MacPhee's dedication to Michiganders has been evident in both his career and his long history of community involvement.

I am confident that James MacPhee will serve the ICBA with the same dedication and fervor he has given to the Michigan banking community. We in Southwest Michigan are very proud and grateful for his leadership.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL OOSTBURG SANZ

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Paul Oostburg Sanz, who until recently served as the General Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee. As a result of his confirmation by the other body late last week, Paul will soon take a new position as the General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Paul Oostburg Sanz became General Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee in January 2007, just at the time I had the honor to begin serving as committee chairman. In the almost three years since, Paul has played a critical role in day-to-day operations of the committee and has also been a trusted advisor on the legal issues facing the Department of Defense.

It is no exaggeration to say that Paul's ability to grasp complex issues, his attention to detail, and his years of experience on Capitol Hill were instrumental in helping our committee and the Congress to achieve the enactment of the last three annual National Defense Authorization Acts.

Our committee and the Congress have particularly benefited from Paul's expertise on matters related to detainee policy and the Military Commissions Act, as well as issues related to counter-narcotics, matters related to Southern Command, and international legal issues.

A look at Paul's resume gives you a good idea about the breadth and diversity of his experience. He earned a law degree at Harvard University Law School and earned a Master in Public Affairs degree from Princeton University.

His international experience includes service as Peace Corps English teacher in Guinea-Bissau, and work in South Africa conducting political party training during the historic 1994 national elections. Paul also worked on conflict-resolution issues for the U.S. Embassy in Liberia, and on democracy and governance programs for the USAID Mission in Mozambique.

Before coming to Capitol Hill, Paul clerked for a U.S. district court judge in Puerto Rico. From May 2001 to December 2006, Paul served as the Deputy Chief Counsel for the House Committee on International Relations, providing strategic and procedural counsel to our distinguished colleague, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, who at that time was the committee's Ranking Member.

It is clear that Paul has the education, experience, and intellectual gifts to be an excellent General Counsel for the U.S. Navy. I also believe Paul has the temperament to serve our country exceptionally well in this position. In the time I have worked with Paul, he has approached every problem and every challenge thrown his way with a calm demeanor and rational analysis. Then he gets to work, and his hard work pays off.

Because of Paul Oostburg Sanz's outstanding ability and work performance, I am not surprised the Obama Administration sought him out to serve at the Pentagon. The prospect of Paul's departure from the Hill gives me no joy, but I am happy that his talents have been recognized and that our country will continue to benefit from his service. Paul will be missed by all of us on the House Armed Services Committee, but I wish him every success in his new role as General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

KAITLYNN McLAUGHLIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaitlynn McLaughlin. Kaitlynn is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Kaitlynn's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Kaitlynn has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Kaitlynn can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kaitlynn McLaughlin for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

A TRIBUTE TO RHONDA SPAULDING'S FIRST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rhonda Spaulding, Deliverance Evangelistic Church's First Lady, on her first Women's Conference. I congratulate Sister Spaulding on this achievement, as it will greatly benefit the women, and larger community, of Philadelphia.

As First Lady of the Deliverance Evangelistic Church, Sister Spaulding is a devoted teacher and community servant. Working with her church, she has been involved with various ministries dedicated to bettering the surrounding neighborhood. In an effort to continue and extend her community outreach and assistance, she has established the Deliverance Evangelistic Church's first Women's Conference, to be held on April 22 and 23, 2010.

This conference will address many of the most pressing issues facing women in Philadelphia. The unique needs and concerns of abused women, women in shelters, and young single mothers will be paid special attention. In focusing on the women of her community, especially the most disadvantaged, Sister Spaulding will be strengthening her community for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking First Lady Rhonda Spaulding and the Deliverance Evangelistic Church for their work in bettering their community, and congratulate Sister Spaulding on the occasion of her first Women's Conference.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NIGEL K. OLSEN, USMC

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise for the second time in just one short week to honor a young Marine from my district who paid the ultimate price for our country, and reminded us with his sacrifice that freedom isn't free.

Marine LCpl Nigel K. Olsen died on March 4, 2010, while serving in the Helmand province in Afghanistan, just days after Lance Corporal Aragon, a fellow Utah Marine in his unit passed away.

Like so many serving with him, Lance Corporal Olsen rose to answer the call of duty with a maturity and patriotic honor far beyond his years. He had finished high school at Mountain View High in Orem just 3 years earlier, and enlisted right after graduation. He knew from a young age that he wanted to serve in the military, to serve the country he loved, even before he rode on an aircraft carrier from Hawaii to California in elementary school.

We honor Lance Corporal Olsen's mother Kim and father Todd, and his sister Stacy and her daughter as well. They also loved their country—our country—enoughh to let the son and brother and uncle whom they loved serve in Afghanistan with his fellow Marines.

At this time of their loss, I would ask my colleagues to join with me in extending our Nation's heartfelt condolences and appreciation for the service and sacrifices of Lance Corporal Olsen and his family. We ask so much of these fine young men and women in the Armed Forces.

May we ever keep our servicemembers and their families in our thoughts and prayers, and may God bless them, and the United States of America.

DANIELLE MULLENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Danielle Mullens. Danielle is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Danielle's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Danielle has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Danielle can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Danielle Mullens for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF P.K. BROOKS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. P.K. Brooks.

