

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ASHLEY HOWERY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ashley Howerly, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of service and citizenship. Ashley has recently been named one of the top youth volunteers in Missouri for 2010 in the 15th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Ashley is recognized for this prestigious award because of the positive impact she has made in her community. Her initiative, creativity, and selfless volunteerism make her a worthy recipient. Ashley should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Ashley will continue to use her many talents as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Ashley on this monumental achievement.

HONORING BLAIR ROBERTS

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, Blair Roberts, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the international dealer organization of 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. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Blair's business, Roberts Truck Center, is headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in the Southwest and the entire nation. He currently manages five of the 13 dealer locations within the Roberts Truck Center family business, which he owns with his brother Blaine. It employs a total of 467 in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. With this most recent award, Roberts Truck Center has received the Circle of Excellence, under Blair's leadership, a total of five times.

Blair has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. Active in the industry, he is chairman of the International Dealer Council and was past co-chairman of the International Product Advisory Board. Today, in addition to

his leadership of Roberts Truck Center, he has also built a successful truck leasing business, Roberts Idealease, which is a multi-year winner of the IdealGold Award for Excellence.

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 and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Blair Roberts for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, State and Nation.

RECOGNIZING DUANE KYRISH,
WINNER OF NAVISTAR'S CIRCLE
OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR
2009

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Duane Kyrish, a winner of Navistar's Circle of Excellence Award for 2009. Located in Illinois, Navistar employs many of my constituents and is an important economic engine for my district, undoubtedly so because of suppliers like Mr. Kyrish.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the international dealer organization of 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. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mr. Kyrish's business, Longhorn International Trucks, is headquartered in Austin, Texas, and was acquired by the family in 1976. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in the Southwest and the entire nation, with 105 employees and two dealer locations. In 1999, Duane was named the first International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer services. With this most recent award, Longhorn International Trucks has now received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 27 times.

Duane has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He got his commercial operator's license at 17 and began driving trucks for the International Harvester Fort Worth branch. In August 1976, Duane began his professional careers in the truck business at the Austin dealership. Both Duane, and his twin brother Wayne, work for the family business. Today, in addition to leading Longhorn International Trucks, he has also built a successful truck leasing business, Longhorn Idealease, which is a multi-year winner of the IdealGold Award for Excellence.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Kyrish

for his contributions to his community and to the nation as a whole.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS
OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 267 "Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing the Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year."

As a cosponsor of this resolution, I am proud to recognize the contributions of Iranian Americans on their day of celebration. Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300 million Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions. Nowruz, which means new day, is celebrated on 21 March, the day of the vernal equinox. Nowruz is celebrated by more than 1,000,000 Iranian-Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds. The people of Iran have a long history of celebrating Nowruz—a holiday that embodies the tradition that each individual's thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community.

This resolution not only reminds us all of the contributions made by our Iranian constituents, but also of the trying times faced by Iranians in Iran and in the Iranian diaspora. During this time of renewal, my thoughts are with the residents of Camp Ashraf and their families—some of whom reside in my district.

Late last year, three months after U.S. forces turned over control of Camp Ashraf, Iraqi security forces violated the human rights of the People's Mujahideen of Iran (PMOI). Camp Ashraf detains over 3,400 exiled Iranian political dissidents, who are members of the PMOI, including over 1,000 women. The PMOI opposes the current Iranian regime, and for their political beliefs they have been exiled from Iran and sequestered in Camp Ashraf. Several women detained at Camp Ashraf have reported acts of intimidation and threats of physical and sexual violence by members of the Iraqi security forces.

On July 28, 2009, Iraqi security forces conducted a raid on the detainees at Camp Ashraf. The raid occurred fewer than three months after the U.S. passed control of Camp Ashraf to the government of Iraq. The raid began on Tuesday, July 28th when Iraqi armored vehicles began attacks against the Iranian prisoners. The attacks continued for two

• 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.

full days and resulted in the death of 11 exiles and the injury of over 400 more. As a result of the raid on Camp Ashraf, 36 men were arrested under allegations of violent behavior. The 36 arrested Camp Ashraf residents have since been freed, but the United States has a continuing interest in ensuring that the events of July 28th never occur again.

The Iraqi government's treatment of the camp's residents sets a dangerous precedent for future treatment of minority groups. In recent years, there have been alarming numbers of religiously motivated killings, abductions, beatings, rapes, threats, intimidation, forced conversions, marriages, and displacement from homes and businesses, and attacks on religious leaders, pilgrims, and holy sites, in Iraq, with the smallest religious minorities in Iraq having been among the most vulnerable, although Iraqis from many religious communities, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, have suffered in this violence. In summary, members of small religious minority communities in Iraq do not have militia or tribal structures to defend them, do not receive adequate official protection, and are legally, politically, and economically marginalized.

Madam Speaker, as 300 million people worldwide celebrate the start of a new year, it is my hope that Iraqis around the world find peace and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE WILSON
FOR A CAREER IN RADIO BROADCASTING
IN LUDINGTON

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor Ludington talk show host George Wilson for a career of service in radio broadcasting in Mason County.

George Wilson joined WKLA radio in June of 1959. Along with his popular morning show, Big George served in a variety of other roles over the years, including sales manager and play-by-play sports announcer. George left WKLA for a brief period to serve as advertising manager at the Ludington Daily News, but returned to WKLA in 1986.

In 2007 Wilson was nominated for induction into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame, and his name will remain on the Hall of Fame ballot through 2012.

Throughout his morning show broadcasting career, George woke every day at 3 a.m., but despite the hours, he always enjoyed his job, saying, "If you look forward to going to work every day, then that's a good job and I've always looked forward to going to work at WKLA."

I have interviewed with George on countless occasions throughout my 18 years in Congress, and have always enjoyed our conversations on issues of the day.

Whether it was through our conversations, watching him lead the Scottville Clown Band or working with him as mayor of Scottville, my wife Diane and I have always enjoyed our friendship with George.

George Wilson's retirement marks the end of an era in Mason County, and he will be missed by all those who tuned in to listen to his morning show during the weekdays.

RECOGNIZING LYLE BASSETT,
WINNER OF NAVISTAR'S CIRCLE
OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR
2009

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lyle Bassett, a winner of Navistar's Circle of Excellence Award for 2009. Located in Illinois, Navistar employs many of my constituents and is an important economic engine for my district, undoubtedly so because of suppliers like Mr. Bassett.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the international dealer organization of 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. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mr. Bassett's business, Riverview International Trucks, LLC, is headquartered in West Sacramento, California, and has grown sales and revenue from \$5 million in 1982 to more than \$60 million in 2009, which was a record year for the business. The business employs 78. Lyle started out as a trainee at International Harvester in 1966 and worked his way through various areas of the business, prior to buying Riverview International Trucks in July 1981. With this most recent award, Riverview International Trucks has now received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of three times.

Lyle has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He is active in his community as a member of the Rotary Club of Sacramento, where he supports the club's annual fundraising events and efforts to provide college scholarships to high school students, and as a Meal on Wheels volunteer, providing home-delivered meals to seniors. He is known as a hard working man who takes care of his family, employees and customers each and every day the gates are open at Riverview International Trucks.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Lyle Bassett for his contributions to his community and to the nation as a whole.

HONORING THOMAS JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Jones, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

2010 BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Brain Awareness Week and the benefits of educating students on brain science in Central New Mexico and across the country. Launched in 1996, Brain Awareness Week brings together the Society for Neuroscience, Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, and 2,400 other organizations in 76 countries that share a common interest in improving public awareness of brain and nervous system research. During Brain Awareness Week, which is being held March 15–21, neuroscientists around the globe educate K–12 students, senior citizens, and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions, and classroom discussions on the elements of the human brain.

This year, the New Mexico area members of the Society for Neuroscience hosted the 2010 Neuroscience Day at the School of Medicine at the University of New Mexico, located in my district. During this day-long event, many of my constituents learned about the wonders of the mind and the nature of scientific discovery. Today, in recognition of Brain Awareness Week, I would like to highlight a serious neurological condition that affects many of our men and women in uniform returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I recognize the great urgency of understanding and treating PTSD, especially for the new generation of U.S. soldiers returning home after prolonged exposure to combat-related stress and trauma in the war zone. One large study conducted by the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization focused on improving policy and decision-making through research and analysis, found that almost 20 percent of returning military personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan report symptoms of PTSD or major depression. Our service members aren't the only Americans at risk for this debilitating neuropsychiatric disorder. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, about 3.5 percent of American adults, or 7.7 million individuals, struggle with PTSD during any given year. Unfortunately, current drug and behavioral treatments for PTSD are often unable to reduce or eliminate symptoms that include intrusive memories, emotional numbness, and insomnia. In recent years, however, neuroscientists have begun to piece together some of the neurobiological puzzles behind this complex disorder, offering new hope to its sufferers.

