successes of reading interventions.

Read Across America Day focuses on motivating children and teens to read by providing parents, caregivers, and children the resources and activities they need to make reading a year-round event. Read Across America Day has encouraged more than fifty national nonprofit organizations and thousands more local partners to join in celebratory events to promote children's reading. An estimated forty-five million people will participate in the Read Across America program in 2010.

Members of our communities are working hard to motivate children to read because they know that reading is an important factor in student achievement. Children who spend more time reading do better in school and develop lifelong passions for reading. In order to prepare our youngest citizens for a successful academic career, it is critical that we encourage parents to read with their children on a consistent basis.

Theodor Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, spent his life encouraging children of all ages to love reading. Through his playful prose and cheerful rhymes, Dr. Seuss created books that are an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful. As we celebrate Dr. Seuss and reading, we send a clear message to America's children that reading is important and exciting.

The continued support of Read Across America Day is essential in creating more opportunities for children to thrive in education and become the leaders of tomorrow. Reading is a lifelong activity and children especially deserve us to contribute to their success. In the words of Dr. Seuss, "the more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

## CORRECTION OF COSPONSORSHIP

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, it's come to my attention that I was incorrectly added as a cosponsor to H.R. 4529 due to another Member's staff error. They have apologized and made the correction.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE ANNE C. CONWAY

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the judicial and civic contributions of the Honorable Anne Conway. The Honorable Anne C. Conway is a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. She was appointed by President George H. W. Bush in 1991, and is presently the Chief Judge of the Middle District of Florida. She presides over the Orlando Division. Judge Conway has an impressive record of serving the Florida Judicial system and its people.

Judge Conway attended the University of Florida's College of Law, graduating with honors in 1975. She served as an executive editor of the law review. As a result of her work for the Center for Governmental Responsibility, she received the McIntosh Foundation Award. In addition, Judge Conway served as a Legal Aid Student Intern.

Judge Conway began her legal career with a federal clerkship with the Honorable John A. Reed, Jr. in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. After completing her clerkship, Judge Conway joined the firm of Young, Turnbull & Linscott, P.A. as an associate. In June 1978, she began practicing with the firm of Wells, Gattis & Hallows, P.A., where she became a partner and shareholder of the firm in March 1981. In July 1982 Judge Conway joined the firm of Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler, P.A. She also became a shareholder of the firm in February 1985. While in private practice as a member of The Florida Bar, Judge Conway was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Courts for the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Florida.

Judge Conway currently serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services and served on the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing Working Advisory Group. Prior to becoming Chief Judge she chaired the Middle District of Florida Budget Committee and participated in several other court committees including Security, Space and Facilities, Case Management, and Automation. Judge Conway served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association from 2001–2004 and was Eleventh Circuit membership chair from 2003–2007.

Judge Conway serves on multiple boards and has represented the United States speaking out on issues ranging from national security to the freedoms protected by the First Amendment. She presently serves on the University of Florida Law Center Association Board of Trustees and the Board of Advisors for the Center for Governmental Responsibility. She participated in the Centers Annual Conferences on Legal & Policy Issues in the Americas in Lima, Peru in May 2006 and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in May 2008 speaking on Judicial Education and Professionalism. She also served as a panelist for the Center for Governmental Responsibility's inaugural symposium.

Madam Speaker, as Women's History Month begins, it is with great honor that I recognize the Honorable Anne C. Conway for her judicial leadership and commitment to social justice. Her impressive record and contributions to the Central Florida community must and should be praised. Judge Conway is an outstanding role model for young women who want to positively impact their communities through the legal system.

## COMMENDING THE PEACE CORPS FOR 49 YEARS OF GLOBAL SERVICE AND RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Peace Corps for 49 years of global service and to recognize National Peace Corps Week.

Since its inception in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the Peace Corps has placed nearly 200,000 American Volunteers in 139 countries around the world to contribute to the cause of peace and human progress. Its impact has been felt in developing nations across the globe where Peace Corps Volunteers have assisted on a variety of issues, working hand in hand with the people of these nations to build a better future for their communities.

There are currently 7,671 Volunteers serving in 76 countries who are dedicated to better understanding the people of other nations while helping to promote a better understanding of Americans in an effort to find common ways to work together to address global challenges.

Among those Volunteers are three distinguished individuals from the 23rd Congressional District. Laura Alexander has been serving in Tanzania since August of 2008. Aysa Gray is currently serving in Namibia, where she has been since September of 2008. And Peggy Defray started in April of 2009 her service in Namibia as well.

With the help of these dedicated young people and the generations of current and former Volunteers from all over the United States, the Peace Corps has become a symbol of America's commitment to expand opportunities and assist those in need throughout the world.

For example, the commitment of Peace Corps Volunteers in the area of HIV/AIDS assistance, awareness, and prevention has been a crucial part of the global response to this pandemic. Volunteers have also made significant efforts in the areas of education, agriculture, the environment, and more recently, business development and information technology.

The lasting contributions made by those in the Peace Corps, past and present, are truly remarkable. I am thankful for the opportunity to honor the Peace Corps for 49 years of excellence during this National Peace Corps Week.

CONGRESSIONAL PAY CUT FOR  
DEBT REDUCTION ACT

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Congressional Pay Cut for Debt Reduction Act” and to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, the American people are angry. They are struggling to hold onto their jobs, to hold onto their houses and to pay their bills. Yet they see Washington spending their hard earned tax dollars indiscriminately.

Over the last five years, Federal spending has increased from nearly 20 percent as a share of the economy to 24.7 percent as the government’s expenditures jumped from \$2.47 trillion to \$3.52 trillion—a 42-percent increase. These are the highest levels of spending as a share of the economy since World War II.

To make matters worse, much of this spending, particularly the spending spree of the last three years, has been financed with borrowed money. Currently, the national debt exceeds \$12.1 trillion (about \$40,000 per U.S. citizen). And the spending shows no signs of stopping. Less than a month ago my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, jammed through on a party line vote a bill to increase the government’s debt ceiling by a staggering \$1.9 trillion; to over \$14 trillion. And the President’s recently released budget plan for Fiscal Year 2011 and beyond projects the national debt to reach the unprecedented and astronomical sum of \$24.5 trillion by 2019.

