EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE GATOR BOWL CHAMPION MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, the Mississippi State University Bulldogs concluded their 2010 football season with a crushing 52–14 victory over the University of Michigan in the 66th annual Gator Bowl held on January 1, 2011. This commanding win marked Mississippi State's fourth consecutive bowl victory and capped the Bulldogs' 9–4 season as the No. 15 ranked team in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll.

Second-year Mississippi State head coach Dan Mullen crafted an explosive offensive performance led by junior quarterback Chris Relf, who completed 18 of his 23 pass attempts for 281 yards and three touchdowns. Relf also punched the ball in from the one-yard line bringing his totals to 311 yards and four touchdowns. The junior from Montgomery, Ala. honored defensive end Nick Bell by wearing his No. 36 jersey. Bell lost his short battle with cancer after starting two games this season, including his final game against Georgia where he tallied seven tackles.

Mississippi State junior running back Vick Ballard carried the ball for three scores, making the Pascagoula, Miss. native the first MSU player to record 19 touchdowns in one season.

Although Michigan led at the break, the Bulldog defense did not allow the Wolverines to score in the second half. The dominating defense held Michigan's Heisman hopeful quarterback to just 59-yards on the ground though he entered the post-season game averaging 136.9 rushing yards.

When it was all said and done, the Bulldogs finished 4–4 in the Southeastern Conference with wins over No. 22 Florida and their in-state rival Ole Miss. To boot, the four losses were to top-twelve teams.

I congratulate all of the players, coaches and fans for a phenomenal season and look forward to many great years of football in Starkville, Miss. I am extremely proud to represent Mississippi State University in the U.S. House of Representatives.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, it is under somber circumstances that this body gathers here today. On behalf of the people of Colorado and the constituents I represent in the First District, we send our prayers and compassion to all who are mourning the events of last weekend and trying to come to terms with the grief this incident has caused.

As two of three women in the U.S. House of Representatives from the Rocky Mountain West, GABBY and I spoke often about the sometimes difficult task of staying close with family and loved ones, while shuttling back and forth across long distances between our homes and Washington. She has always been enormously dedicated to her family, and in the wake of this tragedy we see the love her family and community has shown her in return.

While GABBY was the victim with whom I shared a personal connection, the tragedy of last weekend runs far deeper than just reflecting on the attack on our colleague. What happened to GABBY and 19 others on that sunny Tucson morning, happened to all of us—to all Americans. The victims came from all walks of life, each one representing their own unique story, yet each one also reflecting in many ways, people we all know and love. From the young girl with dreams of changing the world; to the dedicated staffer committed to serving his country and helping the people of hometown; to the man willing to give his own life to save the life of the woman he loves; to the federal judge devoted to the cause of justice and law; to the retired woman escaping cold, snowy winters for warmer climes; to the wife of a former Marine quietly living out her Golden Years with her husband—all these brave souls unite us all in the common dreams and blessed experiences we hold as Americans.

Last Saturday, that unity was assaulted as a single, deranged gunman attempted to cut through the very bedrock of our democracy, by attacking an event at which a Member of Congress was performing her most fundamental responsibility—meeting with her constituents. The attack felt particularly heinous against a Member of this institution in which each of us have been asked by voters to serve largely because of its proximity to the people.

And while these events have understandably renewed discussions about congressional security, we must ensure that these efforts do not leave us insulated from our constituents. We each have an obligation to protect ourselves, our constituents, and our staff. But our professional obligation mandates that we remain accessible and inviting, because it is through us that the every American from Tucson, Arizona, to Portland, Maine, has a voice in the corridors of Washington, D.C.

Finally, it is important to remember that these were the actions of one individual clearly in need of mental health assistance. While it is too early to know what motivated him to violence, no one can deny that the level of political discourse in this country is not meeting the standard to which we should hold ourselves, nor meeting the standard our country's founders envisioned for our great nation. Far too often we have failed to find a way to, as Speaker BOEHNER put it last week, "disagree without being disagreeable."

It is my hope that the events of the past weekend serve as a wake-up call for everyone and remind us all that we need to reject extremism and violence, respect those who answer the call to public service, and strengthen our country with our every deed—just as those in Tucson have done since that fateful day.

GABBY is a friend and treasured colleague, and my deepest condolences extend to her family, as well as the friends and family of the constituents and staff members wounded or killed in the unspeakable attacks of January 8, 2011. God bless them; God Bless this Body, and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GERARD ACOSTA

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to MAJ Gerard "Gerry" Acosta, United States Army, on the occasion of his departure from the Army House Liaison Office to pursue Command and General Staff College studies at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with him over the past 3 years that he has served as a part of the U.S. Army Office of Legislative Affairs and as a Liaison Officer in the Army Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Major Acosta has had a remarkably varied and successful career. He was born in the Panama Canal Zone, Panama. As a military brat, Major Acosta grew up in Central and South America, eventually residing in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In 1997, after completing the United States Military Academy Preparatory School and Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and 2 years at the United States Military Academy, Gerry had to transfer to the University of Florida to support a family emergency. In 1999, Gerry graduated, with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a minor in Chemical Engineering Design. After completion of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Major Acosta was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Quartermaster Branch and branch-detailed to the Infantry.

Major Acosta's initial assignment was to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served as a Motor Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and later Assistant Brigade Logistics Officer (S–4) in the 3d Brigade, Second Infantry Division. Major Acosta then attended the Combined Logistics Career Course and Petroleum Officer Course in Fort Lee, Virginia. Upon completion of his courses, Major Acosta served 13 months as an Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of Army Material Command, Southeast Asia in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and Bagram, Afghanistan.

Upon his return to the United States, Major Acosta served 31 months as a Quartermaster Direct Support Company Commander in the

593d Sustainment Brigade, Fort Lewis, Washington. He deployed again in late 2006 for 14 months with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces at Camp Al-Asad, Iraq. After his return from Iraq, Major Acosta was selected as a Congressional Fellow and served a year in the personal office of U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss of Georgia.

Following his fellowship in the Senate, Major Acosta was assigned to the Army House Liaison Office. I have come to know Major Acosta well during his assignment to the House of Representatives through his work with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and with Wounded Warriors. He has never failed to impress me with his energy and dedication to soldiers, their families, and the U.S. Army. He is a superb representative of Army values.

It is my great honor to congratulate MAJ Gerard ''Gerry'' Acosta on his service to the Army and our Nation and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of this soldier, citizen, and friend.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM D. JAMES, MD, FAAD, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to revise remarks I included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD previously and submit the following remarks in their stead.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. William James, a University of Pennsylvania dermatologist who will conclude his term as President of the American Academy of Dermatology in February. He will have held office for one year and also held the same position for the American Academy of Dermatology Association.