The research dollars allocated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which I

supported, are providing scientists with opportunities to discover new medical advances that will detect and treat PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other illnesses that affect our service members. For example, researchers at the University of New Mexico have found that an innovative brain imaging method, diffusion tensor imaging, can be used to reliably detect and track brain abnormalities in patients with mild TBI. This important application received funding from a grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Recently, researchers at the Mind Research Network, an independent non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and brain injury, located in Albuquerque, received a \$507,000 Recovery Act grant to continue pursuing similar analyses using magnetoencephalography, a sensitive technique for measuring the brain's electrical activity, which is essential for evaluating and treating TBI patients. As a result of the Recovery Act, scientific research is providing new hope to thousands of service members returning home from the war zone who suffer from PTSD, TBI, and other neurological trauma.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week, which exposes our constituents to the wonders of the brain. I also ask that you join me in continuing to support research for new treatments for our brave men and women returning home from combat with PTSD and other brain injuries and disorders.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 267, a resolution recognizing Nowruz, a festival celebrating the Persian New Year and arrival of spring.

It is a pleasure to join my colleagues in support of the first-ever congressional resolution marking Nowruz, a two-week holiday that is observed by millions of people of Persian descent in the United States, Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and many other nations of the world. The holiday symbolizes renewal, health, happiness, peace and prosperity and is celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai' faith. It is a special time to share with family and friends and honor cultural traditions that date back more than 3,000 years.

As reflected in this resolution, Nowruz is also a special opportunity to recognize the important contributions of the Iranian-American community to our Nation's social and economic fabric. In Los Angeles, which is home to the largest Iranian-American community in the United States, there is great pride in the community's devotion to civic activism, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all those celebrating Nowruz Aideh Shoma Mobarak, a happy and prosperous new year.

HONORING SEAN MILES EMERY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Miles Emery, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF CHIEF JAMES S. DRISCOLL OF DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS FOR HIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE TOWN OF DEDHAM AND THE DEDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chief James S. Driscoll for his outstanding dedication to the town of Dedham, Massachusetts, and to recognize his achievements during his 37 years with the Dedham Fire Department.

James Driscoll is a lifelong resident of Dedham, Massachusetts. He graduated from Dedham High School in 1965 and then attended Boston College where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education in 1969. After graduating, he taught seventh and ninth grade math at Norwood Junior High School North briefly, before following his childhood dream of becoming a firefighter.

On June 28, 1972, he became a member of the Dedham Fire Department. After 6 years he was promoted to fire lieutenant and held this position until he was again promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, a position he held until November 2001. At that time, he was named Acting Fire Chief and served in this capacity until he became the permanent Fire Chief of the Dedham Fire Department in August 2004.

During his tenure with the Dedham Fire Department, Chief Driscoll continued his education, receiving a bachelor of science degree in fire science from Boston State College and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Massachusetts—Boston in 1985, writing his thesis on fire apparatus purchasing options.

Chief Driscoll and his wife of 35 years, Carol, continue to live in Dedham, where they raised three sons, Michael G., Thomas W., and Stephen J.; all graduates of Dedham High School.

In his retirement, Chief Driscoll enjoys running and reading, although you will most likely

find him by the pool or pushing his young grandson, Ryan, in the stroller.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Chief James S. Driscoll for his 37 years of service and dedication to the people of Dedham and the Dedham Fire Department. I applaud his commitment to his community and to his family. I wish him my best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, just this week, Congress declared March as Red Cross Month. Today I rise to honor the American Red Cross, South Florida Region chapter and its leadership. Since 1917, this chapter has been mobilizing South Floridians to aid those in need and has provided relief in times of crisis.

The American Red Cross is a community funded and supported organization, which arrives on the scene of an emergency, natural disaster or catastrophic event, almost immediately, to offer moral and material support. Volunteers assist all disaster victims, whether that disaster is a house fire or a storm.

Time and time again the South Florida chapter has been at the forefront of meeting our community needs. Last year, they responded to 388 local disasters, providing 727 families with direct emergency assistance. Most recently, the South Florida chapter has played a leading role in providing aid and relief to the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. The chapter helped in sending more than 80 American Red Cross Creole-speaking volunteer translators to Haiti to support the medical mission of the USNS *Comfort*. The chapter also fielded volunteers at the three airports in our region to greet and offer assistance to repatriated Haitian Americans, and the Chapter's headquarter office was responding to an average of 500 calls daily in the wake of the earthquake.

Under their excellent leadership the South Florida chapter staff works with professionalism every day and is dedicated to helping those in need. They are local community heroes. As we celebrate Red Cross Month, I thank the South Florida chapter for its service and congratulate its leadership, staff and members for their continued success. I am honored to recognize them and their work and appreciate their invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING GARRETT BRADLEY RAGLAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Bradley Ragland, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts

of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HIV/AIDS AWARENESS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support and concern about the widespread of the HIV/AIDS virus. My district of Brooklyn, New York, is considered to be the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States for African-Americans, women, adolescents, and children.

According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in Brooklyn, 87 percent, with 7 percent under the age of 13 are persons of color, live with the HIV/AIDS virus. The city of Brooklyn was home to nearly 30 percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City who died.

It is important that you get tested regularly, such as, during your yearly physical exam; it is important, even for those who think they are not at risk. Early detection for persons infected with HIV, particularly before the infection progresses to AIDS, is vital for the effectiveness of treatment. There are new testing methods, such as, "Rapid HIV Testing", which allows persons to receive results twenty minutes after being tested.

Please take the preventative measures to protect yourself and your loved ones by getting tested. It is far too important not to do; so, please go and get tested.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM TOLLEY'S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William Tolley, a resident in Michigan's 9th Congressional District, for his lifelong service to the American Concrete Institute, ACI, headquartered in Farmington Hills, Michigan. As a Member of Congress, I am privileged and honored to recognize Mr. Tolley for his many accomplishments and to thank him for his dedication to strengthening the infrastructure in the United States through his service to the ACI.

ACI is one of the world's leading authorities on concrete technology. Concrete is the second most consumed material in the world after water. It serves as an essential building mate-

rial found in pavements, bridges, buildings and public works projects around the world. ACI is a nonprofit consensus organization with nearly 20,000 members internationally whose purpose is to further engineering and technical education, scientific investigation and research, and development of standards for design and construction incorporating concrete and related materials. ACI is the premier source for information on concrete construction and uses of ACI codes include adoption by reference in general building codes impacting potentially every concrete project in the United States.

On Monday March 22, ACI friends and colleagues will participate in a celebration dinner and toast in honor of William Tolley's retirement from ACI at their Annual Spring Convention in Chicago. Mr. Tolley's passionate involvement with the ACI includes serving as the manager of Administrative Services, Senior Managing Director and most recently his promotion to Executive Vice President in 2002. For his tireless dedication and service he was awarded ACI's Henry L. Kennedy Award recognizing his outstanding leadership in strengthening and expanding chapter activities and in 2006 he was named one of the ten most influential people in the concrete industry. In addition to his work with the ACI, Mr. Tolley is also the Chairman of the Concrete and Masonry Related Associations and has served as Treasurer, Board member and chair of the Finance Committee for the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. William Tolley's service to the American Concrete Institute and his dedication to innovation in strengthening our country's infrastructure and keeping Michigan and ACI on the cutting edge of development of concrete technology. I wish him many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING CHANS EDWARD DYKES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chans Edward Dykes, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

CONGRATULATING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior League of Summit, New Jersey on celebrating their 80th Anniversary as a women's volunteer organization dedicated to serving the communities of Summit, Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Chatham.

March 26, 2010 will mark their 80th Anniversary and I hope to join the Junior League of Summit and its members at their planned celebration.

The Junior League of Summit is comprised of more than 400 women in Union County, who are united by a common goal of helping others. Specifically, the organization promotes volunteerism, develops the potential of women and improves the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Over the years, the Junior League of Summit has made significant contributions to community service throughout Central New Jersey. In fact, the League has many accomplishments of which to be proud.

For example, the League has raised more than \$3 million through its Summit-based Thrift Shop and returned those funds to the community by way of grants, special projects, scholarships and programs. And Junior League members have logged more than one million hours of community service.

Junior League members have volunteered to help scores of causes in New Jersey, including local area schools, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics of New Jersey, Children's Specialized Hospital, Interfaith Council for the Homeless, Union County Parks and Recreation, CASA of Union County, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the AIDS Resource Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Junior League of Summit for their outstanding efforts to help others and make a difference to the larger community.

