

McCaslin, an outstanding leader for the Spokane Valley, who sadly passed away on March 13. Bob was one of my colleagues in the Washington State Legislature—a place where he proudly served for thirty years—and I can personally testify that he was one of our most well-liked, well-respected members. He will be dearly missed.

A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, Bob McCaslin graduated from Washington State University, worked for Kaiser Aluminum and later owned a real estate firm. He was first elected to the State Senate in 1980 and was re-elected easily every four years, sometimes with only token opposition. While there, he opposed most tax increases and supported most efforts to shrink state government.

He also earned a reputation for being “the master of a well-timed story or joke,” as Senate Minority Leader Mike Hewitt recently told our local newspaper, the Spokane Spokesman-Review. “Bob was always the one who, when things were going badly in caucus, could get things calmed down. He’d tell a little story.”

At the start of this year’s session, Bob was the longest serving Republican State Senator. However, Bob resigned his seat in January due to ill health. He continued serving, however, as a Spokane Valley city councilman. News of his passing was greeted with sadness by the Spokane Valley community and also by his many friends in Olympia and throughout Washington State—regardless of party.

Bob McCaslin was a great leader and his passing is a great loss for Eastern Washington. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bob’s memory and to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers.

THE MARINE DEBRIS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 2011

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan the Marine Debris Act Reauthorization Amendments of 2011 which was introduced earlier today by my friend and colleague Congressman SAM FARR, from California. I sponsored similar legislation in the 111th Congress and I commend Congressman FARR for recognizing the importance of this legislation and his efforts toward its reintroduction.

Marine debris comes in many forms and from many sources, each posing as a threat to birds, fish and other wildlife, while also affecting navigational safety, and polluting our beaches. Once passed, this legislation will serve to reduce the adverse impacts marine debris has on our marine ecosystem, the economy, and public safety. NOAA’s existing Marine Debris Program supports important projects throughout the country, including beach cleanups, derelict fishing gear location and removal, and educational campaigns. Oftentimes these projects will enlist the assistance of out-of-season fishermen and other members of coastal communities. The program helps to locate and track marine debris to avoid threats to navigational safety. This re-

authorizing language would serve to streamline these programs by avoiding any overlaps or conflicts with other federal agencies.

NOAA’s Marine Debris Program directly benefits the environment and the economy of coastal communities throughout the nation. Our fisheries, recreation, and tourism industries are dependent on clean beaches and healthy marine ecosystems.

Guam would greatly benefit from the passage of the Marine Debris Reauthorization as it would give states and local communities the additional tools we need to effectively protect our marine environments and wildlife. Again, I would like to thank Representative FARR for introducing this legislation, as well as Rep. DON YOUNG, Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER, Rep. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and Rep. PEDRO PIERLUISI for joining me as original cosponsors. I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was detained from voting on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. If present, I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 183, rollcall 184, rollcall 185, rollcall 186, and rollcall 187.

I would have voted “nay” on the following rollcall vote: rollcall 188.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote number 175 on H.R. 793, and rollcall vote number 176 on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 27. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both votes.

IN HONOR OF GREG DAVIS, CEO OF DAVIS BROADCASTING, INC.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great organization and two friends of long-standing, Greg and Cheryl Davis. Davis Broadcasting began Twenty-Five years ago with a vision and determination to make the world a better place to live. But, to understand where Davis Broadcasting is today, you have to understand the man behind the vision.

Greg Davis was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, and went on to faithfully serve in the United States Army. He later furthered his education and received his Masters Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

The scripture says in proverbs that: “Trust the lord with all your heart, and lean not

on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path.” Greg Davis has always kept God in the forefront of his life. God directed his path to find a life partner who stood with him in his life’s work. And that in turn led to birth of his three children: Geniece, Michelle, and Greg, Jr.

God also directed his path from a Community School Director in Michigan to a 37-year career in T.V. and Radio Broadcasting. He began his career in broadcasting, spending 12 years in marketing and sales management. His television career took him from Flint Michigan to Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Detroit; concluded in Cincinnati, Ohio as General Sales Manager of Multimedia Broadcasting.

He started Davis Broadcasting, Inc. in June of 1986 by acquiring radio stations in Columbus and Augusta, Georgia. Most people would have been happy with these two stations, but Mr. Davis wanted to expand his presence in radio by reaching diverse audiences all across the country. He went on to purchase stations in Macon, Georgia, Columbus, Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2000, he sold the radio stations in Charlotte and Augusta to expand his operations in the Columbus community that he has grown to love.

His radio stations touch the lives of all people from all walks of life. The different music genres that his stations encompass include urban contemporary, gospel contemporary, music focused on the Hispanic population and sports. His station WFXE-FM, better known to all of us as Foxie 105 has remained as the number one Arbitron rated radio station in the Columbus media market for 24 of the 25 years it has existed.

Finally, Greg and Cheryl Davis and Davis Broadcasting have given back to their community with service on numerous community boards. The Company also puts on annual events such as the Family Day in the Parks and the Needy Children’s Christmas party, which provides three to four thousand needy children with a gift at Christmas. They truly understand the words of Shirley Chisholm when she said that, “Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.”

Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to stand before you to honor the legacy of Greg and Cheryl Davis and the 25-year legacy of Davis Broadcasting—a legacy that endures, and whose best days are yet to come.

HONORING REV. DR. HENRY THOMAS SIMMONS

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a respected leader in my community, Rev. Dr. Henry Thomas Simmons, who is celebrating twenty years of dedicated service to the St. Albans Congregational Church in my district.

Since March 1, 1991, Dr. Simmons has served as Senior Minister of the St. Albans Congregational Church in St. Albans, New York. Under his visionary leadership the congregation has grown from 400 to 1,200 active

members who share mutual labors sponsoring just over fifty ministries for congregants and the community. In addition to his role as an ordained minister, Dr. Simmons has played an important continuous role as a father, husband, and grandfather. Dr. Simmons continues to serve as an advocate for his community by committing to serving his members within the church as well as the wider St. Albans community, which encompasses a variety of Queens' diverse population.

Dr. Simmons began his public service as an ordained minister of the gospel as Associate Minister with the Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, DC, from 1973–1977. In August 1977 he was called to serve as Senior Minister of the Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit, Michigan. After six years of leading that congregations' renewal as a vital urban church, Dr. Simmons was elected in 1983 as Secretary for Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Church Development for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in New York City. For eight years he assumed primary staff leadership for the denomination's evangelism efforts in new and urban church renewal for African American, Latino, American Indian, and Pacific Islander-Asian American churches before moving to Queens, NY.

Dr. Simmons has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; Chair of the United Church of Christ Search Committee for General Minister and President; and President of the Southeast Queens Clergy for Community. Empowerment, Inc, now known as Clergy United for Community Empowerment. Among the awards and honors Dr. Simmons has received are citations for outstanding ministerial leadership from the Michigan State Legislature, the Detroit city Council, the New York City Council, and honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees for contributions to racial and social justice from the Ursinus College and Huston-Tillotson College.

Through his leadership, Dr. Simmons continues to represent wisdom and strength for the entire congregation of St. Albans Congregational Church. I am sure Dr. Simmons has faced many joys and challenges during his twenty year tenure at St. Albans Congregational Church, and I wish him continued success throughout the remainder of his time there. I applaud Dr. Simmons for all he has accomplished and for his unrelenting commitment to God, his family, public service, and the community of St. Albans.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ'S
BIRTHDAY

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero and a remarkable public servant, Cesar Chavez. Chavez is revered by people across our nation as a humble activist who led a monumental fight to improve labor conditions for migrant farm workers. His nonviolent crusade for social change was inspired by the hardship and injustices that he witnessed growing up as a farm worker. As a result of that upbringing, he

led a movement to achieve fair wages, worker protections, human rights and human dignity among the most underrepresented in our society. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for those efforts, and today, almost two decades after his passing, he continues to inspire young people to dedicate their own lives in service to others. In his words, "the end of all education should surely be service to others." His impact is timeless and cannot be understated. On behalf of my constituents in New Mexico's First Congressional District, I am proud to honor him before my colleagues in Congress.

CELEBRATING NOWRUZ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Nowruz, the traditional Iranian New Year, and take the opportunity to celebrate Iranian Americans' contributions to America. I wish Iranian Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

Nowruz originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz means a "New Day" which occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring. It symbolizes a time of renewal and community, and it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year.

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. It is also celebrated by more than 1 million Iranian Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Baha'i, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds.

Nowruz 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.

In 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian Americans carry today.

Iranian Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including government, military, and law enforcement officials, who proudly serve to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States.

The United States is a melting pot of ethnicities and religion and Nowruz contributes to the richness of American culture and is consistent with our founding principles of peace and prosperity for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I missed roll-call vote No. 181 on H. Res. 170. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

CONGRATULATING TIFFANY
FLYNN ON HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my District Chief of Staff, Tiffany Flynn. Twenty five years ago today, I hired Tiffany as a receptionist in my Flint office. Tiffany, who grew up in Lapeer, Michigan and graduated from Lapeer West High School, worked her way up in my district office to eventually become my District Chief of Staff. She now oversees my district staff and manages my offices in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City.

Tiffany is a reliable and focused manager. She has been instrumental in helping foster growth and revitalization throughout my district. Tiffany played a critical role in ensuring that the Flint Main Post Office Processing and Distribution Center and the Social Security Administration office remained downtown. She also played a leading role in the redevelopment of downtown Flint. Tiffany has not only been a great asset to my office, but also to the people of mid-Michigan.

Even after her workday is done, Tiffany continues to give back to her community by participating in a number of local activities and charities. Tiffany has been a member of the Rotary Board of Directors and is now president-elect of the Rotary Club of Flint. She works with the United Way and Muscular Dystrophy Association and supports the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint and the YWCA. Tiffany is also active in Women in Leadership, the League of Women Voters and in 2008 she received the ATHENA award by the Women's Business Council of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce for mentoring and inspiring young women.

Today, I want to thank Tiffany for her years of service, hard work and dedication to my office and to the people of mid-Michigan. Throughout the years, she has made a significant impact on my office and the lives of my constituents. I have been very fortunate to have had Tiffany on my staff for the last 25 years.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL
HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to salute the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the fine people being recognized at