After beginning his academic career at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Dr. James earned his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. He completed a medical internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, DC, and his residency in dermatology at the former Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco. He is the Paul R. Gross professor and vice chair of the department of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He also serves as the residency and fellowship program director.

An active member of the American Academy of Dermatology, Dr. James has served as a member of the board of directors, the council on member services, and numerous task forces and committees. He is the past chief of dermatology service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He has authored more than 310 publications, including co-authorship of the last three editions of Andrews' Diseases of the Skin. Additionally he served as founding editor-in-chief of the dermatology section of Emedicine.com, a clinical reference developed by WebMD. He lives in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Ann. They have two children and are expecting a grandchild in early 2011.

GREATER VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS FOR 2010

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce business award winners for 2010 and to congratulate the 2010 Distinguished Community Leader Award recipient, Mr. Bruce Leetz, and the 2010 Legacy of Service Award recipient, Mr. Larry Klemz. These outstanding recipients were honored during the Chamber's annual ''Salute to Leadership'' dinner that took place on Saturday, January 15, 2011, at Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso, Indiana.

The Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce utilizes members of the community in order to improve the quality of life within the community of Valparaiso through business development and community service. Each year, Chamber members and friends gather together to honor the recipients of the Distinguished Community Award and the Legacy of Service Award.

This year, the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce honored its 2010 Business Award Winners. Peoples Bank and Urschel Laboratories were honored with the 100 Years in Business award. The 75 Years in Business award was given to Lincoln Office, L.L.C., and the recipient of the 50 Years in Business award is G.E. Marshall, Inc. Each business is dedicated to providing excellent business to the community and for that reason, they are to be commended.

The 2010 Distinguished Community Leader Award recipient is Bruce Leetz. A graduate of Valparaiso High School and Ball State University, Bruce is the President and Chief Executive Officer of North Coast Distributing and has been employed with the company for over 45 years. A local, family-owned beer wholesaler since 1939, North Coast, formerly Valpo Beverages, Incorporated, has become one of the premier distributors in the Midwest under Bruce's leadership. In addition to his successful career, Bruce has continuously been an active participant in his community, having served on the boards of the Northwest Indiana Forum, the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, and the Northwest Indiana Entrepreneurship Academy. He is also a past president of the Porter County United Way and the Valparaiso Rotary Club, and he is a Ruling Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso. For his outstanding dedication to serving his community, Bruce is worthy of the highest praise.

Larry Klemz is the recipient of the 2010 Legacy of Service Award. Larry received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Valparaiso University. During school and following graduation, Larry worked for Home Mountain Publishing, which he purchased in 1978. He previously bought a small printing company in Valparaiso named the Herald Press and merged the two businesses together. Larry serves as President of his company, which is known today as Home Mountain Printing. Larry's leadership and dedication to his company has made Home Mountain Printing an industry leader in Northwest Indiana. Additionally, Larry spends much time and effort giving back to the community. He has served on numerous boards including: The Family and Youth Services Bureau, Porter County United Way, Valparaiso Rotary Club, Valparaiso YMCA, and the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce. Currently, he serves with the Porter County Museum Advisory Council and the Public Education Foundation of Valparaiso. Larry's continuous devotion to his community is to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Bruce and Larry have not only been wonderfully successful in their chosen endeavors, but they have lived selfless lives. They know, as Charles Dickens wrote ''the common welfare was [their] business; charity, mercy, forbearance, benevolence, were all [their] business.''

At this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce 2010 Business Award Winners, as well as Bruce Leetz and Larry Klemz. For their dedication and commitment to the community of Valparaiso as well as Northwest Indiana, they are all worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

CONGRATULATING TCU HORNED FROGS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the TCU Horned Frogs football team for their 21–19 victory over the Wisconsin Badgers in the 2011 Rose Bowl. Quarterback Andy Dalton was named the Rose Bowl's Most Valuable Offensive Player, while linebacker Tank Carder was named the Defensive MVP.

The Rose Bowl attendance of 94,118 was the largest crowd to ever attend a TCU football game. Excluding the NFL, the 2011 Rose Bowl Game was the most-watched event in ESPN and cable television history. In addition to an outstanding performance in the Rose Bowl game, TCU posted its third straight top-10 ranking this season, and its fourth top-10 in the last six seasons. TCU's 13–0 overall record was the second undefeated season in program history.

The 13 wins mark the most victories in a single season for TCU. As any college football fan knows, breaking into a BCS game is a huge accomplishment for a non-automatic qualifying school, and I am proud that the Horned Frogs became the first non-automatic qualifying school to play in and win the Rose Bowl. With this feat, TCU has proven once again that they can play with any college football team in the Nation.

TCU had five first-team All-Americans: linebacker Tank Carder, defensive end Wayne Daniels, safety Tejay Johnson, return specialist Jeremy Kerley and center Jake Kirkpatrick. Jake Kirkpatrick won the Rimington Trophy as the Nation's top center.

Congratulations to the team, the coaches, and the staff for an outstanding year and an incredible performance in the Rose Bowl game. The Horned Frogs have made TCU and the entire Fort Worth community proud.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISA JOSEFINA MORRIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Louisa Josefina Morris on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Louisa Josefina Morris was born in Colon, Panama on January 17, 1911 to Elmina Cox and Charles Watts. She was raised by her grandparents Ella and Ernest Beury in Panama's Gatun, Cristobel Canal Zone. Her grandparents proved to be important role models; they provided a loving and caring home for her to develop and grow.

Louisa met and married Irving Benjamin Morris, and together, they had five children: Irene Walker, Davina Morris, Olivia Aikens, Leo Morris, and Elisa Morris.

In 1958, Louisa left Panama and relocated to the United States, where she got a job at a local hospital. She became a citizen five years later. Her children and husband all came to the United States shortly after Louisa.

All of her children grew up and had children of their own, giving Louisa and Irving many grandchildren. Louisa contributed to raising the first generation of her grandchildren. Now each of her grandchildren has children of their own.

Through the past 100 years, Louisa has lived a full life, through World War I and World War II, Vietnam, segregation, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the election of President Barack Obama, and says now that she has seen it all, and has had the pleasure of doing what many have not been privileged to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Louisa Josefina Morris.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with heartfelt sadness that today I remember those who lost their lives in this tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011. I remember those who reacted with bravery in trying to stop the gunman. I remember those who were wounded and even now are fighting to recover from their wounds. I remember all of the family members who are struggling with great losses. Finally, I remember with hope for her speedy recovery, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

This is a sad time for our Nation, a time when we reflect on how all too often violence strikes and randomly takes some of our best and brightest. All of the lives that were lost were special to those who loved them—to their spouses and their children and their grandchildren. Judge John Roll was a public official serving our country with distinction and dedication. Christina Taylor Green was a young child with an interest in learning more about how government works. I hope that in the future our children will be able to meet with their representatives without endangering their lives.