The American people are angry at this reckless spending. At Town Hall meetings across my District, Hoosiers are asking me when Washington is going to stop the madness. They want leadership on this issue; they want accountability; they want to know where the buck stops.

Today the buck stops here. The American people are sacrificing to make ends meet for the good of their families. Every department, agency, program and office across the Federal government should follow that example by finding common-sense solutions that will help them save money—by doing more with less, just like the American people are doing. That same principle should apply to, and start with, the House and Senate as well. It is time—in fact it is past time—that the Congress steps up to the plate and shows we are willing to make sacrifices too for the good of our country.

That is why I am introducing the “Congressional Pay Cut for Debt Reduction Act.” This bill will reduce pay for members in the House and Senate by 10 percent—starting in January 2011 to meet the requirements of the 27th Amendment to the Constitution—block any future automatic increase to member pay, and use the money saved to help pay down our national debt. This would be the first pay cut for Members of Congress since April 1, 1933—during the Great Depression. This bill is unlikely to solve all of our Nation’s economic problems but it will show the American people that Members of Congress are willing to sacrifice along with them in these hard economic times. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, since 1961, the Peace Corps has had 200,000 Americans volunteer in 139 different countries around the globe. Today, the Peace Corps currently has 7,671 volunteers working in 76 countries.

In observance of National Peace Corps Week, I would like to honor 20 volunteers from Nebraska’s 2nd District currently serving around the world:

Thomas Connelly, Steven Easterby, Jennifer Gaspers, Ashley Gries, Brandon Gries, Laura Groggel, Victoria Hasiak, Curtis Hudson, Margo Hunt, Annette Hunthrop, Mary Johnson, Laura Koonce, Nathan Lee, Keith Petit, Terri Pohl, Brigitte Pohren, Clara Reyes, Diane Ruskamp, Jessica Scates, Kacie Sis.

These men and women have done a great service to the Peace Corps, their country, and the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION ACT OF 2010

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act to reinforce 170 years of consistent Smithsonian policy of admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. This policy has served the Nation well. Families come to Washington to learn about their country through its public monuments and sites. While the private amenities can be costly for the average family, Americans have looked forward to the free museums and other official offerings for generations. The Smithsonian’s free admission policy reflects the intent of its founder, John Smithson, whose gift to the federal government carried the condition that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public, free of charge. The bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would “preserve and exhibit with no fee” all works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted by the Smithsonian’s Board of Regents, without notice to Congress, with the casual comment that it would charge an admission fee for a permanent exhibit for the first time in its history, and on January 29, 2007, the Smithsonian instituted a fee for admission to the National Museum of Natural History’s Butterfly Pavilion. Congress, of course, not the Board of Regents, should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from long-standing public policy. The admission fee sets a harmful precedent for future permanent exhibits, which will make it difficult to deny the other Smithsonian entities that right and may encourage other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Butterfly Pavilion model.

The Butterfly Pavilion opened on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian had pre-

viously charged fees for films and shows, such as IMAX films, the National Air and Space Museum’s Planetarium, and the National Zoo’s Christmas Lights special, the \$6 admission fee for the Butterfly Pavilion marked the first time admission fees were charged for a permanent exhibit. My bill requires a report to Congress in advance of any proposed fees and requires the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to submit a plan for funding the Butterfly Pavilion, in order to eliminate the admission fee for the exhibit.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, which I am also introducing today, addresses the Smithsonian’s fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian’s Board of Regents, from a board almost half of whose members are public officials to a board consisting solely of private citizens, who will have greater experience and fundraising capacity than public officials. The fundraising capability of the Smithsonian is clear in the opening of the National Portrait Gallery, for example. According to a Congressional Research Service, CRS, report (RL 33560), donors contributed funds for the new auditorium and roof over the courtyard of the National Portrait Gallery.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act and similar measures, not admission fees, provide the most realistic vehicles to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. Admission fees can bring in only token amounts. According to the CRS, the Smithsonian has long prided itself on “free access.” Admission fees are not the answer for taxpayers, who have already paid through the federal government’s 70 percent contribution to this public institution’s annual budget. Federal taxpayers do not expect to pay again through an admission fee to a federally-financed institution.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VENETIA  
BRYERS

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and achievements of Venetia Bryers of Gladstone, Michigan. Venetia devoted her life to developing and improving emergency medical services in Delta County and throughout Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. As an entrepreneur and advocate, Venetia often travelled to Washington, DC to advocate for emergency medical personnel and medical services across our Nation. Venetia was also a close personal friend going back 40 years to when we were classmates together at Gladstone High School.

Venetia’s devotion to public service began with her career choice to study criminal justice at Northern Michigan University. In 1974, Venetia began working for the city ambulance service in Escanaba, and within a year she had become a full-time partner in the business changing its name to Rampart EMS. Venetia became the sole owner of Rampart in 1979, eventually selling it to Marquette General Health Systems in 1998, but staying on as director of emergency medical services.

Under her leadership and vision Rampart EMS grew into a successful company that

blazed the trail in providing emergency services for residents across Delta County. Venetia was instrumental in upgrading Rampart's ambulance services to advanced life support services which enabled Rampart to provide vital life-saving care including defibrillation, airway management and medication. In a rural area like Delta County these life support services often make the difference between life and death in emergency situations.

Emergency medical service was more than just a business for Venetia, it was her passion. She was always eager to learn more and to advance the field farther. She was the director for Rampart, but was also a paramedic for the company. She was an assistant to the Delta County medical examiner and taught emergency medical technician and paramedic courses throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Venetia's hard work can be found throughout the community. She implemented code alert teams in area schools—one of the first communities in the state to do so—and taught CPR training and emergency response tactics. She was a founding member of the Delta County Emergency Preparedness Committee and served on the Upper Peninsula EMS Board of Directors. She initiated and financially supported the Save-a-Heart Foundation, which put automated external defibrillators, AED, in every fire truck, police car and school in Escanaba.

Given all her work it is only fitting that Venetia was the first recipient of the Extraordinary People/Extraordinary Service EMS Leadership Award from the Michigan Emergency Medical Services System and Trauma System.

