EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STUDENT FEELINGS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I recently hosted at the Capitol a group of extraordinary students from Heritage Middle School located in my District in Maryville, Tennessee.

The very first time I visited the U.S. Capitol was as part of a school trip, and I know how impressionable such an experience can be to young people.

Following their visit, the students were asked by their teacher, Patricia Russell, to write a report on how their feelings about the Nation have changed since visiting Washington.

I encourage my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read these very impressive essays.

''FREEDOM IS NOT FREE''

(By Lindsey Basham)

It always pains me to see people talk about how hard they have it. But in reality, a homeless person in America would be a middle-classed person in a third-world country. We take for granted all that we have, and the most important thing would be freedom. The only reason we have this freedom is because of our soldiers sacrificing their lives for ours. But where would we be without a leader? My personal favorite President is Abraham Lincoln because he was the only president out of sixteen at the time to do something about the most remorseful action America ever did—slavery. Because of these two reasons, I liked the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and WWII Memorial the best.

There are many people who would rather others like them instead of sticking out of the crowd, but those people do not have what it takes to run one of the most powerful countries in the world. President Abraham Lincoln did though, and one of the noblest things this man ever did was create the Emancipation Proclamation. Even against half the country, he freed the slaves of the south once and for all. He said that a house divided against itself will not stand, yet he took an enormous risk with the Proclamation making the southern states angry. Lincoln believed that owning another human being went against the Declaration of Independence and he was not going to sit back and watch inhumanity happen to such innocence. Sadly, the sixteenth president of the United States was assassinated in a movie theater by a man named John Wilkes Booth. Even so, the legend of this famous president lives on in one of my favorite memorials in the USA capitol today.

Small children learn to count to one hundred, but many times they will trip up on the numbers afterward. Later on, they will have the skill to make to one thousand, but then again, they might mess up on their correct numbers after that high number. At around the age of ten, a person can count as high as he or she wishes, but the problem is patience. Even the most patient person will get bored after around ten thousand. The number 58,267 may seem like an ordinary, random number—a number higher than most of us are willing to count—but that number is the exact number of people who are commemorated on the Vietnam Memorial. That is a number that makes me appreciate being an American because I think about those people who fought for what we all take advantage of. The moment that precious freedom is taken away from us, we will regret being so easy going about it. ''Freedom is not free'' as said on the Korean War Memorial, is very scary at how true that statement is. Tens of thousands of people have died in each and every war our nation has endured and they knew what was bound to happen. It is only common sense that these people would be honored.

Four-thousand stars all representing one-hundred soldiers is one of the key things I saw at the World War II Memorial. On the day the Japanese planes flew over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was a devastating day in American history. This was the day our country was launched into the Second World War. So many, many people fought and died during the years that followed the day of Pearl Harbor. As every war is, this war was as bloody as any and it makes me feel that there is a place for every single one of us. Some were destined to make that journey for the rest of us. And for all we know, a person who nobody has ever heard of could have cost us the winning of the war. Every person who is honored in those fountains and stars had a big role in a big part of history and deserve to be in one of the major memorials in Washington, D.C.

After all I have seen, I have come to appreciate the delicate balance of power and freedom our country has perfected. But I will always remember that freedom is not free, and sometimes it takes a noble person to stand up for man's natural born freedom, and sometimes it takes more. Sometimes many lives are lost and much blood is shed on the soil. But, even though we are sometimes forced to do this, that does not mean we cannot commemorate these brave men, women, and—in my opinion—the best president this country has seen yet. Therefore, it seemed necessary to create the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial. I have come to love this country even more so than I already did.

DC TRIP ESSAY

(By Mackenzie Kindig)

''How has your appreciation of your American Heritage increased by taking this trip?'' Many answers fill my mind as I read this question, and many experiences come to mind as well. But three places that have made me appreciate my country more is the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol Building, and Mt. Vernon.

The Holocaust Museum is truly a moving place to visit. Considering the Holocaust is my favorite period in history to learn about, I truly appreciated this museum and it's contents. Reading and seeing all the exhibits at this museum made me realize how lucky I am to be an American. While a few times I cried, I was recognizing how well off we all are to be living in the United States. All of those 11 million people suffered, but we learned from it. I know our country and government would never let something that horrible happen to their American citizens. Also, the Holocaust is a very important topic to history, and this museum portrays it perfectly and is a great learning experience, especially to 8th graders.