As a Member of Congress who has worked with Representative GIFFORDS, I am especially touched by this senseless tragedy. Representative GIFFORDS is a very friendly, hard working colleague. She is someone who is easy to get along with and always willing to chat and lend a helping hand. She was doing what is expected of all of us who represent our constituents—we meet with our constituents and we listen to their concerns and we try to help them. That is what we were elected to do—and so it is especially hard to see that one of our own was injured while doing—what we all do—our job.

Please let me conclude by saying that my thoughts and prayers are with all of those who died or were injured and with the families who loved them. My prayers are with Representative GIFFORDS as she recovers and my hope is that soon she will be back with us here in the House of Representatives where she belongs.

HISTORIC INAUGURATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Senator Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston) presided over the historic inauguration in Columbia, South Carolina, on January 12, 2011, as President of the State Senate. With the Inauguration of Governor Nikki Randhawa Haley as the first female Governor in the 341-year history of the state and in the first all-Republican inauguration in over 130 years, Senator McConnell delivered a moving tribute to our Constitution:

Welcome to the inauguration of the 117th Governor of South Carolina and for the Inauguration of the Lt. Governor of South Carolina and Constitutional Officers.

As a wife and the mother of two, Nikki Haley understands the importance of what is at stake both for our state and for her family. With young children and a husband who wears the uniform of our state and Nation, she should know full well the importance of what is ahead in the coming years for our state and this country, and knowing that, she has offered herself for service in this difficult time. Her steadfast convictions have brought her here today ready to do what she believes is best for all South Carolinians.

We have come again to celebrate the wonder of our system of government—a system of government that allows for the transition of power from one person to another without the need for guns or violence but with only words and ideas.

We have all been called to serve for myriad reasons. We all have different ideas and varied goals. Despite our different issues and the different paths we take to get there, our legislative journey must all have the same starting point—our oath of office. No matter the political party or our philosophical bent we all have one thing in common: the bedrock of our political service is our sworn oath to uphold and follow the constitution.

To paraphrase Hugo Black, our constitution was not written in sand but in the foundation of our state and Nation. It is our bedrock and is not to be altered by the shifting winds of current sentiment. Our constitution must always be followed strictly and faithfully by those who elect to serve. It is what our founders put in place to protect those at home from those of us in Columbia and Washington. It is a limit on what we can do. The constitution is both the means to an end as well as the beginning and end of what we do. We must never allow our desire to achieve some laudable goal tempt us to try and bypass the constitution. No great right will ever justify the wrong needed to get there.

Let us depart from each issue we confront as we leave this celebration—united in a desire to provide for a better future for our children and grandchildren. With God's will, we will muster the strength, wisdom and patience to do what we must do.

Our state's motto is "Dum Spiro Spero" or "while I breathe, I hope." Let us leave here and have each breath we take and each word we speak give hope to those at home that our best days are not behind us but yet are still ahead.

HONORING DAN PETTY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a good friend, great Texan, and wonderful individual, Dan Petty, former President and CEO of the North Texas Commission, who passed away on January 11, 2011, leaving a legacy of accomplishments and good will that will last for generations to come. Dan was a kind man with a drive to bring people together to collaborate on projects that impact the entire North Texas region. His proudest moment was the region-wide collaborative efforts that resulted in North Texas hosting Super Bowl XLV.

Dan Petty was a 1957 Texas High School graduate, received a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, Master of Government Administration from the Fels Institute of Government at The Wharton Graduate School, Master of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Texas, and a Master of Management in Electronic Commerce from the University of Dallas.

A lifelong Longhorn, Petty played football on scholarship at the University of Texas in Coach Darrel Royal's first recruiting class. His modesty kept these and other recognitions in the background as he worked with state, local and academic leaders across the state for the benefit of Texans.

In addition to being the former President and CEO of the North Texas Commission, he served as President of Henry S. Miller/Grubb & Ellis Commercial Realtors; President of the Woodbine Development Corporation/Hunt Realty Services and Wilcox Realty Group; Assistant City Manager of Lubbock, Texas; Director of Urban Affairs for the North Central Texas Council of Governments; Executive Assistant to the Governor of Texas; Director of Public Affairs for the University of Texas; Assistant

City Manager of Dallas, Texas; President of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Past Chairman and Board of Directors of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, Board of the State Fair of Texas, and a Member of the Super Bowl Bidding Committee who were instrumental in North Texas winning the 2011 Super Bowl XLV.

His civic service included: Chairman for the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau; Texas Economic Development Commission, Museum of African American Life and Culture, American Cancer Society, Cattle Baron's Ball, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Kindness Foundation and Dallas County Children's Services Task Force.

Dan will be greatly missed by his family, especially by his wife Mary Jane Petty, children Adrienne Watson and her husband Chas, Kent Petty and his wife Jennifer, and step-children Maggie Culbertson and her husband Geoff, and Robert Riley; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in mourning the death of Dan Petty and recognizing his legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO STEIN BUER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Stein Buer for his leadership as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, SAFCA. Stein recently departed SAFCA after six successful years to return to the California Department of Water Resources, where he will serve as Assistant Chief of the Division of Flood Management. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Stein for is dedication to protecting the people of Sacramento from flooding.

Over the past six years I have worked with Stein to improve Sacramento's flood defenses and I have always found him to be a man of intelligence, integrity and vision. Under his leadership, SAFCA was instrumental in repairing some of Sacramento's most vulnerable levees, he worked with the California legislature to implement better flood management policies, and led by aggressively moving forward on both the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project and the Natomas Levee Improvement Project.

Since Stein's tenure began at SAFCA in 2004 he has worked to finish ongoing levee projects and quickly start new ones. Some of Stein's most successful projects include working to certify the levees along some of Sacramento's urban creeks, and along both the American and Sacramento Rivers. These certifications were instrumental in improving public safety and removing tens of thousands of homeowners from the 100–year floodplain. Under his watch, SAFCA has also started over 40 miles of levee improvements in the Natomas Basin.

From Folsom Dam to South Sacramento, Stein's imprint can be seen throughout the Sacramento Region. Shortly after arriving at SAFCA, Stein and his colleagues from a number of government agencies had to rapidly redesign a series of modifications to the Folsom Dam in the wake of potential cost overruns. Through this refined project, a second spillway will be added to the Folsom Dam which will significantly improve the management of larger flood events. Thanks in large part to his efforts, this project is on time and on budget.

An advocate for both public safety and environmental conservation, Stein was a driving force behind the Levee Vegetation Science Conference and the California Levees Roundtable. During these discussions, he brought the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Water Resources, and other key stakeholders together to discuss the impacts of removing trees and other vegetation from levees. Through these discussions, Stein was able to spearhead a comprehensive framework that included key stakeholders in levee improvement decisions that reduced flood risks, while maintaining both vegetation and levee integrity.