Venetia's involvement in the community extended well beyond her EMS work. She supported the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, participated in the Rotary Club and the Public Health of Delta and Menominee Counties and was an active member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Madam Speaker, Venetia has touched the lives of countless people around her and her absence will be felt by many. She built Rampart EMS into a successful business all while creating a close family atmosphere. She dedicated her life to improving emergency services and saving lives in Delta County, across Michigan and our Nation. I have seen first hand her warmth, her generous spirit and her enthusiasm for her work. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the work and the life of my friend Venetia Bryers.

**NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES THE GOLD PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for being recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) with the Gold Performance Achievement Award.

Recipients of the Get with the Guidelines Gold Performance Achievement Award from

the American Heart Association (AHA) must demonstrate a minimum of 85 percent compliance with the Coronary Artery Disease treatment guidelines for heart failure. Newark Beth Israel has exceeded the minimum and is receiving a Performance Award for the second consecutive year.

Newark Beth Israel was the first hospital in New Jersey to perform a heart transplant. Since then, the Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program has evolved into one of the nation's most active and respected centers. Newark Beth Israel is also the only Medicare-certified medical center in the state performing heart transplants. The center provides the most technologically advanced medical services, equipment, and research, protecting and improving the health of the region.

Newark Beth Israel also responds to the needs of the community. In addition to an annual health fair for community members, Newark Beth Israel sponsors health screenings free of cost for members of the Newark community throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor to acknowledge such an outstanding hospital. The administration and staff members of Newark Beth Israel go beyond the call of duty to provide quality service to the citizens of New Jersey and beyond.

**REMEMBERING A LIFE OF HEROIC SERVICE**

**HON. MAC THORNBERRY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Seaman Garlen Eslick and his service to our nation.

Mr. Eslick lived in Amarillo, Texas. As an 18 year old farm boy, he joined the Navy. Just months later, on December 7, 1941, Seaman Eslick was aboard the USS Oklahoma as it was attacked in Pearl Harbor. In the galley at the time of the attack, he was a powder handler for the ship's 14-inch guns. Making his way to his battle station four decks below, Seaman Eslick and a few others helped a wounded soldier through a hatch. After the Oklahoma took heavy machine-gun fire and five torpedoes, the ship rolled; knocking Seaman Eslick unconscious in his compartment. He awoke in total darkness to rising water as the only survivor in that compartment. Hours later another sailor carrying a light told him of other survivors several compartments over. The two dove from compartment to compartment, searching for a way out for themselves and the 12 others they found. After 28 hours in the oil-soaked compartment, Seaman Eslick was one of the 31 sailors rescued and returned to active duty after a four-day stay on a hospital ship.

While assigned to the USS Saratoga, he survived a torpedo attack from a submarine. Later, on the USS John Hancock he saw action in Leyte and Manila in the Philippine Islands, even weathering a typhoon and surviving a kamikaze attack, and taking part in operations at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Seaman Eslick was awarded a Purple Heart for his heroic actions and the injuries he sustained on December 7, 1941 and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin for his four years of service.

Seaman Garlen Eslick never expected special attention for his service during WWII. At the unveiling of the USS Oklahoma Memorial in 2002, Seaman Eslick said "it's always important to remember the ones we've lost and those who are still with us."

On Monday, February 8, Garlen passed away, leaving his wife Betty of 65 years, their four children, 12 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. It is with gratitude for his service and admiration of his heroism that I hope we all will remember Seaman Garlen Eslick, his comrades, and their service to protect our freedom.

**HONORING RENEE GALLIHER FOR BEING NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Renee Galliker of Mocksville, North Carolina. Renee was recently named firefighter of the year at the Cornatzer-Dulin fire department in Mocksville.

She is the first woman in the fire department's almost 60-year history to be named firefighter of the year. This is no small accomplishment and I am proud to recognize Renee for her dedicated service to the public.

As this month is Women's History Month, I think it is also very appropriate to single out North Carolina women like Renee who are making a significant difference in their local communities.

Today millions of women across America like Renee are making positive contributions to their families, their communities and their country. It is a true honor to have countless women like Renee as constituents and to share their stories of success with my colleagues and the American people.

**ELIZABETH SMITH**

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the lifetime accomplishments of my good friend, Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, who retired last week from the American Federation of Teachers, AFT.

Bringing opportunity and respect to working men and women across America was the driving force in Liz's more than 4 decades of public service. And this commitment never waned. Workers fighting for fair wages, high-quality healthcare and a secure retirement always had a strong ally in Liz Smith. She fought for them every day.

Liz began her professional career working for two of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. She served as chief of staff to Representative James O'Hara of Michigan, and later as legislative director to Representative DALE KILDEE of Michigan; both benefited greatly from her energy and commitment. In those positions, Liz worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of constituents were heard in

Washington and that the federal government responded to their needs.

Deciding to leave the Congress she loved was a tough choice for Liz. But it was a natural progression to join the labor movement. She knew that her next assignment as legislative and political director at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union was in keeping with her values and unwavering commitment to the men and women of the American labor movement. In this position, Liz worked with passion and moved with dispatch to ensure that the interests of the country's clothing and textile workers were fully represented not only before the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch, but internationally as well.

In 1995, Liz accepted a position as political director at the American Federation of Teachers in what would become the final and perhaps most important stop in her accomplished career. During her 15 years there, Liz's work on behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the AFT included many accomplishments and milestones. She carried with her an intimate knowledge of the important work performed by AFT members and an ability to advance with unmatched skill and grace the causes she cared about most.

Liz is a true leader, always doing the right thing in a manner that is respectful of others and in turn earning others' respect. She is a wonderful woman and will be missed dearly by all of us who have had the pleasure of working with her. I wish Liz all the best in the years to come.

HONORING ALYSON DUDEK

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Alyson Dudek, a native of Hales Corners, Wisconsin, who along with her teammates—Lana Gehring, Katherine Reutter, and Allison Baver—won the bronze medal in the 3000-meter short track relay at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

This performance ended a sixteen-year medal drought for the United States in the event and Alyson's impressive effort was another memorable instance of Wisconsin athletes admirably representing our country at the Olympic Games in Vancouver. On behalf of all Wisconsinites, I want to congratulate Alyson on her accomplishments in the 3000-meter and 500-meter short track speed skating events.