Mr. Brooks is 78 years old and has been in business in my community of Saks for 56 years. During that time he has been a pillar of the community and a role model for generations of young people whose lives he has touched. He remains one of the most respected leaders in the area.

He grew up in Wedowee, Alabama, and played basketball for Randolph County High School. He later joined the Navy during the Korean War.

Mr. Brooks is a man of integrity and full of compassion for the folks around him. He has been a member of Saks Baptist Church for 53 years. Over the years, he has belonged to numerous organizations including Civitan, VFW and Gideon's.

On March 28th, an appreciation function will be held in the afternoon at Saks Civitan Club.

All of us across Calhoun County are pleased to recognize such an outstanding individual. I hope we can all look to Mr. Brooks as an example of how to live and I am proud to call him my friend.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SGT BENJAMIN SHERMAN

HON. BILL DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fallen soldier, son, husband, and, now, a father. The life of Sergeant Benjamin Sherman was tragically cut short thousands of miles from home near on his second heroic tour of duty in Afghanistan. His daughter, Skylah May-Marie Sherman, was born just yesterday on Tuesday, March 9.

Ben was a hero long before he sacrificed his life for his country. Born to Bill and Denise Sherman of New Bedford, Massachusetts, he served as an exemplary role model for his two sisters, Meredith and Jessica, through their youth and adolescence at Plymouth South High School. It was during middle school in Plymouth that Ben first met Patricia—the girl who would one day become his wife. While many young high school students struggle to balance their daily routines with the natural torment of their teen years, Ben held himself to a standard above his peers. Always the first to stand up for a cause, he was a student of integrity and a model of resilience.

Recognizing his own passion to aid his fellow Americans, Ben enlisted in the Army in August of 2006. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the battalion mortars section of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was deployed for the first time in January of 2007, where his unit was engaged in fierce fighting throughout the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. Often in the thick of the action, Ben was instrumental in the battalion's efforts to clear the Taliban from the Helmand River Valley. His steadfast resolve served him well through the cutting edge of battle, and he was publicly lauded for his astute decision-making despite the pressures of battle and his courage in the face of determined enemy attacks.

It was during his return from that first deployment, on May 2, 2008, that he proposed to the girl who had waited for him with patience and grace through the long months of deployment. Patricia and Ben were married August 26 and hurriedly began what they prayed would be a long, healthy life together in Fayetteville, North Carolina. In July of 2009, one month before his final deployment, Ben and Patricia learned the happy news that their first child—a daughter—was on her way. With this newfound joy in his heart, Ben returned with his unit to Afghanistan in August.

Regularly exposed to the many dangers inherent in war, Ben continued his tradition of excellence during his second deployment in the Badghis Province in northwestern Afghanistan. No task was too difficult nor challenge too daunting for the expert mortar-man, Sergeant Sherman. On November 4, 2009, while conducting operations near the town of Bala Murghab, Ben fell into the Murghab River and drowned. He was 21 years old.

Ben's greatest gift to his country lies not in his heroism in battle, his legacy at Plymouth South High School, or the tragedy of his untimely death. Instead, his memory will forever endure in the starlit eyes, coy smile, and zealous ambition of Skylah May-Marie Sherman—a daughter who may never know the embrace of her father, yet will always carry in her heart the stories, photos, and memories of a man whose passion for life was fueled by his love for an unborn daughter and beloved wife.

BEAUMONT FIREFIGHTER AND 80 OTHER TEXANS RESPOND TO THE HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we grieve with those in Haiti over the loss of life during the devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake January 12. Many Americans rushed to help, including one particular Texan from Beaumont. Firefighter Joshua Fowler is one such hero. The city of Beaumont in the Second District of Texas is proud to honor Joshua Fowler for his service to the people of Haiti during his international rescue tour as a member of the Texas Task Force 1.

The Texas Task Force 1, an urban search and rescue group, is comprised of 210 personnel. These individuals respond to disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, widespread tornadoes, and man-made technological and terrorist events in Texas and throughout the United States. Haiti was their very first international deployment. Joshua Fowler has been a firefighter/EMT-1 for the City of Beaumont Fire/Rescue Services since 2000 and was one of 80 Texans that assisted the people of Haiti.

We applaud Joshua for his selfless service as well as the many others that have also put themselves in harm's way to protect and rescue Haitians who were trapped and wounded during this earthquake. We thank them for their commitment to responding to disaster-stricken areas with a selfless love for others.

BROOKE JACKSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brooke Jackson. Brooke is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Brooke's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Brooke has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment in which Brooke can take pride for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brooke Jackson for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING FORMER NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER HOWARD WEITZMAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard Weitzman, who served as the Comptroller of Nassau County, New York from 2001 through 2009.

When Howard first took office, Nassau County faced an unprecedented budget crisis. Together with the County Executive, Howard brought Nassau County back from the brink of bankruptcy, balanced the county's budget, and turned deficits into surpluses; a feat made more remarkable when considering he engineered Nassau County's fiscal turnaround without a tax increase for three consecutive years.

During his eight year tenure, Howard enhanced the reputation of the Comptroller's Office and helped to restore Nassau County residents' trust that their local government worked for their best interests. Under his stewardship, Nassau County recovered millions of dollars