After a great deal of success and more than six years as the Executive Director, Stein has decided to return to the California Department of Water Resources as the Assistant Chief of the Division of Flood Management. In this role, Stein will assist in the design and implementation of the State's FloodSafe Program, an undertaking that will significantly benefit from his experience and comprehensive approach to flood protection.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize and honor the exceptional leadership of Stein Buer. His ability to address the concerns of many and work towards common goals has been truly remarkable. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Stein for his service as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. I would also like to take a moment and thank Stein's wife Noelle and their three children, who have shared Stein with the wider Sacramento community for the last six years. I wish Stein and his family continued happiness and success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORT BRAGG LIBRARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the first hundred years or continuous service by the Fort Bragg Library on the Mendocino Coast in Northern California. From its beginning on January 18, 1911, Fort Bragg's beloved library has persevered through funding cuts, political ballot measures and an arson fire. It has flourished due to the ongoing support of the Mendocino Coast community.

Located in picturesque Fort Bragg, California, a former mill town that was incorporated in 1889, the library was opened with collections from the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Union Lumber Company library. When the Union Lumber Company offered to donate property, plans were drawn and the library was built on Main Street and opened in January 1913. By 1924 the average monthly attendance had grown from 311 to 2,053. In the library's first decades, activities including new books received, hours of operation and programs available were regularly reported in the weekly newspaper.

In 1966, the Fort Bragg Library joined the two-year-old county library system. The City of Fort Bragg owned the building but the library was run by the county. The Mendocino Coast Genealogical Society rented space in the mezzanine. The biggest booster came when community members created the Friends of the Library in 1974 with the intent of upgrading the facility.

Tragedy struck on September 20, 1987, when the library was destroyed by fire seven minutes after another historic structure on Main Street, the Piedmont Hotel, was set ablaze. The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library and the community immediately came together to restore the library.

In their search for an existing building the purchase of a former mortuary was proposed using fire insurance money. The county, city and Friends of the Library partnered to buy and remodel the building. The library reopened on May 25, 1989, stocked with thousands of books donated by book dealers, libraries and individuals.

In 1996, the Fort Bragg Library was the first branch in Mendocino County to open Internet access. Over the years the Friends of the Library had wisely invested and wanted to modernize the library for the new millennium. They contributed $470,000 to the library's remodel which was completed with a celebration on July 3, 2007. Use of the new and improved Fort Bragg Library soared and became equal to and sometimes exceeded the operations of the County's main library at the county seat in Ukiah.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for its hundred years (and counting) historic and civic importance and invaluable service to the community it is appropriate that we honor the Fort Bragg Library.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the one year Anniversary of the devastating earthquake in the island nation of Haiti. One year ago, the United States joined the rest of the world in witnessing the aftermath of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that left hundreds of thousands dead and one million people homeless. We joined the rest of the world in donating billions of dollars in financial and material aid. The Obama Administration acted quickly and compassionately, making an impressive impact on the emergency phase of one of the largest coordinated international disaster responses that the world has seen. The President quickly awarded Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals living in the U.S. to increase remittances back to Haiti. The. International community rallied around the Haitian government providing unprecedented support. The Haitian Diaspora instantaneously responded with the same diligence and fortitude necessary to assist our Nation with the distribution of aid, as well as keep our government accountable every step of the way. Lastly, the Haitian people exhibited the type of quintessential strength and perseverance that many of us could only imagine.

However, one year later we see a deteriorating Haiti. One not imagined in our collective plans to "Build Back Better," one year ago. Instead, over one million displaced people still live in tent camps while conditions in the country continue to deteriorate. It is apparent that substantive reconstruction has barely begun and significant progress will continue to face obstacles in the near future. As witnessed in the recent demonstrations following the Haitian general elections, civil strife and unrest continue to pervade the populace at large. With the growing cholera epidemic, the situation in Haiti is especially dangerous and volatile.

Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the second largest Haitian immigrant population in the country, I am deeply concerned about the conditions on the ground. Although some progress has been made, it appears as though conditions are deteriorating at a faster rate. As USAID and other international organizations scramble to resolve the housing/rubble crisis, security is rapidly decreasing within the IDP camps. Gender Based Violence (GBV) is further threatening the physical, mental and emotional capacity of women and girls. I commend USAID and the NGO community for taking steps to address this, but more is needed to end this phenomenon.

It is of the utmost importance for all parties engaged in this humanitarian response and reconstruction efforts to significantly improve their outreach to women and girls. Near term and longer term assistance programs will only be effective if women and girls are fully engaged as equal partners in program assessment, design, and implementation. There is a vibrant network of women's organizations in Haiti. Their involvement is critical to the successful reconstruction of Haiti and to the development of a society that offers equal protection and opportunity to all its citizens.

Before I conclude, I would like to also recognize Ms. Corrine Jocelyn, Executive Director of Diaspora Community Services for her remarkable work in organizing the March for Change that took place today in recognition of the one year anniversary of the earthquake. She was joined by many other Haitian organizations and prominent community leaders calling the Haitian Diaspora and their allies to actions. I fully support this endeavor and encourage the entire Haitian Diaspora to become more involved in advocating and educating our Nation on Haitian heritage and the issues that plague the island nation.

Lastly, I would like to recognize Bells for Haiti initiative that took place today in Minnesota. At the time the earthquake took place, bells will ring from churches, schools and organizations for 35 seconds to commemorate the event. I commend the organizers, Konbit—MN/Haiti and the participants for such a beautiful tribute.

As we continue to support our brothers and sisters in Haiti, let us never forget Let us never forget that as we unite with the people of Haiti, Haitian-Americans and the Haitian Diaspora that we are forever guided by the words etched indelibly on the Haitian flag, 'L'Union fait la force' (Loon yon feh la force) . . . through unity, there is strength!

RECOGNIZING MAJOR MARK O'NEILL, UNITED STATES ARMY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE ARMY'S HOUSE LIAISON OFFICE

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Major Mark O'Neill, United States Army, on the occasion of his departure from the Army's House Liaison Office and his new assignment as a student at the Army's Command and General Staff College. My staff and I have had the great pleasure of working with Mark over the past year he has served with the Congress. It has been an honor to work with this combat veteran and citizen-soldier.

Major O'Neill has had a varied and distinguished military career. Upon graduation from Villanova University in May of 1998, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, he was assigned to the elite 82nd Airborne Division as an airborne infantry platoon leader. In March of 2000, he led his thirty-nine-man platoon in a joint exercise in Oman with the Omani army. During his time with the 82nd, Mark, a paratrooper to the core, participated in fifteen airborne operations.

In December of 2000, he transferred to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) where he served as a platoon leader and regimental personnel officer. With the Old Guard, then First Lieutenant O'Neill conducted dozens of military funerals and state ceremonies. The same dedication with which he accorded respect to grieving families and friends during funerals at Arlington National Cemetery was in evidence on September 11, 2001, when Mark led his platoon in the initial response to the attack on the Pentagon.