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games showed yet again the inspiring skills and talents of Wisconsin natives who participated and medaled in a number of different disciplines. Alyson's exemplary performance in both the individual 500-meter event and 3000-meter relay in Vancouver capped off a tremendous skating season and it is my pleasure to congratulate Alyson, her family, coaches, and teammates on this achievement.

I am proud to recognize Alyson Dudek and all the members of the 2010 United States Olympic Team for their inspiring performance, breaking a record with 37 medals, and for their admirable representation of our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,508,944,297,560.56.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,870,518,551,266.70 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN FLUNDER

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the incomparable Mary Ann Flunder of Kansas City, Kansas.

A longtime elected member of the Kansas City, Kansas Community College Board of Trustees, Mary Ann has given a lifetime of service to the Kansas City community. A tireless community activist, she has long served as one of my most important advisors and sounding boards. I place this statement in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, however, in recognition of her upcoming receipt of an award from the Kansas City Business Magazine, which will recognize her at an event on March 11th as one of the most influential businesswomen in the Kansas City area in 2010.

The March 2010 issue of KC Business includes a brief profile of Mary Ann Flunder, which I include below. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to pay public tribute to unique, irreplaceable, longtime Kansas City, Kansas community leader Mary Ann Flunder.

MARY ANN FLUNDER: BUSINESS CONSULTANT

Mary Ann Flunder has spent her life empowering others to achieve their academic, career and life goals. She has done so by assisting more than 100 entrepreneurs with business startups, by helping existing businesses achieve licensing and government funding, and by lobbying for legislation that advances small businesses. A tireless worker and champion of others, Flunder takes it upon herself to connect those who need connecting. A well-known advocate in the community, the sage-like Flunder has a reputation for stepping up to the plate and making things happen by expending her own time, money and other resources. Flunder participates on several boards, maintains an interest in the education of youth and runs a side business that sells Watkins products primarily to senior citizens. Flunder received an Excellence Award at the 2009 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Freedom Fund banquet.

HONORING MILDRED THOMPSON

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mildred Thompson, long-time Clerk of Courts for Scioto County. Sadly, Mildred passed away on February 28th. She was a life-long resident of Southern Ohio, and graduated from Minford High School. She married Judge Lowell Thompson. Mildred is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

First elected in November of 1968, Mildred Thompson continuously served the citizens of Scioto County as their Clerk of Courts until she retired in September of 2008. During her nearly 40 years as Clerk—Mildred was known for her tireless dedication to the citizens of Scioto County. She served on the boards of many state and local community organizations and, along with her husband, was a positive influence on the lives of many local children through her service as a 4-H advisor.

Mildred was loved and respected by those she came in contact with as Clerk of Courts for her hard work and the kind way she treated everyone she met. Outside of work, Mildred was known for her countless volunteer efforts. One of her favorite places to volunteer was the Southern Ohio Medical Center. Each year the Friends of Southern Ohio Medical Center present the Mildred E. Thompson Scholarship to a high-school senior from Scioto County who has placed service above self.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mildred Thompson, who led a life dedicated to public service. Mildred has forever left an imprint on her community. God bless Mildred and may she rest in eternal peace.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, this week is National Peace Corps Week, so I want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous work done by Peace Corps volunteers around the world. I myself served in the Peace Corps in Somalia in the mid-1960s and saw first hand the contribution that Peace Corps volunteers make to the communities in which they serve.

Since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, nearly 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world. Over 7,000 volunteers are currently providing services in 76 countries, making contributions in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment. Twelve of my own constituents are serving around the world in such countries as Panama, Kenya, and Cambodia.

Next year the Peace Corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary. During this anniversary year, we will rightly recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and its volunteers over the past five decades. However, I hope we also

recognize that the mission of the Peace Corps is as important as it has ever been. At a time when there is still tremendous need outside our borders, Peace Corps volunteers must continue their mission of helping others help themselves. Additionally, those volunteers must continue to serve—as they have in the past—as our nation's citizen ambassadors to people in other countries, and, once they arrive back home, as liaisons between the citizens of our country and the citizens of the country where they served.

I hope that Congress will continue to support and expand this vital institution for decades to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 22 I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 49 and 50.

#### NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who spent two years in Ethiopia with my wife Patti eradicating small pox and building schools, it is my pleasure to recognize National Peace Corps Week.

Forty-nine years ago this week, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps as a way to show the world that the United States is interested in helping our struggling neighbors across the globe. Since then, nearly 200,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world.

Peace Corps volunteers educate children, treat illnesses, assist local businesses, introduce new technologies, modernize agricultural techniques, and help protect local water supplies. To millions of people in the developing world, Peace Corps volunteers are the face of America, and we are a safer and more appreciated nation because of it.

To the 7,671 volunteers around the world presently engaged in the Peace Corps' noble mission, thank you for your service. So long as I am in Congress, I will resolutely support you in your efforts. You stand on the shoulders of giants, and you are a vital contributor to a more peaceful and just world.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JAMES B. BLASINGAME

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I congratulate James B. Blasingame on

his retirement from the Alaska Railroad. Mr. Blasingame started at the Alaska Railroad at age 35 starting as a programmer. He has moved up through the company culminating his career as Vice President of Corporate Affairs. In 1985, Mr. Blasingame was appointed by the Alaska Railroad as the Federal coordinator where he oversaw the transfer of the Federally-owned Alaska Railroad to the State of Alaska.

The Alaska Railroad has been an outstanding organization in Alaska promoting expansion and economic development throughout the state. I commend Mr. Blasingame and his tireless effort within the company to improve the railroad's operations, facilities and safety performance. Not only do I want to commend him on his work, I would also like to applaud the amount of time he spent volunteering on a number of non-profit, civic boards and organizations, including Providence Hospital, Anchorage School Business Partnership, World Trade Center of Alaska and Credit Union National Association.