The Capitol Building was among the first places we visited. The beautiful archiecture is just a plus, and meeting so many important people that work for the country is truly an honor. Seeing the Capitol Building and knowing more in depth how our government works has increased my appreciation for our country, because I know in places like Egypt and Iraq they are not nearly as lucky as us to have a well organized government. I enjoyed meeting Representative Duncan and knowing the people of east Tennessee are in good hands. As well as the government, the Capitol Building contains beautiful paintings and honorable sculptures from all states.

Mt. Vernon was home to our first president, which alone is a great honor to be able to visit. But also it was built in the 1700s. I love the architecture and layout of the house, as well as the estate itself with the gardens and slave quarters. George Washington was an amazing president, and to be allowed to step into his personal home that he actually lived in is breathtaking. Mt. Vernon not only increased my appreciation of our country, but also our technology and government. Experiencing George Washington's burial site brought tears to my eyes, because I feel closer to him in a way of seeing his home. I appreciate Mr. Washington because he was our first president, and a very amazing one at that. Mt. Vernon also shows Americans how citizens lived in the 1700s, and I believe that is a tremendously important experience.

Washington DC has increased my appreciation of being an American citizen because of the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol Building, and Mt. Vernon. DC is a very educational trip that I believe everyone should experience at least once.

DC ESSAY

(By Garrett Headrick)

After going on the trip to Washington DC my appreciation of my American heritage has increased. The World War II, Vietnam War, and Lincoln memorial has made an impact on me the most.

Firstly, I was moved by the World War II memorial. After visiting the memorial and seeing all of the gold stars on the wall representing the people who have died for us. The people who have fought for us in World War II do not get enough credit for what they did for their country. It is hard to imagine what our country would be like without the freedom we have now. This is why the World War II memorial has increased appreciation of my American heritage.

Secondly, the Vietnam War memorial made me think more about what the soldiers have done for our country. While at the memorial it was quiet. Nobody dared to talk higher than a whisper. The respect to the Vietnam War memorial amazed me. I would like to know more about the memorial.

Lastly, to imagine standing in one of the greatest president's memorial is amazing. If one was to think on what Lincoln did for America is mind boggling. If it was not for Lincoln there would be a Union and a Confederate still today. To make a memorial for

him, I think, is definitely necessary. The Lincoln memorial was very fascinating.

In conclusion, my appreciation for my American heritage has increased after going to Washington, DC. The World War II, Vietnam War, and Lincoln memorial are very interesting.

DC ESSAY

(By Kayla Kirkland)

Seeing Washington, DC isn't just understanding and appreciating our heritage, it also makes you proud. My conclusion of this is thanks to being able to go inside the Capitol building, seeing the memorials of our heroes, and going through the Holocaust Museum.

Being able to go into the Capitol building is more than words. I did not fully understand how much our government is ran by the people until we were able to go in there. Meeting John Duncan was an honor. It was neat how he would take time out of his day to meet the people he represents. The input we have is real, it is seeing our future and past evolve together.

Next, walking through our heroes memorials was inspirational. I saw that people died fighting and making this country free. My personal favorite was the World War II Memorial. The stars in the water were in awe. Every star was for one hundred souls and human beings that defend our land to insure our future.

Third of all, two words . . . Holocaust Museum. People do not understand how good Americans have it. We could be in a government with a dictator whom murders millions of innocent people. We are not though. This is because our founding fathers did not want that, and some of them died to insure us ''We Are America.'' We, our Country, has it more than better compared to other countries.

I give thanks of being able to go inside the capitol building, see the memorials of our heroes, and go through the Holocaust Museum. ''. . . And so my fellow Americans, Ask what your country can do for you; Ask what you can do for your country.''

DC ESSAY

(By Michaela Hearon)

My trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery

First, the monuments made me appreciate living in America. They recognize all the people that served in the different wars and some of our past presidents. The two monuments that really touched me were the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. The Vietnam Memorial was very sad seeing all the names of the people who had died. I personally can't imagine loosing one of my loved ones in a war. The Korean War Memorial showed the emotions of the men in that war. They did a great job making both of these memorials; I will never forget them.

Secondly, the American History Museum made me appreciate my American heritage. This museum showed all kinds of things that have happened in America. I loved seeing the section about the different wars, the section of all our presidents, and the first ladies dresses. The section of the wars showed some cool objects from the wars, my favorite was seeing all the original guns and swords. The President section had facts about all of our presidents, my favorite president is Ronald Reagan. The first ladies dresses were beautiful and I like how they have those their so the public can see them. I enjoyed the American History Museum; it made me appreciate my American heritage.