I am also pleased to congratulate the Junior League of Summit on its 80th Anniversary as a distinguished community organization. I am proud to share the League's good efforts with my colleagues here in the United States Congress and with the American people.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW KITCHEN KONFERENCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Kitchen Conference, held every year for the last 50 years in Warsaw, New York.

The Warsaw Kitchen Conference first met on February 1, 1960, as a group of Wyoming County Farm Bureau members for the purpose of discussing issues affecting the Western New York agricultural community. While

some membership in the Conference has changed over the last 60 years, their dedication to addressing the issues involving agriculture has remained constant, and the group has met every year since its founding.

Over the last 60 years, the Warsaw Kitchen Conference has hosted the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors to discuss agricultural issues, has promoting agriculture in the Wyoming County Fair, has hosted school children at local farms, and have done many other activities to advance the agriculture industry in Western New York.

Agriculture is one of Western New York's most significant industries, and the Warsaw Kitchen Conference and its members have played an important role in furthering this vital industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this House join me in honoring the Warsaw Kitchen Conference on their 50th anniversary, and for their work in furthering Western New York's agricultural community.

HONORING JACOB MOZER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jacob Mozer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of service and citizenship. Jacob has recently been named one of the top youth volunteers in Missouri for 2010 in the 15th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Jacob is recognized for this prestigious award because of the positive impact he has made in his community. His initiative, creativity, and selfless volunteerism make him a worthy recipient. Jacob should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in his community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Jacob will continue to use his many talents as tools for the betterment of his community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Jacob on this monumental achievement.

BRADY HONORS OFFICER
MARCELLO MUZZATTI

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize one of law enforcement's outstanding leaders. Marcello Muzzatti, currently a police officer with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department K9 unit, has been a member of the Fraternal Order of Police since 1981. He currently serves as President of the Washington, DC Fraternal Order of Police Lodge number one, after having served fourteen (14) years as Vice-President.

In 2002, Officer Muzzatti was appointed Chairman of the National Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Committee, by the late FOP President, Steve Young. One of his first orders of business as Chairman was planning the

National Police Memorial Service. The Service includes all of the fallen law enforcement officers from across the Country, including those killed during the attacks of 9/11. He made many positive changes to the National Memorial Committee and took the National FOP Memorial Peace Officers Service to a new level of excellence.

Officer Muzzatti has also worked tirelessly to strengthen and improve the relationships with many organizations. He volunteers his own time to reach out to the fallen officers' children by attending various retreats and events sponsored by Concerns of Police Survivors. He is also involved with the planning and implementation of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Museum project.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the hard work of police officers like Officer Muzzatti. He serves as an example to all and today, I salute him.

HONORING SITKA NATIONAL
HISTORIC PARK

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Sitka National Historic Park, which is the oldest federally designated park in Alaska. The park was established in 1890 to commemorate the 1804 Battle of Sitka. All that remains of this last major conflict between Europeans and Alaska Natives is the site of the Tlingit Fort and battlefield, located within this scenic 113-acre park.

In 1808, following this series of battles between the Tlingit natives and Governor Alexandr Baranov, Sitka was established as the capitol of what was then called Russian-America. Following the sale of this land to the United States after the decline of the otter fur trade, Sitka continued to be the seat of government for territorial Alaska until 1906, when the capital was moved to Juneau.

Unofficially called "lover's lane" or "totem park" by Sitka locals, the Sitka National Historic Park attracts nearly 300,000 visitors a year to its scenic coastal trails, beautiful temperate rainforest, and world-class collection of Northwest coast totem poles. These histories carved in cedar were donated by Native leaders from villages in Southeast Alaska, and were then brought to Sitka by Alaska's then District Governor John G. Brady in 1905. Many poles exhibited along the park's two miles of wooded pathways are replicas of the original totem poles.

The park also boasts a visitor center which contains ethnographic exhibits and houses the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, where visitors can watch Native artists at work. Here, the park cares for more than 154,000 museum collection items. These include Tlingit ethnographic pieces, Russian American archeological and historical items, historical photos, archives and herbarium specimens. Highlights of the collection include totem poles, Chilkat weaving, Tlingit oral history recordings, 19th Century Russian furniture, Russian Orthodox icons and vestments, and two hundred original glass plate negatives

by Sitkan photographer E.W. Merrill. Through these exhibits, visitors of the park get a rare peak into the unique cultures and lifestyles of Tlingit natives and Russian-American creoles.

The experience continues at the Russian Bishop's House, one of the last surviving examples of Russian colonial architecture in North America. This original 1842 log structure conveys the legacy of Russian America through exhibits, refurbished living quarters and the Chapel of the Annunciation. This house was once the center of the Russian Orthodox Church authority in a diocese that stretched from California to Siberian Kamchatka, at a time when Russia was still the dominant power in the Pacific Northwest. Today, it is an artifact of the heritage of Russian Orthodoxy in Alaska, which maintains a strong presence to this day.

Given this unique combination of natural beauty, cultural history, and rare artifacts, it is no wonder that the Park played a significant role in Sitka's recent designation as one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Tucked away behind the dormant volcano Mt. Edgcombe, the Sitka National Historic Park remains one of Alaska's jewels. As the City of Sitka commemorates Sitka National Historic Park month, I would like to join Alaskans in recognizing the Park on its centennial celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GEN-
ESE, NEW YORK ON THEIR
200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing the 200th Anniversary of the Central Presbyterian Church of Geneseo, New York.

The Central Presbyterian Church of Geneseo has a rich and proud history of service and dedication to the Western New York Community, beginning back in 1810 when Missionary Daniel Oliver organized a small group of Congregationalists in Geneseo.

The Church itself has been housed in several different structures over the last 200 years but its mission and dedication to the community have been constant. From the Reverend Daniel Oliver to its current pastor, the Reverend Beth E. Godfrey, the Central Presbyterian Church has been honoring its mission statement of "encouraging spiritual growth" for the last 200 years.

The Church has been serving both the regional and international community since its foundation, through numerous service projects such as organizing food drives and participating in the Livingston County Habitat for Humanity chapter to traveling to Juarez, Mexico to assist in the building of a shelter for abused women.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate and thank the Central Presbyterian Church of Geneseo for their dedication and service to the community for the past 200 years. They are a true asset to Western New York, and I ask that the House please join me in recognizing their tremendous achievement and work they have done during this time.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF RED CROSS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 67th annual Red Cross Month. For more than 125 years, the mission of the American Red Cross has been to help individuals and families prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and each year, nearly half a million volunteers respond to more than 70,000 disasters nationwide.

I am particularly proud of the American Red Cross and its Georgia chapters, including Metro Atlanta, for their swift, substantial, and heart-warming aid to my home state of Georgia during the catastrophic floods of last September. In the immediate aftermath, and in the weeks that followed, the American Red Cross opened eight shelters that provided a safe haven for nearly 500 people displaced by the floods. With the aid of over 800 volunteers and employees, health professionals were able to reach out to 3,400 victims in flood-drenched neighborhoods.

Without the help of these dedicated volunteers and employees, flood-affected men, women, and children would not have received more than 44,000 meals, nor, after losing their homes, would they have been given 3,723 clean-up and comfort kits. The kindness of strangers provided emergency financial assistance for more than 1,700 families.

As the Spring flood season begins to take its course, I urge my constituents and fellow Americans to do what they can to support the American Red Cross. The Red Cross relies on donations of time, money and blood to respond quickly to emergencies ranging from hurricanes to earthquakes and from fires to tornadoes. I commend the Red Cross for their efforts.

RECOGNITION OF THE MISS
GREATER SPRINGFIELD SCHOLARSHIP
ORGANIZATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community organization serving Northern Virginia, the Miss Greater Springfield Scholarship Organization. The Miss Greater Springfield Scholarship Organization is an affiliate of the Miss Virginia and Miss America Scholarship Organizations. The Miss America Organization, with its State and local affiliates, is the number one resource in the world for women's educational scholarships; in 2006 alone over \$45 million dollars was awarded to 12,000 women from throughout the country.

Miss Greater Springfield is now going into its 7th year, and has consistently upheld a high standard for its competitors, attracting participants that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the community and a desire to improve the world around them. The contestants support a variety of issues including autism advocacy and awareness, The Children's

Miracle Network, and promoting organ donation. Miss Greater Springfield of 2009, Bethany Munt, has used her title as a platform to address the challenges facing our Nation's schools and education system, and has been active with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Ms. Munt received her undergraduate degree in child development and has taught school in New York State and New Zealand.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Munt and the Miss Greater Springfield Scholarship Organization for their efforts to improve our community and the lives of our young people.