Today, I congratulate and recognize Jim on his retirement and years of service to Alaskan residents and the development of the Alaska Railroad and wish him good luck in the next chapter of life.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to submit a resolution approved by the Alaska Railroad Board of Directors commending Jim for his service.

#### RESOLUTION 2009-58

Whereas, James B. Blasingame, at the young age of 35, began his employment with the Alaska Railroad as a Programmer and was later promoted to various positions including Supply Analyst, Management Analyst, and Executive Administration Director leading to his ascension in 1993 to Vice President of Corporate Affairs; and

Whereas, James B. Blasingame not only loves history, but has helped to make history at the Alaska Railroad, by serving as the State Manager of the Alaska Railroad Transfer Project supporting the effort in the early 1980s to transfer the Railroad from Federal to State ownership; and

Whereas, James B. Blasingame has served as the Alaska Railroad Board of Directors' Board Secretary since 1985, managing corporate governance, policy development, government and community relations, corporate asset oversight including records preservation and philanthropy; and

Whereas, throughout his tenure as Board Secretary and Vice President Corporate Affairs for the Alaska Railroad, James B. Blasingame was part of a team instrumental in qualifying the Alaska Railroad for federal grants used to improve the Railroad's operations, facilities and safety performance; and

Whereas, James B. Blasingame has worked tirelessly to mentor fellow railroaders, earning terms of endearment such as "Mother", "Dutch Uncle", and "Oracle" and instilling an understanding in all for our past and a commitment to our future as a state-owned enterprise that safely operates on a self-sustaining basis and supports the economic development of our state; and

Whereas, James B. Blasingame has served our Alaska community through his volunteer time and efforts on a number of non-profit, civic boards and organizations, including Providence Hospital, Downtown Partnership, Association, Anchorage School Business Partnership, World Trade Center of Alaska, Alaska Credit Union League, Denali/Alaskan Federal Credit Union, Credit Union National Association; and

Therefore be it resolved, the Alaska Railroad Board of Directors extends its most sincere

appreciation to James B. Blasingame for his long-standing dedication to the Alaska Railroad and his distinctive leadership role in the maturation of the Railroad into an award winning, world class state-owned corporation; and

Be it further resolved, that since James B. Blasingame has invested countless hours toward the development of the Alaska Railroad and because his dedication warrants permanent recognition, the Alaska Railroad Corporation Board of Directors hereby adopts this resolution renaming the Alaska Railroad's Denali Board Room the "James B. Blasingame Board Room".

#### NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK, THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE PEACE CORPS

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I am continually inspired by the great philanthropy and giving nature of the American people. When humanity suffers, where calamity arises—floods in Indonesia, earthquakes in Haiti or Chile, war-torn landscapes around the world or in poverty stricken populations in the Sudan—Americans respond with their time, energy and sacrifice. This outpouring of generosity to foreign lands and different cultures is a uniquely American trait. The Peace Corps, created 49 years ago this week, embodies that trait.

It was President John F. Kennedy who urged Americans to serve their country by working in developing countries and their local villages to enhance the quality of life for others. Approximately 7,600 Peace Corps Volunteers, including five from Southwest Missouri, are serving in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific Islands.

I am proud of the service of the five Southwest Missourians currently volunteering in the Peace Corps. Megan Abbott began her service in Belize four months ago. Austin Durr has been in Paraguay since 2007. Laura Pegram has served in Botswana since June 2008. Bruce Taylor has served for one year in Kenya and will serve another year. Scott Tuttle has been in Niger since 2008. Leaving behind the comforts and conveniences of home, Peace Corps volunteers like Abbot, Durr, Pegram, Taylor and Tuttle are symbols of our nation's commitment to progress, opportunity and development in the developing world.

Their desire to make a difference, like that of 200,000 Americans who have served since 1961, has improved the lives of millions of people around the world.

Peace Corps volunteers learn languages and receive extensive cross-cultural training, enabling them to function effectively at a professional level. Volunteers have made lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, health, education, HIV/AIDS, youth and the environment.

Recognizing the legions of Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, who work hard everyday to improve the lives of the people they assist affirms our nation's commitment to helping people help themselves in the pursuit of

life, liberty and prosperity throughout the world.

To Megan Abbott, Austin Durr, Laura Pegram, Bruce Taylor and Scott Tuttle, I want to express my sincere thanks for your service in the Peace Corps.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND  
E. DOBRATZ, JR.

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great citizen and member of the community in eastern Connecticut. Raymond E. Dobratz, Jr. of Old Saybrook, a beloved son and brother, devoted husband and grandfather, died tragically while working on the site of the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown on February 7, 2010.

Ray was a masterful tradesman and a 40-year member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 who spent his life giving back to the people around him. He served his country with honor in the Army National Guard and also served a member of the Old Saybrook Police for 13 years. He had an incredible sense of what it meant to be a citizen and he spent his life putting that into practice.

Ray's love for his wife, 3 sons, and 5 grandchildren is what really defined him. Two of Ray's sons grew up shadowing their father as a pipefitter. They admired him greatly and were thrilled when they got to spend time with him on the football field. Ray co-founded the Old Saybrook Youth Football Athletic League as a coach in the 1980s and it still exists today. He loved sports and often played football, soccer, and baseball with his friends and family when he had the time. He was a fixture in the community and will be deeply missed.

Ray had a seemingly endless amount of energy to give to his country, town and family. He was a model citizen and family man. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Raymond E. Dobratz, Jr.

RECOGNIZING CURT TOMASEVICZ  
OF SHELBY, NEBRASKA

### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a rare achievement, the pursuit of which took years of hard work and dedication. On February 27, 2010, Curt Tomasevicz became the first born and raised Nebraskan to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics. The gold medal ended a 62-year drought for the United States in the 4-man bobsled event.

Curt Tomasevicz was born and raised in Shelby, Nebraska. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he walked on to play football for the Cornhuskers and was named to the Academic All Big XII team in 2002. He began his bobsledding career in 2004, just two years prior to being named to the United States 4-man bobsled team.

Curt made his first appearance in the 2006 Olympics, when he and his team brought home sixth place. With this first taste of competing on the world stage, he used his Nebraskan spirit and work ethic to strive for excellence in the 2010 games. The United States bobsled team, known as the "Night Train," set records as they accumulated a time of 3 minutes, 24.46 seconds which proved to be nearly four-tenths faster than second place.