Thirdly, The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all of the men and women that gave their lives in the wars. There are so many people that are buried there that gave their lives for Americas freedoms. That makes me thankful for them to have enough courage to fight for what they believe in. We Americans are so blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. So, we need to remember the ones that gave their lives, and the ones that have served and are still serving. The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all the ones that have and are still serving in the wars.

In Conclusion, my trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery. I am so blessed and proud to live in the United States of America.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 702 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), headquartered in West Frankfort, Illinois.

In 1911, the labor movement in the United States was in a period of rapid growth. Our economy was beginning its shift from agriculture to manufacturing and more of the population was becoming concentrated in metropolitan areas. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, in 1911, tragically exposed unsafe working conditions and provided fuel for the rise of organized labor. Also in 1911, a small group of electrical workers near Herrin, Illinois, petitioned the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a charter.

The founders of Local 702 wanted the pay and working conditions of those in the electrical trade to be commensurate with those of other skilled craftsmen and they knew the only way to accomplish this was to organize. They quickly began the task of working with area utility companies, and the first recorded bargaining contract was dated January 31, 1917, with the Central Illinois Public Service Company.

During the Great Depression, as our Nation struggled with record levels of unemployment, many members of Local 702 were out of work for prolonged periods. In a display of solidarity, the working members of Local 702 accepted an assessment on their wages that provided relief funding for their unemployed brothers. Loans from Local 702 provided a critical lifeline during the 1930's and some are still being retired today.

IBEW Local 702 considers itself to be a progressive, active local. From its founding as a bargaining unit for electrical workers, Local 702 has expanded to represent workers in many different fields, including manufacturing, instrument technicians, broadcast engineers, and nursing. While the primary focus of the local is the representation of its members, they are also vested in being a positive influence within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING THE PELICAN CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors has voluntarily constructed two new restroom facilities for the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America to celebrate 100 Years of Scouting.

The facilities were constructed at the Avondale Scout Retreat in Clinton, La. to help improve the experiences of the 11,000 plus youths served by the Istrouma Area Council each year. Under the direction of leading contractor, The Lemoine Company, numerous volunteers from their company and other members of the ABC, the Pelican Chapter has dedicated countless hours and numerous resources to building these facilities, which were completed in October. Each facility encompasses over 1,550 sq. ft. and features modern appliances, providing a critical improvement to the comfort and convenience offered to campers.

The Istrouma Area Council is the largest Boy Scout Council in the state of Louisiana, serving a 13 Parish area and providing nearly $2 million of free services to the community. By providing leadership training and advancement programs, the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this nation for nearly a century, and continues to serve the state of Louisiana. I can only hope that these new facilities that were made possible by the generosity of the ABC Pelican Chapter will allow the Istrouma Area Council to continue their legacy of stewardship for another 100 successful years.

LINDA LOPEZ CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and hard work of Ms. Linda Lopez of Merced, California. Not only is Ms. Lopez a treasured member of my staff, she is a tireless advocate and community leader in the 18th Congressional District.

Born in New Mexico, Linda moved to California's Central Valley in 1955 where she attended public school in Madera and then later college at Stanford University. She has been involved in civil rights and social justice work for over 40 years and is considered among the influential Latinos in the Central Valley.

Linda's civic participation includes serving on the City of Merced's Redevelopment Agency Gateway Projects Citizen's Advisory Committee, City of Merced's Planning Commission, several City of Merced Ad Hoc Committees including Open Space and Parks, South Merced Specific Plan, CP-42 Park Project, Wastewater Advisory Committee. She has also served on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership Telecommunications Committee and the California State Advisory Board for Transportation Planning and Environmental Justice.

Linda Lopez is also an alumnae of the Great Valley Center's IDEAL inaugural class, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality and Leadership Merced. Linda was named the 1998–99 Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Linda has held numerous positions in the community that include the Central Valley Opportunity Center, TV Guide Magazine, the National Park Service and worked with a variety of research companies. She is also a former employee of the Great Valley Center's Central Valley Digital Network working to introduce/enhance technology capacity in the Central Valley communities from Marysville to Bakersfield.