Major O'Neill left active duty in May of 2003, joining the Cintas Corporation as a Service/Sales Manager, but in February of 2006 he was recalled from the Ready Reserve to serve as an embedded trainer with the fledgling Afghan National Army. As an advisor to an Afghan National Army (ANA) infantry company, Mark trained the company leadership on both tactical and logistical tasks and accompanied them on over twenty combat patrols. On more than one occasion, he experienced combat firsthand. He was cited for bravery in October of 2006 for organizing the defense of his ANA company and repelling a Taliban ambush.

In June of 2007, Mark joined the Army National Guard and was assigned to the National Guard Bureau's Directorate of Domestic Operations. From February 2010 to present, he served as the National Guard's legislative liaison with the Department of the Army's House Liaison Division. During his assignment to the Army House Liaison Office, Major O'Neill developed outstanding rapport with Members of Congress and their staffs—both personal and committee. Whether escorting congressional delegations to visit soldiers and families at Army installations, soldiers in the theater of operations or Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed, Mark has been a strong advocate for soldiers and a superb representative of Army values.

I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Major Mark O'Neill in serving the United States Army and the Nation.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA FOR THE LOSS OF LIFE AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY DUE TO THE WORST FLOODING IN HALF A CENTURY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences for the loss of life and destruction of property that is occurring in Australia's northern state of Queensland, as a consequence of the worst floods in half a century. The flood, which has affected three-quarters of Queensland, has killed 20 residents and resulted in thousands of people being evacuated from their homes and businesses.

The steady rain that fell for days before Christmas caused rivers to swell and inundated 22 cities and towns. The Australian National Climate Centre has predicted that the region is highly likely to receive even more than average rainfall from now until the end of March, when the full impact of a strong La Nina cycle will be felt. Estimates of the number of Queenslanders affected go as high as 200,000. States of natural disaster have been declared in 41 of Queensland's 73 municipalities and more than 11,000 people have been evacuated. In addition, the floods have cut off food supplies to communities in the north including Townsville, Cairns and many indigenous communities.

Economists predict that the floods will have an impact on the national GDP of between 0.25 percent and 0.5 percent, or $3 billion to $6 billion, with the mining and agricultural industries affected the most. Half of the state's agricultural crops have been destroyed, coal deliveries have been halted, and mines shut. The international economy will likely feel this economic burden because Queensland supplies half of the world's cooking coal for steel manufacturing, which accounts for about two-thirds of the global trade. The Premier of Queensland and Australia's Prime Minister have announced additional disaster relief assistance to help small businesses and primary producers that have been impacted.

Encouragingly, the size of the tragedy has been matched by the size and speed of the response, but the long-term impact is yet to be determined. It will be a long wait before the massive amount of water recedes and the recovery process starts, involving the resurfacing of roads, reconnecting of power and repairing of infrastructure—all requiring an unparalleled rebuilding effort. I extend my sincere appreciation to the emergency service personnel, army and air force crews, volunteers, and Australia's federal and Queensland governments for their well coordinated response to this disaster. The loss suffered would have been far greater without the skill, dedication, compassion, and sacrifice of these emergency responders.

Mr. Speaker, the flood in northern Australia is a major natural disaster and has caused

loss and destruction on a catastrophic scale. I want to send a message of condolence to those Australian families who have lost lives and livelihoods. Australia is and always will be an important ally and friend to the United States. The Australian people will truly be in my thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks. I wish the affected communities the very best as they rebuild their lives and communities, and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD AMELL

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Arnold ''Arnie'' Amell, the chair of Plattsburgh State's College Council in Upstate New York.

A native of Beekmantown, New York, Arnie spent decades devoting his life to the New York education system. Throughout the years, he served as a teacher, a guidance counselor, director of guidance, assistant principal and principal. Outside of the classroom, he served as a member of the college council at SUNY Plattsburgh, President of the Kiwanis Club of Schenectady, and a member of the Northeast Parent and Child Society. Most recently, he spent the last two years as chair of the College Council at SUNY Plattsburgh. Through his decades of service, he worked to enhance the quality of education youth receive in Upstate New York, and provided a strong foundation for countless students of all ages.

Everyone who knew Arnie can say that they knew a man completely devoted to his family and his community. I have personally known Arnie for years and have served on the college council at Plattsburgh State University with him.

The Plattsburgh community has lost a true friend and a great leader, but his memory and spirit will continue to inspire generations of Upstate New Yorkers who will work to better their community in this tradition.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF HARLAND WESTMORELAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harland Westmoreland, a dedicated public servant who will retire as assistant chief of the Euless Police Department. As assistant chief, Mr. Westmoreland carried out his duties with honor, boldness, and enthusiasm. With a commitment to service, Mr. Westmoreland has been a leader in the Euless Police Department over the past 35 years.

Mr. Westmoreland was born in Gorman, Texas and attended Reagan County High School in Big Lake, Texas and Dallas Baptist University for both undergraduate and graduate school. At Dallas Baptist University, Mr. Westmoreland earned a masters degree in counseling and psychology. Along with numerous certifications and licenses, Mr. Westmoreland is a master peace officer. Mr. Westmoreland and his wife Juanita reside in Euless and have four children and ten grandchildren.

In 1974, while working in the private sector, Mr. Westmoreland joined the Euless Police Department as a reserve officer. By 1975, Mr. Westmoreland chose to make law enforcement and public service a full time career. In 1982, Mr. Westmoreland became an investigator, and in 1985 he was promoted to sergeant. In January 1993, Mr. Westmoreland was promoted to lieutenant, and in December of the same year he earned the rank of captain. In September 2004, Mr. Westmoreland became assistant police chief of the city of Euless.

Assistant Chief Westmoreland has committed his career to protecting the citizens and community of Euless. Throughout his career in law enforcement, Mr. Westmoreland has positively affected the lives of countless individuals. As exemplified by his many acts of heroism, Mr. Westmoreland has sacrificed his well-being to ensure the public safety of the residents of Euless. I ask all of my colleagues to join in recognizing Assistant Police Chief Westmoreland for his bravery, for his courage, and for his distinguished career with the Euless Police Department.

THE HOUSE'S READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, when we read the Constitution in this body on January 6, 2011, we missed a good opportunity. I joined in the reading. I was certainly not going to allow one political party to claim the Constitution for its own, as it has sometimes tried to claim the U.S. flag. However, by reading an altered version of the Constitution and by doing so without warrant we lost a great educational moment.

I revere the U.S. Constitution and carry a copy of the Constitution with me every day. I often ask students what they think is the greatest invention of humans. Because they know that I am a scientist, they usually say something technical like the laser or a microchip in answer to my question. I reply that the greatest invention is the U.S. Constitution. It is truly ingenious: Because of this document, our brilliant, resilient, self-correcting system of government, dreamed up in Philadelphia so many years ago, still functions well today. The system inspires and motivates people around the world.