He has made all of Nebraska and America proud and is an inspiration to younger generations. His intensity, work ethic, and service to the country was on display for all the world to see during the Winter Olympics. His efforts and accomplishments are remarkable and I thank him for his dedication to the country and excellent example to our State.

### THE FALL OF THE ALAMO

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, throughout U.S. history, individuals selflessly and courageously have taken a stand for freedom and liberty, many times against great odds.

March 6, 1836 was one of those times. This date is what most Americans know as the day the Alamo fell against Mexico General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops. The siege against the Texian Army lasted 13 days. The battle began on February 23rd when Santa Anna and his army arrived at the Alamo and caught the Texian Army by surprise. On the second day of the siege, Texian Alamo Commander William Barret Travis called for reinforcements, bravely stating: "I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch . . . Victory or Death."

On the eighth day of the 13-day siege, 32 additional men from Gonzales arrived ready to fight for Texas. Legend has it that Commander William B. Travis drew a line on the ground asking the few men present to step over if they were willing to stay and fight, to defend the Alamo for the sake of Texas. All present stepped over, except one.

There were 189 defenders, including famous knife fighter Jim Bowie and former Tennessee congressman Davy Crockett. All of the defenders were volunteers and originated from all over the globe. Eleven of the defenders were born in Texas, 131 of the defenders were born in some 23 various states in America, 29 of the defenders were born abroad, mostly in Europe, one defender was a freed slave, and there are 17 defenders of which their birthplace has not been identified.

All of the Alamo defenders stood their ground against the overwhelming odds. Some estimate that Santa Anna's army consisted of 6,000 troops. At the end of the day on March 6, 1836, after the smoke cleared, all 189 defenders gave their lives for Texas. The enemy casualties were enormous. As Travis said, "Victory will cost the enemy more than defeat."

This historic battle resulted in General Sam Houston having enough time to gather a

strong army of men to avenge Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto 46 days later. On April 21st Sam Houston led an army of 800 volunteers and angry Texans to defeat Santa Anna and his 1,500 strong Mexican army, most of whom were the same invaders that were at the Alamo. This victory played an important role in the Texas Revolution.

Texas was an independent nation for 9 years following the Battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto. The freedom the Texians enjoyed during those years would not have occurred without the thousands of selfless volunteers who risked and gave their lives to protect the liberties they believed every person should retain.

Today the Alamo remains a great treasure to the story of Texas and represents the steadfast, unrelenting character of the American spirit. The fight for freedom that these heroic Alamo defenders displayed is a testament of living boldly and courageously for the cause of liberty. We honor and thank these volunteers for their role in defending and fighting for Liberty and for Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

#### ALAMO DEFENDERS

1. Abamillo, Juan, TX, 2. Allen, Robert, VA, 3. Andross, Miles DeForrest, VT, 4. Autry, Micajah, NC, 5. Badillo, Juan A., TX, 6. Bailey, Peter James III, KY, 7. Baker, Isaac G., AR, 8. Baker, William Charles M., MO, 9. Ballentine, John J., PA, 10. Ballantine, Richard W., Scotland, 11. Baugh, John J., VA, 12. Bayliss, Joseph, TN, 13. Blair, John, TN, 14. Blair, Samuel, TN, 15. Blazeby, William, England, 16. Bonham, James Butler, SC, 17. Bourne, Daniel, England, 18. Bowie, James, KY, 19. Bowman, Jesse B., TN, 20. Brown, George, England, 21. Brown, James, PA, 22. Brown, Robert, unknown, 23. Buchanan, James, AL, 24. Burns, Samuel E., Ireland, and 25. Butler, George, D., MO.

26. Cain, John, PA, 27. Campbell, Robert, TN, 28. Carey, William R., VA, 29. Clark, Charles Henry, MO, 30. Clark, M.B., MS, 31. Cloud, Daniel William, KY, 32. Cochran, Robert E., NH, 33. Cottle, George Washington, MO, 34. Courtman, Henry, Germany, 35. Crawford, Lemuel, SC, 36. Crockett, David, TN, 37. Crossman, Robert, PA, 38. Cummings, David P., PA, 39. Cunningham, Robert, NY, 40. Darst, Jacob C., KY, 41. Davis, John, KY, 42. Day, Freeman H.K., unknown, 43. Day, Jerry C., MO, 44. Daymon, Squire, TN, 45. Dearduff, William, TN, 46. Dennison, Stephen, England or Ireland, 47. Despallier, Charles, LA, 48. Dewart, Lewis, NY, 49. Dickinson, Almeron, TN, and 50. Dillard, John Henry, TN.

51. Dimpkins, James R., England, 52. Duvall, Andrew, Ireland, 53. Espalier, Carlos, TX, 54. Esparza, Gregorio, TX, 55. Evans, Robert, Ireland, 56. Evans, Samuel B., NY, 57. Ewing, James L., TN, 58. Faunterloy, William Keener, KY, 59. Fishbaugh, William, unknown, 60. Flanders, John, MA, 61. Floyd, Dolphin Ward, NC, 62. Forsyth, John Hubbard, NY, 63. Fuentes, Antonio, TX, 64. Fuqua, Galba, AL, 65. Garnett, William, VA, 66. Garrand, James W., LA, 67. Garrett, James Girard, TN, 68. Garvin, John E., unknown, 69. Gaston, John E., KY, 70. George, James, unknown, 71. Goodrich, John C., VA, 72. Grimes, Albert Calvin, GA, 73. Guerrero, José María, TX, 74. Gwynne, James C., England, and 75. Hannum, James, PA.