Linda has served as a Constituent Services Representative in my Merced District office since 2006 where she has worked hundreds of cases in her years of service. Linda prided herself on giving her time and energy to everyone that comes into my office seeking assistance. It was not unusual for Linda to work late nights and weekends to meet the needs of the constituents or schedule home visits for the elderly to assist them on matters for which they needed assistance. Linda's compassion is a hallmark for the work she does and it shows to not only the constituents but to the community at large. As a member of my staff, Linda has served as Field Representative where she would provide me updates and serves as my eyes and ears in the community.

Linda's passion for helping people and making a difference sets her apart from others. She offers to everyone she meets, kindness and compassion. Often times, Linda's relationship with other community members evolves into that of a mentorship, where Linda guides and mentors other aspiring community activists to find the passion and desire in themselves to serve the public.

In addition to her work as a public servant, Linda has her beautiful family for which she is so proud that include Ken, Emily and Jessica. Linda Lopez has made Merced, California a better place to live, work and raise our families. I am very proud to call her a member of Team Cardoza and more proud to call her a part of my family. Her compassion, leadership and dedication will serve our community and its children for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize this fine individual for her work and tireless efforts.

HONORING MR. NICHOLAS BOCCIERI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my deepest sympathies to our former colleague, the Honorable John Boccieri and his family. On Saturday, June 11th, Mr. Boccieri's father, Nicholas Boccieri passed away at the age of 72.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, on July 9, 1938, ''Nick'' or better known to some as ''Jim'', was truly a leader in our community. After graduating from Youngstown Ursuline High School in 1956, he attended St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati for two years. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University, Nick went on to teach Latin, Spanish, Italian and English at Poland, Hubbard, and Lowellville High Schools in the Mahoning Valley for 30 years.

Married to Rosemary Filisky on August 14, 1965, the couple was blessed with three sons including our former colleague John along with brothers Gregory and Nick. They helped provide a life filled with joy, laughter and love, and the fantastic gift of nine grandchildren.

Nick was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church in January of 1998. As an active member of the parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Youngstown, Nick served as the Director of Youth Ministry and taught marriage preparation and confirmation formation classes.

Please join me in extending our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the Boccieri family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ''MISS PEACHES,'' ANNABEL GRINER ALDERMAN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of Mrs. Annabel Griner Alderman, also known as ''Miss Peaches.'' Mrs. Alderman was a beloved novelist, poet, talk radio show host, newspaper columnist and native of Nashville, Georgia.

Mrs. Alderman spent the majority of her life in Nashville where she became a political activist through writing and performing. She appeared as a political comic under the name ''Miss Peaches,'' a self proclaimed nickname that would serve as the moniker for her alter ego as she performed concerts and monologues with her piano playing brother, Geunie Griner.

Known for her creativity, Miss Annabel lived a colorful life and ingratiated herself in her community. Even as a child, she was very creative and talented, and wrote the song ''Willacoochee Callin' Moody Field'' after a chance meeting at a phone booth. Miss Annabel and her mother stopped to make a phone call in Ray City when she was just a girl and while they were waiting on the person inside the phone booth, she overheard the lady speaking to someone at Moody Air Force Base. She went home and wrote the song that she would later perform with her brother. This would be only the beginning of the pair's singing career; they also recorded comedy and gospel material through RCA with Mrs. Alderman acting as lyricist and lead singer.

As much as she enjoyed performing, Miss Annabel also enjoyed writing and would go on to give herself another nickname, that of ''wordsmith.'' During the 1930s and 1940s, Ward Law Starling was one of the biggest newspaper publishers in the state of Georgia, with the Nashville Herald being part of his empire. However, after his untimely death, Miss Annabel swooped in to keep the paper running and once again paired up with her brother Geunie to successfully run the paper for a number of years.

Mrs. Alderman graduated from the Georgia Regional Police Academy in 1983 and became an investigator with her family's law firm in Nashville. However, she continued to write, publishing a book of poetry, ''Lost Loves Don't Count'' in 1996. Then in 1999 she wrote her first novel, ''Family Man,'' which was nominated for several literary awards. During this time Ms. Alderman also penned a political column, ''About Right Now'' for the Valdosta Daily Times and was named Berrien County Republican Woman of the Year. Numerous poems, essays and short stories also followed and were published in Georgia magazines such as Valdosta Magazine, Flint River Review, Kennesaw State University's Golden Age of Poetry and Mercer University's Crossroads magazine.