Instead of reading the full Constitution, members of the House took turns reading an altered text based on the amendments. I was further troubled to learn that because of human error we skipped two pages during our reading.

The altered text omitted the original language of Article I, Section 2 that counted each black individual as only three-fifths of a person for the purposes of apportionment of Representatives, omitting it and reading only the text of the 14th Amendment that apportioned Representatives according to the total number of all male citizens. Yet, Article I, Section 3 that proscribes that the two Senators from each state be chosen by the state legislature, a passage of the Constitution subsequently amended by the 17th Amendment, was read in its original format.

The decision to not read the full text ignores the fundamental strength of the U.S. Constitution—its implicit recognition that the United States of America is an imperfect, ever evolving, self-correcting union. The Constitution is not a perfect document, and the Founders did not have all the answers. African American were counted as three-fifths of a person. Women were disenfranchised. The concept of privacy was glossed over. The full text of the Constitution and its Amendments should have been read today to help American recall and understand how we have strived and still strive ''to form a more perfect Union.''

The Constitution was a compromise throughout. In addition to counting each black individual as only three-fifths of a person, it was virtually silent on slavery, the great injustice of the day. But after a way that almost destroyed the Union, after more than half a million died, and when brother fought brother, the Constitution was amended and updated to reflect the will of the people. Today, the American experiment continues to improve. Freedoms and protections of rights keep growing in the face of both consistent and ever-changing threats.

Langston Hughes—an American who was denied the rights and freedoms that all of us deserve—wrote in Let America Be America Again, 1938,

O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!

Students attending under-performing schools, millions of Americans without health insurance, and widespread poverty demonstrate that even today, America never was America for far too many of us. But our Constitution lets us admit when we are wrong and correct our mistakes. Our collective vision of America must include an expanding sphere of freedom, liberty, and opportunity for all. And most importantly, we must never believe we are so infallible that we fail to strive for a ''more perfect Union.''

CONGRATULATIONS PERRY FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend Richard Perry, a Washington and Lee University graduate, and his wife Kristin Perry on the birth of their daughter Liza May Perry. Liza was born on Saturday, January 1, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Liza May Perry is six pounds and two ounces of pride and joy to her loving grandparents, Anne and Robert ''Skipper'' Perry, Jr. of Aiken, South Carolina, and Winifred Joan Off of West Chester, Pennsylvania. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Perry family and wish them all the best.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Resolution Honoring Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and the victims of this weekend's horrific shooting.

I have had the opportunity to serve with Congresswoman GIFFORDS on the Foreign Affairs Committee. In our time serving together, I have witnessed a courageous, hardworking, admirable public servant, dedicated to her constituents and to this Nation.

Most importantly, GABBY is highly regarded and a family person. Just a few months ago, GABBY's cousin, Elisa Giffords, told my wife how proud she and her family are of Congresswoman GIFFORDS and that they all know how important she is to her constituents. Those who know GABBY best, her family, love and respect her.

GABBY GIFFORDS has developed a reputation as an astute public servant. The community meeting she organized in Arizona, last weekend—an event she had called 'Congress in your Corner,' which exemplifies the essence of our democracy. Americans with varied views gathered peaceably to discuss how they could work together to improve their community. We all now know how this public gathering that aimed for positive community action ended tragically. A mother of two and wife of fifty years, Dorothy Morris; Judge John M. Roll, a devoted husband, father and grandfather; Church volunteers, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwan Stoddard; Gabriel Matthew Zimmerman, a 30 year old Congressional staffer, engaged to be married; and Christina Taylor Green, a third grader, there to meet a role model—Congresswoman GIFFORDS—were all senselessly taken from us.

While shocking, this horrific event cannot be allowed to detract from our obligations to our constituents or the need to peaceably assemble, a right GABBY so eloquently conveyed to us earlier this month on the House floor.

With courage, confidence, and the same grace Congresswoman GIFFORDS has displayed, we must work with and for each other in these hard times and in the months and years ahead. In this time of great sadness, I offer all the victims, their families, friends, and neighbors my deepest and most heartfelt prayers and well wishes. God bless you and God bless America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DONALD I. MARSHALL

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Donald Ian Marshall who passed away on January 8, 2011. Don played a major role in the post-World War II recovery and economic development of Guam. He was an important business and community leader in Guam and around the Asia-Pacific region. As we mourn his loss we recognize his contributions to our community.

Don was born in Manila on December 23, 1928, to John and Helen Marshall. John Marshall was a pre-World War II manager of Luzon Stevedoring Company (LUSTEVECO). LUSTEVECO was founded by a group of Spanish-American War veterans in 1909 and grew into the largest cargo handling transportation service in the Philippines. Following in his father's footsteps, Don began work for LUSTEVECO after his graduation from the Stanford University School of Business in 1950. Don first came to Guam in 1951 to manage the build-up of Navy facilities, and in 1963, Don Marshall assumed the presidency of LUSTEVECO.

Upon arriving to Guam in 1951, Don Marshall spearheaded the recruitment of thousands of skilled workers on Guam. He directed the construction of Camp Roxas to ensure an acceptable quality of life for the workers who were so far from home. Camp Roxas developed into a model village complete with clean and comfortable Quonset hut barracks, a medical dispensary to provide non-emergency, non-acute health care, Guam's first lighted baseball field, a professional sized and lighted tennis court, an outdoor theater, a bakery, a full service cafeteria and galley, and a Catholic chapel led by a Filipino priest. Sports competition between Camp Roxas, the civilian community, and military commands were encouraged, and teams from Camp Roxas competed very successfully with teams from all over the island. While Camp Roxas has outlived its purpose and is now part of Navy Base Guam, the two villages of Agat and Santa Rita are home to many of the workers and their descendents brought to Guam at the promise of opportunity.

Don Marshall's contributions to Guam were not restricted to the success of Camp Roxas. Don continued to involve himself in Guam's economic development. In 1972, he formed Cabras Marine Corporation to supply tugboat and harbor pilot services to commercial and military vessels. Don originally started with two reconditioned Navy tugs, The Husky and The Grunt, and today operates four tugboats as well as a freighter service between Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Pacific Islands surrounding Guam.

My husband, the late governor of Guam Ricardo J. Bordallo, and I have known Don Marshall since the early 1960s. He has been a dear friend who always took the time to visit my family. Many on Guam will miss his outgoing personality and the assistance that he was always willing to lend to community projects.

I would like to offer my condolences, sympathy and prayers to his wife, Sally Mae, his daughter, Terry, his sons John, Robert and William, his grandchildren, and the thousands of people whose lives he touched over the years. He will be missed.