76. Harris, John, KY, 77. Harrison, Andrew Jackson, TN, 78. Harrison, William B., OH, 79.

Hawkins, Joseph M., Ireland, 80. Hays, John M., TN, 81. Heiskell, Charles M., TN, 82. Herndon, Patrick Henry, VA, 83. Hersee, William Daniel, England, 84. Holland, Tapley, OH, 85. Holloway, Samuel, PA, 86. Howell, William D., MA, 87. Jackson, Thomas, Ireland, 88. Jackson, William Daniel, KY, 89. Jameson, Green B., KY, 90. Jennings, Gordon C., CT, 91. Jimenes (Ximenes), Damacio, TX, 92. Johnson, Lewis, Wales, 93. Johnson, William, PA, 94. Jones, John, NY, 95. Kellog, John Benjamin, KY, 96. Kenney, James, VA, 97. Kent, Andrew, KY, 98. Kerr, Joseph, LA, 99. Kimbell, George C., PA, and 100. King, William Philip, TX.

101. Lewis, William Irvine, VA, 102. Lightfoot, William J., VA, 103. Lindley, Jonathan L., IL, 104. Linn, William, MA, 105. Losoya, Toribio, TX, 106. Main, George Washington, VA, 107. Malone, William T., GA, 108. Marshall, William, TN, 109. Martin, Albert, RI, 110. McCafferty, Edward, unknown 111. McCoy, Jesse, TN, 112. McDowell, William, PA, 113. McGee, James, Ireland, 114. McGregor, John, Scotland, 115. McKinney, Robert, TN, 116. Melton, Eliel, GA, 117. Miller, Thomas R., TN, 118. Mills, William, TN, 119. Millsaps, Isaac, MS, 120. Mitchell, Edwin T., unknown, 121. Mitchell, Napoleon B., unknown, 122. Mitchusson, Edward F., VA, 123. Moore, Robert B., VA, 124. Moore, Willis A., MS, and 125. Musselman, Robert, OH.

126. Nava, Andrés, TX, 127. Negan, George, SC, 128. Nelson, Andrew M., TN, 129. Nelson, Edward, SC, 130. Nelson, George, SC, 131. Northcross, James, VA, 132. Nowlan, James, England, 133. Pagan, George, MS, 134. Parker, Christopher Adam, unknown, 135. Parks, William, NC, 136. Perry, Richardson, TX, 137. Pollard, Amos, MA, 138. Reynolds, John Purdy, PA, 139. Roberts, Thomas H., unknown, 140. Robertson, James Waters, TN, 141. Robinson, Isaac, Scotland, 142. Rose, James M., OH, 143. Rusk, Jackson J., Ireland, 144. Rutherford, Joseph, KY, 145. Ryan, Isaac, LA, 146. Scurlock, Mial, NC, 147. Sewell, Marcus L., England, 148. Shied, Manson, GA, 149. Simmons, Cleveland Kinlock, SC, and 150. Smith, Andrew H., TN.

151. Smith, Charles S., MD, 152. Smith, Joshua G., NC, 153. Smith, William H., unknown, 154. Starr, Richard, England, 155. Stewart, James E., England, 156. Stockton, Richard L., NJ, 157. Summerlin, A. Spain, TN, 158. Summers, William E., TN, 159. Sutherland, William DePriest, unknown, 160. Taylor, Edward, TN, 161. Taylor, George, TN, 162. Taylor, James, TN, 163. Taylor, William, TN, 164. Thomas, B. Archer M., KY, 165. Thomas, Henry, Germany, 166. Thompson, Jesse G., AR, 167. Thomson, John W., NC, 168. Thruston, John, M., PA, 169. Trammel, Burke, Ireland, 170. Travis, William Barret, SC, 171. Tumlinson, George W., MO, 172. Tylee, James, NY, 173. Walker, Asa, TN, 174. Walker, Jacob, TN, and 175. Ward, William B., Ireland.

176. Warnell, Henry, unknown, 177. Washington, Joseph G., KY, 178. Waters, Thomas, England, 179. Wells, William, GA, 180. White, Isaac, unknown, 181. White, Robert, unknown, 182. Williamson, Hiram James, PA, 183. Wills, William, unknown, 184. Wilson, David L., Scotland, 185. Wilson, John, PA, 186. Wolf, Anthony, unknown, 187. Wright, Claiborne, NC, 188. Zanco, Charles, Denmark, 189. John, a Black Freedman.

RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION  
OF PEACE CORPS WEEK

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a returned Peace Corps volunteer, I rise to recognize National Peace Corps Week and the work of the Peace Corps as we approach its 50th anniversary. For over 49 years, the Peace Corps has played an instrumental role in establishing prosperous foreign relations while fostering cross-cultural understandings. Countries from all over the globe celebrate the contributions of the Peace Corps and look forward with anticipation to its continued growth.

During this week, we salute and honor the men and women of this nation who have selflessly served abroad as Peace Corps volunteers, as well as those current volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: world peace and friendship.

The Peace Corps provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to help some of the most impoverished people in the world, work that changes their global perspectives. My personal experiences as a former Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador building schools and health clinics continues to inspire me to actively advocate for the expansion of this program. The work of the Peace Corps and Peace Corps volunteers is invaluable—they are our country's greatest diplomatic tool. My experience marked the beginning of my lifelong commitment to public service. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

Since President John F. Kennedy's call to service, almost 50 years ago, over 195,000 people have served as Peace Corps volunteers. Although a lot has been achieved since the Peace Corps's inception, the Peace Corps is currently at half the size it was in 1966. As the 50th anniversary approaches, and with the recent devastations in Haiti and Chile, we are only reminded of the significance of community service and the valuable assistance that the Peace Corps can provide.

It is with great appreciation for the Peace Corps and its ability to foster a global community that alongside my colleagues, I have requested \$465 million for FY 2011 Peace Corps funding. A commitment to increase funding will allow the Peace Corps to modernize its systems, optimize the number of volunteers and staff in existing countries, strengthen recruiting and diversity efforts, continue to expand to new nations, and maximize safety and security training and compliance efforts.

I am greatly encouraged by the work of the Peace Corps and look forward to answering President Obama's call to continue to grow the Peace Corps. In this time of world conflict, economic disparities, and when so many are expressing an interest in national service, I hope we continue to re-invigorate the Peace Corps, our Nation's greatest and most cost-efficient diplomatic tool. During Peace Corps week, let us all pay tribute to the hard work, perseverance, determination, compassion, and idealism of Peace Corps volunteers around the world.