The south has many colorful characters in its history but in Berrien County, there will only ever be one ''Miss Peaches.'' I rise today to commemorate Mrs. Annabel Alderman as an enduring part of the history of South Georgia. May the Lord bless her family and her memory.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST ROBERT L. VOAKES, JR.

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, Northern Michigan mourns the loss of Army Specialist Robert L. Voakes, Jr., 21, from L'Anse. Robert, who was posthumously promoted from private first class, was killed during an insurgent attack in Lagham Province, Afghanistan. Robert was just three months into a 15-month Operation Enduring Freedom deployment in Afghanistan.

Robert graduated in 2009 from Baraga High School and enlisted in the military that November. He went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and was then stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. Robert was in the 164th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Robert enjoyed sports, particularly basketball, and was a proud and active member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. He is remembered as a quiet, thoughtful young man with an excellent sense of humor.

While Robert could have stayed in L'Anse, he chose instead to serve the cause of freedom and defend America's liberty in a distant country. Robert's deeds and daring will forever be illustrative of the selflessness and bravery that lives in Northern Michigan's young people. I can find no words that can express my gratitude for Robert's service or for the sypthathy I feel for his many loved ones whose lives have been shattered by this loss.

To Robert's family, I can offer only the hope that you may be comforted by the kind providence of the Almighty, and the knowledge that

so many in our area are praying for you more than they have ever prayed for themselves. I am well aware that my words will not soften your overwhelming grief, but in the words of President Lincoln, ''May God give you that consolation which is beyond all earthly power.''

On behalf of the First District of Michigan, I would like to express my profound sadness for the loss of such a noble young man as Robert Voakes. Northern Michigan has certainly lost one of its finest, and his memory and service will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIVES OF JOSH BURCH AND BRETT FULTON—FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY FIREFIGHTERS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two Florida Division of Forestry firefighters who perished in the line of duty on June 20 while fighting the Blue Ribbon Wildfire in Hamilton County, Florida.

On Monday, June 20, Josh Burch, 31, of Lake City, Florida, and Brett Fulton, 52, of White Springs, Florida, paid the ultimate price for our safety, giving up their lives for our protection. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones as we remember the invaluable work that they and their fellow firefighters perform each and every day.

The Blue Ribbon fire has burned across hundreds of thousands of acres in Northeast Florida and taken the lives of two courageous and dedicated firefighters and family men. Let us honor Josh and Brett and never forget their sacrifice to Florida and the nation.

KENNETH RILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth Riley, a Staff Sergeant in the Army retiring following more than 30 years of military service. He joined the Army in 1976 through the delayed entry program, and after high-school graduation in June 1977 he was called to active duty. After finishing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he was deployed to Karlsruhe, Germany until October of 1979.

Upon returning Mr. Riley was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. After serving 6 years of active duty, he was discharged in June of 1980 at which time he entered the Army Reserves. Mr. Riley served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003–2004, 2005–2006, and 2009–2010, eventually retiring in November of 2010.

Mr. Riley has been married to Mrs. Helen Riley for 32 years. They have two children, Tabitha Brown and Tanya Riley. Mr. Riley has 6 grandchildren with another on the way.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Kenneth Riley, a true patriot that has dedicated a major portion of his life to serve his nation. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Riley in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW TIMMER FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Matthew Timmer for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Matthew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2112, the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations bill. This legislation continues the Republican majority's destructive pattern of underfunding community needs and undermining the country's fragile economic recovery.

Total funding in H.R. 2112 is $3 billion less than last year's funding level for Agriculture appropriations. As a result, there are far fewer resources to meet the growing needs of the American people. This legislation cuts critical nutrition programs for vulnerable women, children and elderly. It puts every family at greater risk of food-borne illness by slashing funding for food safety. And it gives Wall Street speculators more freedom to inflate gas prices by cutting funding to police oil speculation.

The House Republican majority is forcing these dangerous cuts on our communities and arguing that sacrifice is needed to reduce federal deficits. Unfortunately, these are disingenuous arguments that hide the Republican's true budget priorities. While making drastic cuts to successful community programs in this and other appropriations bills, the Republican majority is protecting hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans in their 2012 budget, including nearly $4 billion in special tax subsidies for the largest oil companies. Republicans have failed to justify their choice to spend precious federal resources on tax giveaways for Americans who have the most while handing deep cuts to those who have the least.