INVESTIGATE WAR CRIMES IN SRI LANKA

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, to achieve lasting peace in Sri Lanka, there should be an independent, international investigation into alleged war crimes at the end of the country's 25-year civil war in May 2009. Last August, I joined 57 of my fellow Members of Congress in urging Secretary Clinton to press for a United Nations investigation. I renew this call now. As the Boston Globe stated in an editorial on December 29, 2010:

[From the Boston Globe, Dec. 29, 2010]

PROBE BOTH SIDES IN SRI LANKA

No foreign leader has fared worse in the cables released by WikiLeaks than Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has been resisting calls for an international inquiry into possible war crimes committed when Sri Lankan troops wiped out the secessionist Tamil Tigers in May 2009. In this particular case, disclosure of an American diplomat's confidential assessment serves the cause of human rights, validating the stand of Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the International Crisis Group. All three have argued, rightly, for a credible investigation of alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka, whether committed by the Tamil Tigers or government forces.

The documents show that US Ambassador Patricia Butenis observed last January that no regime investigates ''its own troops or senior officials for war crimes.'' She then added, in a devastating aside, that in Sri Lanka ''responsibility for many of the alleged crimes rests with the country's senior civilian and military leadership, including President Rajapaksa and his brothers.''

The ambassador's candor illuminates a recurring contradiction between the moral imperatives of human rights and the cold logic of diplomacy. Videos and survivor accounts strongly suggest that hundreds, if not thousands, of Tamils were stripped naked, had their hands bound behind their backs, and were murdered during the final weeks of the government's war against the Tigers. Yet for reasons of state, neighboring powers India and China show no interest in documenting and punishing such crimes. All the more reason for America to heed the awful truth in Butenis's cable and push for a legitimate UN investigation of war crimes in Sri Lanka.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of serving with GABBY GIFFORDS on both the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, and she has always stood out as someone of great energy, intelligence and integrity. She is exactly what you want a member of Congress to be, and a role model for young women who want to serve their communities through elected office.

This unspeakable, gruesome attack has shocked and saddened us all. But one thing it will not do, in this body, is conquer our spirit or stop us from doing our jobs. GABBY GIFFORDS was wounded because she saw it as her duty to engage directly with the people for whom she works, hearing their concerns and fielding their questions, putting them in touch with their government. That is how we do it in a democracy, and the violent acts of one madman will not change that.

Those who were tragically killed in the attack were holding up their end of the democratic bargain—active citizens eager to connect with their representative. Also, there were other public servants, a federal judge who had sat on the bench for nearly 20 years, and a member of Gabby's staff, whose dedication reminds me so much of the young people who work for me. My heart goes out to those who loved Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard and Gabriel Zimmerman. Even as we mourn their deaths, may we celebrate their rich and glorious lives. Let's also send our get-well wishes to all of the wounded and our undying gratitude to the first responders, including the courageous intern who may have saved GABBY's life.

There is every expectation that GABBY will make a full recovery. And hopefully she will return to the House of Representatives to continue a promising career in public service. I can think of no greater gift we can give her—no better way to honor her—than to put this House in better order.

I hope we can dedicate this session to her, conducting our debate on health care and other issues with passion and conviction, but also with maturity and respect. As we take up our important business, let's do it in a manner worthy of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. As a tribute to her, to those who died, and to everyone whose lives are forever changed by this senseless shooting, let's do our work in a way that showcases the very best of our democracy, just as it was on display in that shopping center the morning of January 8.

CELEBRATING LOUDOUN CARES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of Loudoun Cares, an innovative organization in Virginia's 10th District that promotes the sharing of community services under one roof to save on the overall costs to other nonprofits in the surrounding community. Loudoun Cares is a leader in the local effort to develop a multi-tenant nonprofit center which provides affordable and stable office space and shared services for Loudoun County charities serving families in need.

On October 1, 2010, Loudoun Cares celebrated the completion of renovations to its facility. This innovative collaboration promotes efficiencies and enhances service delivery to citizens in need. It also serves as a model for other communities seeking to develop nonprofit infrastructure that will improve, streamline and consolidate human service deployment.

The ongoing success of the 6-year-old Loudoun Cares is a direct result of a collaboration that includes nonprofits, faith communities, business partners and government.

I would like to recognize and thank Loudoun Cares and its board of directors, staff, volunteers and contributors for their work on behalf of the Loudoun community, especially Andy Johnston, the executive director, and Jennifer Montgomery, director of operations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO REPEAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to introduce a bill that repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and the accompanying Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and replaces it with four specific health care reform policies which will improve the challenges facing our country's health care financing.

Americans desire true health care reform that lowers premium costs, meets their medical needs regardless of what job they currently have or which state they live in, strengthens the doctor-patient relationship, and provides an affordable approach for medical insurance coverage for those uninsured or with pre-existing medical conditions. Many Members in Congress have expressed support for the ideas listed above and for the following specific solutions to these issues:

(1) Individuals should be afforded the same tax advantages that businesses have by being able to deduct their 100 percent of all of their health care expenses from their taxes, including insurance.

(2) Strengthen and expand new avenues for affordable health care for sick Americans through high-risk pools.

(3) Expand choice and competition by allowing consumers to shop for health insurance across state lines.

(4) Create association health plans, which would allow small businesses and other entities to form pools that will increase availability and allow their sheer size to negotiate lower costs for their employees or members.

While it's understood that these concepts do not make up a complete solution to our nation's health care financing problems, they would be a strong foundation to start to address the inequities inherent in the health care financing system, while still allowing for future additional reforms.

COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Federal holiday. This milestone gives us the opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's profound legacy and revel in the incredible example he has given all public servants.

As a vital figure of the modern era and instrumental leader during the Civil Rights Movement, he paved the way for equality and justice for all. His lectures, dialogues, and leadership inspired, and continue to inspire, generations of individuals to question the status quo and demand change.

Throughout his life, he also emphasized the importance of public service, which he continuously participated in through his work as a minister, community organizer, and civil rights activist.

It is for this reason that MLK Day is the only Federal holiday observed as a national day of service. The MLK Day of Service empowers citizens to volunteer in their communities, discuss social problems, and create viable solutions.

I see no better way to commemorate this incredible individual than by continuing on with his legacy of service and encouraging others to find ways to serve their communities.

OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 5

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 5, the new Republican Majority's rules for the U.S. House of Representatives.

H. Res. 5 contains a provision that reverses a long-standing policy, known as Clause 3, which requires the Appropriations Committee to fully fund transportation requests at levels authorized in the highway bill. The purpose of this rule was to ensure that the level of spending from the Highway Trust Fund was not greater than revenues that come in, which are paid by the users and taxpayers. This mechanism works; it ensures that obligation levels are known and fully used on an annual basis for transportation improvements.