CLAUDE ARTHUR WHARTON, III

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claude Arthur "Skip" Wharton, III, of Seneca, South Carolina, and fellow alumnus of The Citadel, for a lifetime of distinguished service to the citizens of our state and to our country. From his time as a cadet at The Citadel to his current position as Director of Business Operations for the Applied Research and Development Institute, ARDI, of the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA, Skip has led an admirable life and maintained a strong work ethic. His contributions to South Carolina and the United States in the fields of government contract administration, compliance, finance, budgeting, and costing are truly commendable. In my view, Skip is the embodiment of an upstanding and fine American citizen.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from The Citadel, Skip served our country for four years in the United States Army as an Armored Cavalry Platoon Leader and a Troop Commander in Vietnam and Germany. For his service to our country, Skip was awarded the Silver Star Medal, the third highest medal awarded by the United States Armed Forces, for combat valor.

After his military service, Mr. Wharton spent seven years in management in small business in both California and Louisiana. From 1980 through 1987, Mr. Wharton was with the American Development Corporation, ADCOR, a defense manufacturing contractor located in Charleston, South Carolina. At ADCOR, he was responsible for adhering to the Federal Acquisition Regulations, FAR, in the development of annual corporate and departmental budgets, in excess of \$20 million per year; the promulgation and defense of all indirect rates; and the formulation of all pricing proposals. In 1988, Mr. Wharton joined SCRA in Charleston and served as the Director of Budgeting and Costing. In this capacity, he was responsible for financial analyses at the project, group, segment, and company levels; corporate budgeting; management reporting; and tracking performance against strategic goals.

In October of 2000, Mr. Wharton was assigned to ARDI as the Director of Contracts and Procurement and was responsible for establishing the contracts administration staff and the administrative functions of the Composites Manufacturing Technology Center, a United States Navy Center of Excellence. Skip also served as the ARDI Facility Security Offi-

cer and was responsible for all interaction with the Defense Security Service; physical security of the office; the safeguarding of all classified documents, software and hardware; and the processing and maintenance of individual security clearances.

Through hard work and dedication, Skip has made significant contributions to our state and our country. His distinguished service has been invaluable, and for this, I applaud him. His dedication to his family, friends, and colleagues should stand as an example of what we should all strive to be. I join Skip's colleagues at the Applied Research and Development Institute, the citizens of our state, and his entire family, including his wife, Patricia, his children and grandchild, in commending Skip for his lifetime of service to South Carolina and this great nation. May God bless them all.

RECOGNIZING GRACIA MOLINA DE
PICK UPON THE OCCASION OF
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Gracia Molina de Pick, a distinguished activist, feminist, author, and educator in the San Diego community, upon her 80th birthday.

Born into a politically active family in Mexico, Gracia Molina de Pick moved to San Diego in 1957, and has maintained her spirit of activism through her many years of work and service in our region. Along the way, she received her master's degree from San Diego State University and participated in doctoral studies at the University of California, San Diego and a doctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California.

Gracia Molina de Pick has been fighting for the rights of Latinos and Chicanos since she was a teenager. She is the founder of IMPACT, an early community grassroots organization that fought for the civil rights of Mexican-Americans in San Diego. From 1969 to 1977 she served on the National Council of La Raza, the first civil rights advocacy group for Hispanic Americans. In 1970, she also founded the first national feminist Chicana Association, the Comision Femenil Mexicana Nacional, and the following year she served as the Chicana Caucus Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus. She is the national organizer for Chicana participation at the United Nations World Conferences on Women.

Gracia Molina de Pick has tirelessly persisted in her efforts to secure equality for women. She helped to organize and found the Partido Popular, a Mexican political party that fought to secure voting rights for women. A published author, she has penned numerous articles and co-authored two books. Her most recent book, *Mujeres en la Historia & Historias de Mujeres*, offers readers biographies of influential women in Mexican history.

Understandably, many prominent organizations have honored Gracia Molina de Pick with well-deserved awards and recognition. In 2001, Assemblymember Christine Kehoe named Gracia "Woman of the Year," and she

was inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame the year after. In 2004, she received the Jesse de la Cruz Award from the California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., a venerable legal advocacy and economic justice organization.

Gracia continues to work for equality for those who are underrepresented and underserved, particularly in the areas of service and education. For many years, she served as a professor at Mesa College and a lecturer at the University of California, San Diego, where she helped found the University's Thurgood Marshall College. She served as the Commissioner of the California Post-Secondary Education Commission, and recently initiated the Gracia Molina de Pick Endowed Fund for Chicano/a Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Currently, Gracia is a member of San Diego's Human Relations Commission, where she works to ensure that the city upholds the protections of basic human and civil rights that she herself has worked so hard to establish.

In keeping with her selfless spirit, Gracia is commemorating her birthday with a benefit celebration to raise financial support for the Logan Heights Library in San Diego. On this happy occasion, please join me in honoring Gracia Molina de Pick and her years of hard work making a difference in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF A
NEW BB&T BRANCH IN
HAYMARKET, VA.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of a new BB&T branch location in Haymarket, Va.

The branch location at the corner of Heathcote Boulevard and Route 15 serves Western Prince William County and creates six new jobs for the region. The staff of the BB&T Haymarket branch are responsible stewards of their community with affiliations to the Dominion Valley Woman's Club, Gainesville Haymarket Rotary Club, Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross, Prince William County Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce, Haymarket Gainesville Business Association, Girl Scouts of America, George G. Tyler Elementary Parent Teacher Association and Haymarket Regional Food Bank.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the staff of the new Haymarket branch on the occasion of their ribbon cutting and commend them for their culture of robust civic participation.

BRANCH STAFF

Amelia J. Stansell, Assistant Vice President & Financial Center Leader; Liliana Grassa, Teller Supervisor; LaKeta McSellers, Relationship Banker; Shadia Shaikh, Relationship Teller; Erick Cabrera, Teller; Sherry Bobbitt, Area Operations Officer.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Donald Strehle, Northern Virginia Regional President; Karen Wallis, Regional Banking Manager; Sherri Hagenbuch, Sales & Service Leader for Prince William County; Michael Pybus, City Executive for Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the opening of the new

BB&T branch in Haymarket, Va. A business that encourages its employees to take an active role in civic life makes an investment far beyond that of bricks and mortar. It strengthens civic bonds and leaves an indelible mark on the character a community. I look forward to having a lasting community partner in BB&T's Haymarket branch.

HONORING BRYANE HEABERLIN
AND ALEXANDER COSBY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to tell a heartwarming story of two young soccer players united in their common humanity.

Bryane Heaberlin is a sixteen-year-old goalkeeper from St. Petersburg, Florida playing on the U.S. under-17 soccer team. Alexandra Cosby is the goalkeeper on Haiti's under-17 team. Last week, after the U.S. defeated Haiti at the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Cup in Costa Rica, the young women embraced in an emotional moment replayed around the world.

When Alexandra started crying at the end of the game, Bryane immediately understood. Still recovering from the effects of a devastating earthquake in her homeland, Alexandra and her teammates suffered through unspeakable tragedy. Bryane, understanding her team's victory was bittersweet, gave Alexandra a hug. They cried together. Soon after, both teams embraced in an emotional display of solidarity and friendship.

The story of Bryane and Alexandra is a testament to the enduring union and the generosity of spirit between the United States and Haiti. Our nations are neighbors and partners in an increasingly interdependent world. As young Bryane said after the game, "I did not think about the game at that moment . . . I simply thought about the hard times she had faced and everything she had lost. I thought that when the game was over, she had to come back to reality, that the game was her way of forgetting about everything for 90 minutes." Furthermore, Bryane's parents, Bryan and Gretchen along with the Clearwater Soccer Club and their daughter's school, delivered a 70-pound care package to the Haitian women's team.

Madam Speaker, as the representative of more Haitian Americans than any other member of Congress, I am compelled to share this story with my constituents and the broader public. Our community is hurting, but reading this story by John Cotey in the St. Petersburg Times gave me hope that brighter days are ahead for Haiti. These two young women are living examples of how sports bring us together in our common humanity. I applaud their compassion and grace in the face of adversity. Let us not forget their example as our nations move forward together.

CELEBRATING SWEENEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL'S FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on March 30, 2010 Sweeny Community Hospital will commemorate its forty-fifth anniversary. Located west of the Brazos River in the city of Sweeny in Brazoria County, which is in my Congressional District, Sweeny Community Hospital is a cornerstone of Brazoria County's health care system.

Sweeny Community Hospital has always been committed to providing top-notch health care to all who walk through its doors. Sweeny Community Hospital has always worked to grow and improve in order to better meet the health care needs of the people of Brazoria County. Today Sweeny Community Hospital employs approximately 150 people and has locations throughout Brazoria County. Having begun my Ob/Gyn medical practice in Brazoria County shortly after Sweeny Community Hospital opened its doors, I am well aware of the quality of the medical services offered at Sweeny Community Hospital. It is therefore my pleasure to offer my congratulations to Sweeny Community Hospital on its forty-fifth anniversary.

COMMENDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF NCIS SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD J. CLOONAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Agent (SA) Richard J. Cloonan, Deputy Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Program, for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). SA Cloonan retired from that organization on March 3, 2010 after 29 years of service, and following 33 years of Federal Service. I am pleased to say that SA Cloonan is one of my constituents from Manassas, VA.

SA Cloonan began his career with the then named Naval Investigative Service (NIS) in August 1981 at NIS Resident Agency (NISRA) Point Loma, CA. He subsequently transferred to the NISRA Naval Station in San Diego, CA. In August 1984, SA Cloonan transferred to the Washington Field Office (DCWA). During his time at DCWA, SA Cloonan participated in several landmark counterintelligence (CI) investigations including the Walker Family Spy Ring, the Jonathan Pollard Spy case, the Clayton Lonetree investigation and the subsequent BOBSLED Task Force. Also while at DCWA, SA Cloonan was appointed the "Mount Up" team leader. The "Mount Up" team formed the basis of what is now the Navy's Personal Security Operation (PSO).

In 1987, SA Cloonan transferred to NCIS Headquarters and was detailed to the Department of the Navy's Special Programs Office, and while there he provided comprehensive CI protection to the most sensitive Navy research and technology, to include the USS Sea Shadow, the Navy's STEALTH Ship prototype. In

1988, shortly before the Berlin Wall came down, SA Cloonan deployed to East Berlin in support of a sensitive Resource and Technology Protection (RTP) espionage investigation. SA Cloonan recalls most vividly those anxious minutes passing through "Check Point Charley." In December 1989, SA Cloonan transferred to NCIS Field Office (NCISFO) Norfolk and was detailed to US Atlantic Command as the Deputy CI Staff Officer. While in that position, SA Cloonan coordinated the force protection support to Operation Uphold Democracy, the US/UN Operation in Haiti.

SA Cloonan was promoted in 1995 and assigned as the Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) at NCISRA London, UK. Under his leadership, NCISRA London received wide recognition for its collection on terrorism in the UK. In coordination with Scotland Yard, SA Cloonan and the late SA Tom Marzilli provided significant high value information concerning Al Qaeda Networks operating within the UK and Europe to the Intelligence Community.

In July 1999, SA Cloonan transferred back to NCISFO Norfolk as the acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) for CI and was promoted in September 2001. At that time, SA Cloonan was the NCIS Senior Representative to FBI Headquarters and his first day was September 10, 2001. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, SA Cloonan played a key role for the Department of Defense in the FBI's Special Information Operations Center (SIOC) and the follow on PENTTBOM investigation. SA Cloonan was a plank owner with the new National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF) and launched the NCIS' Joint Terrorism Task Force and Force Protection Detachment (FPD) programs.

In January 2004, SA Cloonan was promoted to GS-15 and assigned as the Counterintelligence Support Officer (CISO) to US Pacific Command in Hawaii. SA Cloonan orchestrated the CI/FP support to Joint Task Force Provide Promise, the US response to the devastating 2005 Tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

In August 2008, SA Cloonan returned to NCIS Headquarters as the Deputy Assistant Director (DAD), Counterintelligence Program Direction.

SA Cloonan plans to remain in the Washington, DC area with his family. After taking some well deserved time off from working, SA Cloonan will continue to serve his country working for the National Geospatial Agency (NGA) as a CI advisor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking SA Cloonan for his 33 years of outstanding public service and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he begins the next chapter in his life.

HONORING NATIONAL PEACE
CORPS WEEK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Peace Corps week to honor the immeasurable contributions of the 200,000 Americans who have volunteered to serve in 139 countries in the cause of peace since 1961. Through mutual respect and un-

derstanding, these men and women have committed themselves to improving our country's relationships with the rest of the world, and I applaud their dedication to communities around the globe.

When President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps 49 years ago, he set out to provide ordinary men and women with an opportunity to strengthen developing countries devastated by the effects of poverty, disease, and war. Volunteers have come from all walks of life, some with years of experience and some just out of college.

Peace Corps volunteers have mobilized to combat some of the world's most urgent humanitarian crises, including providing crucial assistance to communities in need of post-conflict relief and reconstruction as well as countries overwhelmed by natural disasters. These men and women have helped economically depressed communities develop new business plans, struggling farmers improve their crop production, and families devastated by HIV/AIDS receive the care they need.

Currently, volunteers are serving in 76 countries, providing development assistance while fostering new bonds of friendship and seeking common ways to address global challenges. Over 400 men and women have volunteered from California's Sixth District, including the following current volunteers: Chase Adam, Samantha Atkins, Gail Bachman, Ashley Baker, Elizabeth Bremner, Alicea Cock-Esteb, Rebecca Como, Lindsay Crawford, Douglas Cruickshank, Jed D'Abrevanel, Catherine Fabiano, Scott Fergus, David Gomez, Stevie Greenwell, Daniel Grinnell, James Gurney, Peter Hoge, David Hughes, Matthew Ingalls, Christina Long, Ryan Loughlin, Mary McQuilkin, Reid Miller, Courtenay Pinder, Ryan Reichert, Rickey Russell, Nur-Aliyya Shelley, Robin Smith, Jessica Wright, and Pat Wrobel-Dickens.

Madam Speaker, the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps is an achievement that we should all commemorate. I celebrate the leadership and accomplishments of these compassionate Americans who have committed themselves to promoting global peace, diplomacy, and understanding.

RECOGNIZING PERSECUTION OF
FALUN GONG

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 605, a resolution recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 10th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party campaign to suppress the Falun Gong spiritual movement. The resolution also calls for an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

The Chinese government's abuse of the Falun Gong is well-documented. The State Department's annual International Religious Freedom Report, found that the Government of China, "continued to restrict severely the activities of groups it designated as 'evil religions,' including several Christian groups and Falun Gong. . . . There are reports that dedicated government offices were responsible for coordinating operations against Falun Gong."

Just last week, the State Department released its annual Human Rights Report which included numerous examples of the Chinese government's persecution of the Falun Gong including the following: "Family members of activists, dissidents, Falun Gong practitioners, journalists, unregistered religious figures, and former political prisoners were targeted for arbitrary arrest, detention, and harassment." The report continued, "Police continued to detain current and former Falun Gong practitioners and used possession of Falun Gong material as a pretext for arresting political activists. The government continued its use of high-pressure tactics and mandatory anti-Falun Gong study sessions to force practitioners to renounce Falun Gong."

Among the most notorious human rights abuses of the Chinese government last year was the arrest and subsequent disappearance of top Christian human rights attorney, Gao Zhisheng. Gao had defended house church Christians and Falun Gong members which earned the ire of the government. According to the State Department, "At year's end his whereabouts remained unconfirmed . . ." Prior to his arrest Gao had published a letter in which he went into great detail about the torture he experienced during his previous detention. Gao has paid dearly for his defense of basic human rights including those of Falun Gong practitioners.

China has become increasingly brazen in its human rights abuses. In the face of this repression, America has a responsibility to continually affirm that we stand with the defenseless—with those whose voices have been silenced. President Reagan understood this well. He famously described the U.S. Constitution as a covenant we have made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind. This Congress and this administration must be unwavering in our support of all persecuted peoples, be they Coptic Christians in Egypt, Bahais in Iran or Falun Gong in China.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports teaches our youth many lessons that will serve them well throughout life. These invaluable lessons include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most importantly, the work ethic instilled by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contributes to our society; studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and doing well in school. Some studies indicate that reduction in gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at risk youth into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I applaud the Fairfax County Youth Football League for the opportunities that they provide

to all of our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized at the 20th Annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame:

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2010 Inductees: Jason Witten (NFL Dallas Cowboys, University of Tennessee, Elizabethton High School, Vienna Youth Inc.), Nick Hilgert (Robinson HS), Richard Herman (Ft. Belvoir Youth Sports).

Football Official of the Year—Youth Sports: John Page (Fairfax County Football Officials Association).

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Solomon Thompson, Jr. (President, Blue Collar Objects, Inc.).

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Joe Swarm (Director of Student Activities, Marshall HS).

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Damian Caracciola (Southwestern Youth Association).

FCFHF Awards \$1,500 Scholarships: Greg Gadell (O'Connell HS), Cody Canard (Robinson HS), Nick Grinups (Westfield HS) and Emily Andrukonis (Fairfax HS).

High School Players of the Year: Kevin Samson (Madison HS), Anton McCallum (Hayfield HS), Josh Hogan (Woodson HS), Brian Laiti (Robinson HS), Hunter Debutts (Episcopal HS), Bo Revell (Battlefield HS).

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson (Stone Bridge HS), Jim Poythress (Lake Braddock HS).