HONORING NORTH TEXANS WHO  
ASSISTED WITH RECOVERY RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and efforts of several North Texans who assisted the citizens of Haiti after the terrible earthquake of January 12, 2010 struck the country. I am remarkably proud of the work they have done as their presence in Haiti was absolutely critical in the days and weeks directly following the earthquake.

I would particularly like to note the efforts of several medical professionals associated with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center who went to Haiti after the disaster to help with relief efforts. Their work was critically important and helped to save countless lives in the country. Dr. Karl Rathjen, an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UT Southwestern spent nine days in Haiti and operated on roughly 50–100 people in the time he was there. Andrew Tyan, a medical student, also spent time in the country to help with relief efforts. Additionally, Scott McGough, a Lewisville orthopedic therapist, and Emily Davenport, a Physician's Assistant, spent a week helping in the Caribbean nation.

Madam Speaker, when disaster struck Haiti, these North Texans answered a call to help. I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing their hard work and sacrifice to help people in need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN  
MODERNIZATION ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I will introduce three bills to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising ability, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding its Board of Regents from 17 members, which includes six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. These changes will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it is the first significant change in an old and revered institution since it was established in 1846. The second bill, the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2010, seeks to preserve the longstanding free admission policy for permanent exhibits at an institution that is largely funded by the federal government, as envisioned by James Smithson, its founder who contributed the original gift. Finally, the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2010 will apply the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to

the Smithsonian in the same manner they are applied to other federal agencies.

The Smithsonian Institution is a unique and irreplaceable cultural, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and a pending National Museum of African American History and Culture, which has been approved by Congress and is now seeking funding from the private sector for construction. The Smithsonian has grown with donations from American culture and life, and financial contributions, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its support from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious and unmet infrastructure and other financial needs.

Congress must help the Smithsonian Institution strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step that Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from the 19th Century governance structure that keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical internal oversight. This bill provides a governance structure befitting an agency of the unique complexity of the Smithsonian.

In no small part, the difficulty the Smithsonian has faced results from limitations inherent in its antiquated governance structure. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years ago, but today the structure has proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian. The present governance structure places immense responsibility on dedicated but overextended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Smithsonian Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small, the former Secretary of the Smithsonian, and had allowed him to create an "insular culture." The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards for which she earned more than \$1.2 million in six years. Further, the Smithsonian's Business Ventures Chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This unprecedented crisis caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks put into sharp dual-focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing coverage, has damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential con-

tributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel require new and concentrated oversight by citizens for whom the Smithsonian would command priority attention.

The Board of Regents, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a Governance Committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its oversight of the institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher, to review the issues arising from an Inspector General's reports, the Board of Regents' response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The IRC was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly that the root cause of the current problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure that led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board must assume a fiduciary duty that carries a "major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk, and potentially, financial liability." The IRC further argued that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over \$1 billion a year, must have a Board of Regents who "act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight." The IRC cited lack of clarity of the roles of the U.S. Vice President and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on the Board, and said that "it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent." The same observation could be made of Members of the House and Senate who serve on the Board. The IRC recommended increasing the level of expertise and the number of board members to ensure that the Regents have sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's own Governance Committee identified several board weaknesses and concluded that the Regents did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision making, that the staff whom the Regents depended upon for oversight inquiries did not have direct access to information, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flag issues "crippled" internal compliance and oversight mechanisms.

Only Congress, with the concurrence of the president, can amend the Smithsonian Charter. The last change to the Board's structure occurred over 30 years ago, but only to increase the number of private citizens on the Board from six to nine.

The number of Regents, however, is not the root problem. Although this bill expands the Board of Regents from 17 to 21, it most importantly brings the board into alignment with modern public and private boards by requiring all Regents to be private citizens. The search for private funds by Smithsonian management was a major cause of the recent controversy. Faced with crippling budget problems, the Regents must be free to give new and unprece-

dent attention and energy to finding and helping to raise substantially more funds from private sources. The new structure envisioned by the bill will improve oversight and the capacity for fundraising from private sources. Unlike federal officials, private citizens are entirely free to assist in private fundraising. Most important, private citizens will have sufficient time and expertise to serve on the Board of Regents, and will be able to devote the personal time and attention necessary to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility that comes with serving such a venerable and complex institution.

The bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting members of the Regents, while eliminating the self-perpetuating role of the Board of Regents in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board of Regents.

Considering the seriousness of the findings of the Board of Regents' own Governance Committee and of the IRC, the changes prescribed by this bill are nothing short of necessary. The reform of the fiduciary and governance issues that have brought public criticism to this iconic American institution must begin with the indispensable step of a making its governance consistent with that of similar institutions today. Only congressional attention can reassure the public that the controversies that recently have besieged the Smithsonian will not recur. In the face of an unprecedented public controversy, Congress would be remiss if it left the Smithsonian to its own oversight and devices alone for improvement.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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TRIBUTE TO SARAH CARTER  
PERRY BROWN ON THE CELEBRATION OF HER 105TH BIRTHDAY

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**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to add my congratulations to that of her family and friends as Sarah Carter Perry Brown celebrated her 105th birthday at a Book Discussion and Tribute in her honor on Saturday, February 13, 2010, at The Newark Public Library. For all the contributions she has made over the years, Sarah Carter Perry Brown deserves to be feted on this marvelous occasion.

Sarah was born and raised in Jefferson, Georgia, to Reverend Thomas Gray Carter, and his wife, Channie Louisa Tatman Carter. Sarah was a witness to the cruelty African Americans faced as a result of the enforced Jim Crow Laws. She migrated north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for better opportunities, later settling in Sicklerville, New Jersey.

A strong and dedicated woman, Sarah Carter Perry Brown has always had faith when

facing difficult challenges. Mount Olive Baptist Church was founded in 1928 by Sarah and her brother, Reverend Hezekiah Carter in Philadelphia. Sarah has a gift for healing oth-

ers whether it is with her kind words or her use of natural remedies. She proves to be the matriarch of her family, serving as a mother figure to all those who know her.

As Sarah Carter Perry Brown celebrates another year, I want to join all those gathered in wishing her a very Happy Birthday and many more!