Instead, the new rules package eliminates this guarantee of minimum annual spending from the Highway Trust Fund and puts road, transit and airport projects—and jobs—at risk. Removing the funding certainty that States rely on to secure contracts, make long-term infrastructure plans and hire employees will have a negative effect on the economy. Further, the proposed modification to current House rules could lead to reduced transportation obligation levels, less efficiency, a backlog of transportation projects, and unexpected cuts for states already facing severe budget deficits.

In Illinois, lower national obligation levels will translate into a reduced highway improvement program. With reduced Federal funds, the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, will not be able to deliver its planned program, and many important projects that need additional Federal funds may be deferred.

As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am opposed to this process of using the rules package to strip budgetary planning certainties from States. Repealing Clause 3 will not cut transportation spending; rather it will merely allow the gas tax and other revenues being put into the trust fund to accrue without being spent, leaving critical infrastructure safety improvement projects languishing.

In the 112th Congress I expect to debate a new transportation reauthorization bill to replace the current law, which expired in September 2009. The Highway Trust Fund and obligation limitations are issues that will be

discussed as the gas tax has not been increased since 1993 and available funds are decreasing every year.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that maintaining an efficient, multi-modal transportation system is critical to regional and national economic growth. H. Res. 5 repeals an important policy that will hurt investment in transportation infrastructure and reduce jobs. Twenty-one transportation and economic groups are also opposed to this change in the rules package, including State Departments of Transportation.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H. Res. 5.

ATTACKS IN EGYPT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the families and communities of the Egyptians who lost their lives in the recent New Year's bomb attack. The horror of this tragedy continues to reverberate across the world—a tragedy in which those peacefully practicing their faith were attacked and brutally murdered.

The Government of Egypt has a responsibility to protect all its citizens. Sadly, it has not done that. Over the last decade, there has been a disturbing pattern of the Government allowing, condoning, or responding with apathy to attacks against Christians in Egypt. There is simply no excuse for the lack of protection in this recent attack, last year's Christmas attack, and any other attacks against the Christian community or their places of worship and service.

When will the Egyptian Government wake up to its duty to protect its citizens?

Until Egypt is a free country where all Egyptians are able to peacefully practice their faith without fear or restriction, none of Egypt is truly free. Those in the government who would support the extremists who engage in these attacks are the ones who undermine democracy, freedom, and stability for the Egyptian people.

Again, governments do not need to take overt action for discrimination or persecution to occur. Denial of justice occurs by governments when the governments themselves, though not directly involved in persecution, indirectly encourage it by their statements, actions and subsequent policies. Instead, they look the other way when injustice happens. A prime example of this is the 1998 Al-Kosheh case in which the government exonerated individuals charged with persecuting, arresting, and torturing over 1,000 Coptic Christians, and even gave job promotions to the state security officials responsible for the persecution. That is not protection of citizens and that is not justice.

I call on the Egyptian Government to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous crime against the Copts, and ultimately against the people of Egypt, are brought to justice.

To the Coptic community, please know that our hearts and prayers go out to you in this time of grief and loss. We stand with you.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT 1ST CLASS JOHN P. FLEMING, RECIPIENT OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Army Sgt. 1st Class John P. Fleming, who was recently awarded the Silver Star Medal by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates while on active duty in Afghanistan.

The Silver Star Medal is the third highest military decoration to be bestowed by the U.S. Army, after the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. First established as the Citation Star by an Act of Congress in 1918, the Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations. The required gallantry must have been performed with marked distinction.

John Fleming grew up in Alton, Illinois, and attended Marquette High School, graduating in 1996. He enlisted in the Army in 2001. John's family has a proud tradition of military service. Both of his grandfathers served in the Army and he has a brother who served in the Air Force.

In 2010, Sgt. Fleming was in his first deployment in Afghanistan after three deployments to Iraq. On November 17 his platoon was engaged with the enemy in a Taliban stronghold in the Pech Valley of Kunar Province. Cut off from their main support, Fleming and his men came under heavy fire. Fleming had just put on his helmet before the bullets and shrapnel came raining in on them which no doubt saved his life. He took three shots to the helmet and one to his chest, which was protected by his body armor.

While under intense enemy fire, Sgt. Fleming tended to his platoon, including patching wounds in a fellow soldier's chest and back. When support aircraft were sent to his position, Sgt. Fleming provided directions to the enemy locations so covering fire could enable evacuation of the wounded. Six soldiers from Fleming's platoon died as a result of wounds suffered during the battle.

Sgt. John Fleming's courage and decisive action under the most extreme circumstances contributed to saving the lives of many in his platoon. For this tremendous gallantry, he was awarded the Silver Star, which was presented to him in a ceremony on December 7, 2010, by Secretary Gates.

Sgt. Fleming and his wife, Helen, have two sons, Thomas, and John Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sgt. John Fleming on receiving the Silver Star and expressing our sincere gratitude for his service to our country.

HONORING CHARLES ''CHUCK'' DANIELS, JR.

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Charles ''Chuck'' Daniels, Jr., of San Rafael, California, who passed away December 28, 2010, at the age of 84.

A businessman in Marin County for many decades, Chuck developed the House of Daniels beverage distributing company which had originally been founded, as Golden Gate Distributing Co., by his father at the end of Prohibition. What began as a small warehouse in San Anselmo eventually moved to Black Point in Novato where it became a $20 million business with 75 employees.

House of Daniels was known for its fine collection of wines and also distributed beer, spirits, and other beverages. Its last beverage interests were sold in 2005, and the Novato site changed to a storage operation with Chuck as CEO.

Chuck also played a larger role in the industry including involvement in Robert Mondavi winery, the North Coast Growers Association, the Old Timers Wine Club of Northern California, and as director or president of statewide groups such as the Spirits Wholesalers Association of America, the Northern California Wine and Spirits Wholesaler Association, and the California Beer Distributors Association. Trellis Vineyards, his own winery, was located in Sonoma County.

Involved in the Marin County community, Chuck was particularly active in public safety issues. He served on the California Crime Commission and the Fire Commission of the San Rafael Fire Department as well as working on arson investigations with local enforcement. He also supported a variety of youth activities, and, in 1997, the Marin Council of Boy Scouts named him their Distinguished Citizen of the Year. While a member of Dominican University's Leadership Forum, he promoted the renovation of historic buildings on campus.

Chuck's sense of fun was as integral to his personality as his passion for service. He was a founder of the Marin Republican Council as well as the Tocaloma Temperance Society, a social club for retired politicians. He loved spending time at the beaches of Lake Tahoe and in the mountains of Yosemite, as well as seeking out fine wine and dining experiences with his wife Carol.

In addition to Carol, he is survived by his three sons, Charles III, Peter, and Jonathan, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, although we mourn the loss of Charles Daniels in our community, I am proud to celebrate his many accomplishments and his dedication to making Marin County a better place.