Youth Players of the Year—Youth Sports: Steven Steenson (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Tucker Harrell (McLean Youth Football), Connor McCulloch (Alexandria Recreation), Nicholas Render (Southwestern Youth Association), Devin Saunders (Ft. Belvoir Youth Football), Christopher Wilson (Manassas Youth Football), Nick Bruno (Dulles South Youth Sports), Greg Smith (Ft. Hunt Football & Cheerleading), Max Heinemann (Reston Youth Football), Jordan McIntyre (South County Athletic Assoc), Jake Jenkins (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Brendan McCarron (Springfield Youth Club), Michael Ficarra (Chantilly Youth Association), Tylar Thompson (Lee Franconia Football), Andrew Greer (Braddock Road Youth Club), Luke Kaplon (Braddock Road Youth Club).

Coaches of the Year—Youth Sports: Dan Puhlick (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Brian Edwards (Manassas Youth Football), Chuck Martin (Gum Springs), Derek Wisnieski (Arlington Recreation).

Cheerleaders of the Year: Kaylie Canestra (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Imani Carpenter (Southwestern Youth Association), Morgan Clay (Gainesville/Haymarket Youth), Shannon Kelley (Herndon Optimist Club), Gabrielle Turner (Dulles South Youth Sports).

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Youth Football League as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2010 Hall of Fame celebration.

HONORING MS. JUNE KENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. June Kent. Ms. Kent served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as a member of the Ellington 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. Ms. Kent served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her 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. Ms. Kent is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of her today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTHA SPRIGGS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to fellow Minnesotan Martha Spriggs for receiving the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Ms. Spriggs has been selected by a blue ribbon committee of education and policy leaders appointed by state departments of education. The award acknowledges her exceptional talent as a classroom teacher, leader in education, and friend to students, colleagues, and administrators. The children of Andersen United Community School in Minneapolis benefit from her work, as well as the dedication of many other skilled professionals.

Madam Speaker, the foundations of our democracy ultimately rest not only on the rights and liberties which we share, but also the willingness and dedication of its citizens to enter the education profession and educate our youth. History has been a powerful reminder of the need for a vibrant and well-educated society to complement the institutions of government in a healthy democracy. Martha Spriggs has certainly done her part and I commend her for her service.

HONORING BENJAMIN HOOPER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Benjamin Ryan Hooper of Boy Scout Troop 317 in Johns Creek, Georgia.

By reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, Benjamin has done something that fewer than two percent of all who participate in Scouting ever

achieve. This accomplishment is worthy of honor and recognition in its own right, but it is not why I speak to you today. Instead, I rise to commend Benjamin for the heroism he displayed, with the help of his brother Graham.

As residents of the Sixth District of Georgia, the Hoopers are constituents of mine. And like thousands of Georgians, they faced off against the devastating floodwaters that ravaged our State last September. This historic flood resulted in the deaths of at least ten Georgians. Fourteen Georgia counties were declared federal disaster areas, and the cost of the damage has been estimated at \$500 million. It was a difficult time, to say the least. But thanks to the actions of Benjamin Hooper, his family was able to avoid an even greater tragedy.

On September 21, 2009, Benjamin and his brother Graham arrived home from school to learn that two of their younger brothers had been playing in a flooded area and got caught in the rising waters and strengthening current. They had each managed to grab hold of a tree but were unable to get away from the rushing waters. These two young boys were now in grave danger of being swept away.

Upon hearing this, Benjamin jumped back in his car and raced to the scene. He quickly jumped into the water in an attempt to reach his stranded brothers, but the debris-filled creek was moving too quickly. Graham and Mrs. Hooper soon arrived with a length of garden hose which they passed to the two struggling boys so they could be pulled to safety. One of the boys made it, but the youngest brother Cole lost his grip and disappeared beneath the swiftly moving water.

Ignoring the danger to themselves, both Benjamin and Graham immediately jumped in after Cole. The current soon pulled Graham too far downstream, but once Cole surfaced, Benjamin was able to swim to his younger brother and hold his head above the water. The raging current then carried the boys downstream where they passed through a tunnel beneath a nearby road. By this point, the water level had risen to only a few feet below the top of this tunnel.

After successfully navigating this danger, Benjamin passed Cole off to Graham, who was now stationed by a nearby tree. Graham was then able to pull Cole out of the creek, but Benjamin was forced to continue swimming until he reached an area where the current had subsided. After exiting the creek himself, Benjamin walked back to his now reunited family, checked everyone for injuries, took steps to prevent the onset of hypothermia, and helped to calm his understandably upset mother. Miraculously, none of the Hooper boys had suffered serious injuries despite the life threatening peril they endured.

For his courageous and quick action, the Boy Scouts of America awarded Benjamin Hooper the Medal of Honor with Crossed Palms. Only 231 of these medals have been awarded since its inception in 1938. In the humble fashion always exhibited by true heroes, Benjamin said after receiving the award that, "I was just there at the right time."

So it is with great admiration that I pay tribute to Benjamin Hooper here in the U.S. House of Representatives today. May our entire Nation take heed of both his immeasurable courage and tremendous humility.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,643,701,402,529.55.

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 \$2,005,275,656,235.75 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$7,038,446,389.48 since just yesterday.

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

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF
CHEROKEE PATROL IN BOY
SCOUT TROOP 1011**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Cherokee Patrol in Boy Scout Troop 1011 for their achievements in Scouting.

Sponsored by Mount Bethel United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia, Troop 1011 has helped shape the lives of young men since its founding in 1972. Over the years, more than 200 members of Troop 1011 have attained the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. On March 21, they will add seven high school seniors to that list: Connor Reed Crank; Preston William Ehlers; Kirkland Douglas Malcolm; George Capron Merriam; C. Joseph Privateer; James Benjamin Stamberger; and Alexander Conrad Walgren.

In Scouting, troops typically are subdivided into smaller groups known as patrols. And the seven young men just mentioned represent the complete membership of Troop 1011's Cherokee Patrol. Fewer than two percent of all young men who begin Scouting ever become Eagle Scouts, so it is exceedingly rare for each member of a single patrol to reach this pinnacle.

In fact, Madam Speaker, it is downright extraordinary for an entire patrol to be awarded the rank of Eagle on the exact same day.

For meeting certain measures in addition to this rare achievement, Cherokee Patrol has also received the Honor Patrol Award. This award is only bestowed upon patrols whose membership makes the extra effort to be exemplary Scouts. Clearly these seven new Eagle Scouts pass that test with flying colors.

I wish every one of these fine young men the very best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA
POSEY ON HER RECEIPT OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Barbara Posey upon her receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal on March 10, 2010 for her service with the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs).

During World War II more than sixty years ago, the Women's Air Force Service Pilots worked under the direction of the United States Army Air Forces. These female civilian pilots flew fighter, bomber, transport, and training aircraft. The women of the WASPs pioneered the contribution of American women to the war effort. This commitment to their country was a catalyst for the reform that led to the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services.

Mrs. Posey's dedication to flying began when she became captivated during her first trip on board a plane. The joy she felt in the air led her to pursue her dream to become a pilot. She traveled to Cortland, New York to earn her pilot's license and in January of 1944, joined the WASPs. At Avenger field in Sweetwater, Texas she completed the same training program required by male pilots. Barbara Posey was one of 1,074 graduates of the program, and served as a test pilot at Shaw Army Airfield in Columbia, South Carolina, flying repaired planes that had been damaged in training operations. Although the director of the program had intended to militarize and commission the pilots, the improving military situation in 1944 reduced the need for additional pilots to be sent overseas.

In January of 1945, Barbara married John Posey before he left for the Pacific theatre. She has been blessed with 8 children, 27 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. Before her retirement in 1986, she continued her excitement for aviation by helping with a grassroots aviation effort in the Delaware Valley.

Madam Speaker, once again I applaud Barbara Posey for her dedication, service and accomplishment. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to her on the momentous occasion of being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress can award. I am honored to represent Barbara Posey in Congress.

HONORING ISAAC ALLEN AMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaac Allen Ames, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 134, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaac has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Isaac has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER
THAN OBAMACARE**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respectfully ask that my colleagues reject Obamacare, which if enacted into law, will seriously undermine, erode, damage—and perhaps even destroy—health care in America.

On substance, the Senate-passed text of over 2,700 pages now pending in the House is egregiously flawed. This is truly a bad bill and is anything but reform.

On process, the near total lack of transparency and misuse of majority party power to ram Obamacare through the Congress, makes it the quintessential example of what's so dreadfully wrong with Washington.

No wonder growing numbers of Americans are fed up, losing faith and angry at the Democrat-controlled Congress and the White House.

No wonder millions of people including Tea Party activists are demanding accountability and defeat of Obamacare.

This has been—and is—an unseemly process unworthy of a national legislature—any legislature for that matter—especially one with an enviable two-century-old history of law-making.

If President Obama wins passage of this bill when it comes to a vote, it will be a Pyrrhic victory at best.

This is not Congress' finest hour.

Rest assured that if Obamacare was sound and prudent policy—fiscally and morally—and an efficacious way of facilitating quality health care coverage, members of both sides of the aisle and across the ideological spectrum would be lining up to support it.

If this was a good bill, persuasion, not pressure would convince a large majority of the members to embrace it.

Instead, blunt force is being applied like a vice grip to “convince” the unconvinced and undecided to cave, conform and capitulate.

On cost, Obamacare is riddled with accounting gimmicks—all designed to make the total price tag appear smaller than it really is.

In order to avoid sticker shock, Obamacare collects new taxes, fees, and shifts billions from Medicare for a full four years before benefits kick in. This trick results in an estimated, but grossly misleading cost of care of \$871 billion over 10 years.

Let me underscore that point, the federal government will collect huge amounts of new taxes, fees and will rob Medicare for a full 10 years—before payouts for services begin four years from now.

But when 10 years of revenue are matched with 10 years of benefits, the real cost comes in at a staggering \$2.3 trillion.

I would note parenthetically, that Obamacare will exacerbate Obamadebt. (When you eliminate double-counting of Medicare cuts, Social Security cuts, and the use of CLASS Act premiums, the Democrats claim of deficit reduction disappears into another massive wave of red ink of \$466 billion over the first 10 years and \$1.4 trillion over the second 10 years.) Even without passage of this bill, under the President's 2011 budget proposal, federal spending will increase to a record \$3.8 trillion in 2011 alone. By 2020, the President's own 10-year budget analysis projects a more than doubling of debt to a record \$18.6 trillion.

Because Obamacare diverts \$500 billion from Medicare, there is no doubt whatsoever that senior citizens and disabled persons will lose certain health benefits they now enjoy. Medicare Advantage is protected in Florida—the so-called Gatorade fix—but not in my state of New Jersey or anywhere else. Medicare Advantage is used by over 11 million people nationwide including 15,983 people in my Congressional district alone. The Senate bill slashes nearly \$120 billion from Medicare Advantage plans, jeopardizing millions of seniors' existing coverage. So much for the President's promise that if you like your health plan, you can keep it; no you can't!

Madam Speaker, for the first time ever, Obamacare forces Americans to acquire an approved health plan or pay a stiff penalty—like they committed a crime.

The penalty is huge—the greater of \$750 per person per year (up to \$2,250 per family) or 2 percent of household income. No person in America should be coerced into buying medical insurance.

Under Obamacare, premiums for non-group family insurance will increase by as much as \$2,000 per year. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that by 2016, premiums will increase by 10–13 percent over what would happen under current law. Conversely, CBO had estimated that the Republican plan which I strongly support would decrease some premiums by 5–10 percent.

The Republican alternative focuses on lowering health care premiums for families and small businesses, increasing access to affordable, high-quality care, and promoting healthier lifestyles—without increasing taxes or adding to the crushing debt Washington has placed on our children and grandchildren and without cutting Medicare.

Obamacare would also create nearly 160 boards, commissions and programs and would vest sweeping powers on bureaucrats to determine what benefits are covered and not and at what cost.

Even though last September, President Obama stood a mere 20 feet away from where I am standing now, and told a joint session of Congress that “no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place,” his legislation today constitutes the largest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade* itself, and makes a mockery of that pledge.

Additionally, Obamacare fails to institute real medical liability reforms to end junk lawsuits and curb the costs of defensive medicine—these have long been identified as significant forces in driving up health costs.

The goal of responsible health care reform should be to provide credible health insurance coverage for everyone, strengthening the health care safety net so that no one is left

out, and incentivizing quality and innovation, as well as healthy behaviors and prevention. This means that the current private health insurance market will have to be reformed to put patients first, and to eliminate denials of pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps and promoting portability between jobs and geographic areas, including across state lines. The tax code should be modernized to promote affordability and individual control, provide assistance to low-income and middle-class families. Medicare requires reform to be more efficient and responsive, with sustainable payment rates.

Of course, responsible health care reform will respect basic principles of justice: it will put patients and their doctors in charge of medical decisions, not insurance companies or government bureaucrats. It will also ensure that the lives and health of all persons are respected regardless of stage of development, age or disability.

It's time to go back to the drawing board and address what's broken and fix it.

The American public deserves better than what's on the table.

HONORING MEREDITH O'MALLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Meredith O'Malley, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of service and citizenship. Meredith has recently been named one of the top youth volunteers in Missouri for 2010 in the 15th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Meredith is recognized for this prestigious award because of the positive impact she has made in her community. Her initiative, creativity, and selfless volunteerism make her a worthy recipient. Meredith should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Meredith will continue to use her many talents as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Meredith on this monumental achievement.

AUTHORIZING NEW AWARD PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL WORKERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2377, “To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education” introduced by my distinguished colleague from Nevada, Representative TITUS.

The program which shall be known as the “National Classified School Employees of the Year Awards,” will allow all of our classified

school employees who work as paraprofessionals, clericals, custodial and maintenance, transportation, food and nutrition, skilled trades, health and human services, security, and technical services who provide exceptional service to public schools in the United States that play a vital role in providing for the welfare and safety of students. The awards program established and administered under the Secretary of Education will recognize those who strive for excellence in all areas of service to the education community and will recognize exemplary employees for their outstanding contributions to quality education in the United States.

Nominations will be submitted to the Secretary of Education by a chief state school officer no later than November 1 and shall consider nominations from local education agencies, school administrators, labor unions and professional associations based on work performance, school and community involvement, leadership and commitment, and local support. Prior to March 31, the Secretary of Education shall select an employee from each occupational specialty to receive an award under this recognition program.

I believe in recognizing those individuals who take time out to make a difference in the lives of our young people and I feel that the “National Classified School Employees of the Year Awards,” will highlight the great work put forth by great people who have a great impact not only in the lives of our children, but in the area of education and in our local communities. I would like to personally thank all of those who work and contribute to the area of education through their selfless service and tireless efforts.

HONORING MEGAN CORBIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Megan Corbin, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of service and citizenship. Megan has recently been named one of the top youth volunteers in Missouri for 2010 in the 15th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Megan is recognized for this prestigious award because of the positive impact she has made in her community. Her initiative, creativity, and selfless volunteerism make her a worthy recipient. Megan should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Megan will continue to use her many talents as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Megan on this monumental achievement.

H. CON. RES. 248, THE AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. The immediate

withdrawal of American and NATO forces from Afghanistan would put our Nation at greater risk of another 9/11 type attack from al Qaeda.

Unlike the Iraq war, the war in Afghanistan is not a war of our choosing. As President Obama pointed out during his speech at West Point last year, our troops are in the field because on September 11, 2001, al Qaeda launched a direct attack on the United States—killing thousands of innocent Americans. The United States is fully justified in taking action against al Qaeda and the Taliban and we continue to have the strong backing of our NATO allies and the international community.

Unfortunately, under the Bush Administration, many of our troops and resources were diverted away from Afghanistan to Iraq. As a result, al Qaeda and the Taliban began to regain strength and al Qaeda continues to plot against Americans from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. During his campaign for president, Barack Obama made it clear that he would end America's involvement in the war in Iraq and focus U.S. efforts on al Qaeda.

While there is no doubt that al Qaeda operates in parts of Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, and other areas, the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region remains the operational and ideological center for al Qaeda's global operations. The president is right to conclude that allowing al Qaeda to operate there unchecked poses a serious security risk to the U.S. and American citizens around the world.

The immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan would have two immediate consequences. First, it would immediately strengthen the hand of the most extremist Taliban leaders (those most closely tied to al Qaeda), undercutting any leverage behind ongoing efforts to get some Taliban fighters to lay down their arms and it would also undermine Afghan President Hamid Karzai's new initiative to reach a political accommodation with the members of the Taliban open to national reconciliation. If such a political solution is undermined and the old Taliban regime retakes control of Afghanistan, they will again turn that country into a safe haven for expanded al Qaeda operations. It would also lead to the return of an extreme Taliban regime that encourages horrendous acts like pouring gasoline into the eyes of girls who attempt to go to school. Second, an immediate withdrawal of NATO forces would weaken Pakistan's resolve to confront the Pakistani Taliban, the Afghan Taliban, and al Qaeda. The most promising development over the last year has been the Government of Pakistan's willingness to fight the growing menace of the Pakistani Taliban. In addition, very recently, the Pakistani government has also shown a willingness to confront elements of the Afghan Taliban. The recent capture of Mullah Bandar, the operational chief of the Afghan Taliban, and two Afghan Taliban shadow governors, demonstrates this progress. The withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan would sabotage those nascent efforts. Why should the Pakistani forces confront the Afghan Taliban if the U.S. walks away now?

President Obama has developed a carefully considered and comprehensive strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan that relies not only on the use of troops but also on the use of civilian resources.

The strategy has three parts. First, coalition forces will reverse the Taliban's momentum by

working to stabilize major population centers and accelerate the expansion of the Afghan national security forces.

Second, the U.S. will work with its partners to create a more effective civilian strategy—with the goal of establishing sustainable economic opportunities for Afghans and strengthening the country's national and local governance structures.

Third, the strategy engages Pakistan as a full partner in these efforts. As a result of better coordination between our two countries, for the first time since the beginning of the war, al Qaeda and the Taliban are being genuinely challenged by the Pakistan military.

The president's strategy contains a timeline which initiates a responsible redeployment of American troops in July 2011. He has established this timeline to send a clear message to the Afghan government that they must take seriously their role in creating a stable Afghanistan and to communicate to the people of Afghanistan that the U.S. has no interest in an open-ended engagement in their country.

The new strategy has already shown promising signs of success. We should not undermine this effort by the immediate and total withdrawal of all U.S./NATO forces.

IRAN EXECUTES OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, freedom is rarely free. When you don't have it, you're under someone else's yolk, someone else's power. And for you to get it, you have to take that power from the oppressor. And while history has recorded some peaceful transitions, the transfer of power most often comes with the shedding of blood. So freedom has to be desired, yearned for, knowing that the struggle for it could cost you your life but is worth it—if not for you to enjoy, then for your children and grandchildren.

The totalitarian regime in Tehran has tortured, imprisoned, and executed thousands simply because they wanted to be free. On January 28, it continued its brutal oppression with the first known executions of opposition activists since unrest broke out following June's disputed presidential elections. Mohammad Reza Ali Zamani and Arash Rahmanipour were men that courageously made the choice to stand up to their oppressor. Faced with the choice between suffering under the indefinite rule of an oppressive regime and giving their lives so that others might be free, they selflessly chose the latter. We honor their sacrifice by continuing their fight so that all Iranians may one day be free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, I was not present for 4 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would

have voted the following way: roll No. 116—yea, roll No. 117—yea, roll No. 118—yea, roll No. 119—yea.

RECOGNIZING PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 605. I am pleased to cosponsor this resolution, which recognizes the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China. The peace-loving people who practice Falun Gong have endured the Chinese Government's coordinated campaign to delegitimize and eradicate their belief system for over a decade. In China, Falun Gong has been officially labeled an 'evil cult,' and its practitioners have suffered censorship, extrajudicial arrests and detentions, involuntary reeducation through labor, torture, and even death for their personal beliefs.

Disappearances of Falun Gong practitioners are not uncommon and are especially difficult for family members who must live in uncertainty about the fate of their loved ones. I recently was informed by one of my constituents about the heartbreaking case of Jiang Feng, who simply vanished after going through airport security at Shanghai's Pudong Airport and before he made it to the gate for his flight to Newark, NJ. Jiang Feng and his wife, Mei Xuan, both are Falun Gong practitioners and were arrested in the 1999 crackdown. Because of repeated imprisonments, the couple has been separated for most of their decade-long marriage. Mei Xuan is a well-known musician in Shen Yun Performing Arts, which rekindles the traditional Chinese arts and portrays current events, including the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. She was expecting finally to reunite with her husband here in the United States. Now, she awaits word on his whereabouts and his fate, fearing the worst.

Stories like Mei Xuan's are far too common. As Americans and members of the international community, we have a responsibility to speak out against persecution and to stand up for the truths and unalienable rights that we hold dear. Falun Gong practitioners, and all those seeking to exercise the universal right to freely practice the religion of their choice and to express their beliefs openly, deserve profound U.S. leadership on their behalf. I am pleased to vote for this resolution and to give voice to all those who continue to suffer needlessly and cannot speak for themselves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 15, 2010, I was not present for 4 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 112—yea; roll No. 113—yea; roll No. 114—yea; roll No. 115—yea.

HONORING BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Brain Awareness Week supported by the Society for Neuroscience and nearly 2,400 other organizations, by highlighting a serious brain condition that affects a large number of our men and women in uniform: Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI.

Each year, up to 30,000 of our combat soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and an estimated 1.5 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury. Some patients are fortunate and heal with few long-term symptoms. Other patients suffer significant disabilities for the rest of their lives, while others pass away as a result of their brain injury. In New Jersey, there are approximately 9,000 traumatic brain injuries a year, ten percent of which prove fatal.

Research is needed to understand why some patients recover while others face long-term health issues from brain trauma. One of the key reasons for this is from secondary conditions that occur after the initial injury, such as insufficient blood flow to the brain, insufficient blood oxygen, or brain swelling. We must invest in more research to learn how to halt or prevent these secondary conditions to help more patients recover.

There is no standard treatment for traumatic brain injury. Neuroscience research has contributed significantly in discovering new medical treatments for TBI patients. For instance, this month the Pentagon announced a new military policy where soldiers who have experienced a vehicle or roadside blast would be pulled from the war zone, evaluated for 24 hours, and checked for mild traumatic brain injury. This policy change was the result of research that showed that immediately examining and treating our troops reduces the chances of negative effects of serious head injuries.

As a member of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I believe we must continue to invest in innovative research to understand and treat brain injury in order to ensure a better quality of life for our soldiers and citizens struggling with this condition. For this reason, along with many others, I ask my colleagues to support a strong research investment in this year's budget, which will improve treatments for brain injury and other health conditions while laying the groundwork for our future economic growth.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 22

2 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on minorities and members of immigrant communities, focusing on reported instances of racial and ethnic profiling by police throughout the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OCSE) region.
CVC

4 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010".
SD-538

MARCH 23

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Elizabeth A. McGrath, of Virginia, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer, Michael J. McCord, of Virginia, to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Comptroller, Sharon E. Burke, of Maryland, to be Director of Operational Energy Plans and Programs, Solomon B. Watson IV, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Katherine Hammack, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army, all of the Department of Defense.
SH-216

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.
SD-226

11 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Major General Robert A. Harding, United States Army (Retired), of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.
SR-253

2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider S. 1382, to improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, S. 2839, to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for treatment of victims of torture, S. 624, to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, S. Res. 409, calling on members of the Parliament in Uganda to reject the proposed "Anti-Homosexuality Bill", Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta

for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (Treaty Doc. 111-01), Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on December 1, 2008, at Washington (Treaty Doc. 111-03), and the nominations of Elizabeth L. Littlefield, of the District of Columbia, to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Carolyn Hessler Radelet, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, Raul Yzaguirre, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Theodore Sedgwick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, and Bisa Williams, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, all of the Department of State, Lana Pollack, of Michigan, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, and Walter Isaacson, of Louisiana, to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and Dennis Mulhaupt, of California, Victor H. Ashe, of Tennessee, Michael Lynton, of California, S. Enders Wimbush, of Virginia, and Susan McCue, of Virginia, all to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and a routine list in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine reviewing the national broadband plan.

SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine making the government more transparent and accountable.

SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1546, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah, S. 2798, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through the facilitation of insect and disease infestation treatment of National Forest System and adjacent land, S. 2830, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects, and S. 2963, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land.

SD-366

MARCH 24

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans' Affairs plan for ending homelessness among veterans.

SR-418

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine opportunities to improve energy security and the

environment through transportation policy.	2:30 p.m.		MARCH 25
		Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	9:30 a.m.
SD-406		Contracting Oversight Subcommittee	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs		To hold hearings to examine contracts for Afghan National Police training.	Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Major General Robert A. Harding, United States Army (Retired), of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.		SD-342	To hold hearings to examine Wall Street and the financial crisis, focusing on high risk home loans.
		Armed Services	SH-216
		To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.	Appropriations
SD-342			Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Armed Services			To hold hearings to examine the review and oversight of the Federal Housing Administration and its role in the housing crisis.
Personnel Subcommittee			SD-138
To hold hearings to examine Military Health System programs, policies, and initiatives in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program.		SH-216	
		Appropriations	2:15 p.m.
SR-232A		Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee	Indian Affairs
1:30 p.m.		To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the Office of Personnel Management.	To hold an oversight hearing to examine youth suicides and the need for mental health care resources in Indian country.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship		SD-192	SD-628
To examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Small Business Administration.		Judiciary	
		To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Goodwin Liu, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.	APRIL 14
SD-485			9:30 a.m.
2 p.m.			Armed Services
Aging			SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine medicine and prescription drugs, focusing on nursing home patients.		SD-226	To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program.
			SD-562