The following provisions of H.R. 2112 are the most troubling:

Women, Infants and Children, WIC: Though House Democrats were able to restore $147 million in funding, the WIC program will still be slashed by over $500 million from last year's level. Over 9 million women and young children benefit from this vital program that offers nutrition and health care assistance to some of our most vulnerable populations. H.R. 2112 will deny over 350,000 low-income women and infants access to the program.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: House Republicans chose to cut by over $100 million these vital safety net programs that keep millions of Americans from going hungry at night. H.R. 2112 also cuts $2 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) reserve fund. This funding is set aside in the event that participation is greater than expected.

Food banks, emergency shelters, Americans who rely on food stamps, and seniors living at or below the poverty level will suffer from these cuts. With American families struggling to find jobs in this slow economic recovery, Congress should be strengthening the nutrition safety net, not weakening it. Minnesota has seen a 19 percent increase in food stamp usage over the past year while our food banks are under enormous strain to deal with the surging demand for their services.

Food and Drug Administration, FDA: Recent deadly E. coli outbreaks across Europe are only the latest evidence of why it is reckless for House Republicans to underfund the President's request for the FDA by 21 percent. Congress passed landmark food safety reforms last year to protect public health. Yet, without adequate resources to implement these new protections, Americans will be exposed to unnecessary risks every time they visit the grocery store.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC: Wall Street speculators are contributing to skyrocketing gas prices by inflating the price of oil. As families in Minnesota and across the country struggle to pay these costs, House Republicans are choosing to cut the federal entity charged with policing speculation. In H.R. 2112, the CFTC receives 44 percent less funding than requested by President Obama.

International Food Aid: The United States has a critical national security interest in helping to alleviate hunger in around the world, particularly in places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. House Republicans cut the budget for the P.L. 480 Title II program that provides emergency food aid assistance by 38 percent. The successful McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program is also cut by 10 percent.

Stopping Clean Water Act Enforcement: House Republicans inserted a legislative provision in H.R. 2112 to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from meeting its legal responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to protect our Nation's wetlands and tributaries.

Conservation Programs: Rural conservation programs received an unprecedented $1 billion cut from mandatory spending levels in H.R. 2112. This decision is deeply unfortunate, considering conservation programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program have benefited farmers while improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

H.R. 2112 does reflect a bipartisan agreement to continue the ban on horse slaughter inspection. The bill also stops funding for USDA's Livestock Protection Program that has been found to use lethal methods to address wildlife conflict. Taxpayer money can be better spent on predator control methods that do not involve the use of toxic poisons, steel-jawed traps and aerial gunning.

Overall, H.R. 2112 is a deeply flawed bill. If enacted into law, it will inflict great and unnecessary pain on America's urban and rural communities with no significant or lasting reduction in the federal deficit.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

SUDAN: HANGING IN THE BALANCE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great sense of urgency to call attention to the unfolding nightmare taking place in Sudan right at this very moment.

I submit for the RECORD an article today from the New York Times describing the heinous actions taken by the Sudanese Army against their own people. The article quotes an American official as saying that without mediation, "you're going to have massive destruction and death in central Sudan, and no one seems able to do anything about it."

Indeed, no one seems to be doing anything about it.

Have we forgotten the tragic history of Rwanda? Of Darfur? Are the Nuba people destined to the same grim fate? Have we learned nothing from these previous mass annihilations of people?

The New York Times reports that, "United Nations officials in Southern Kordofan, the state that includes the Nuba Mountains, estimate that dozens have been killed in aerial bombings in the past two weeks and maybe dozens more in extrajudicial killings. Nuban officials put the civilian death toll in the hundreds."

The story continues, "Sudanese soldiers are planting land mines in several towns, United Nations officials said, and possibly digging mass graves. Many people in the mountains are Christian, and church officials say Christians have been attacked and churches burned."

The Times piece echoes reports I heard last week from a young man who was a former intern in my congressional office. He has been living and working in Sudan for the past two years and is in continuous touch with people on the ground in Sudan, including in areas that have been virtually cut off from the outside world.

In the face of this tragedy, the administration is AWOL. The press is hardly covering the story. Congress is barely engaged.

What more will it take?

Time is running short and the situation is grim. The world must not continue to turn a blind eye to slaughter.

[From the New York Times, June 20, 2011]

AS SECESSION NEARS, SUDAN STEPS UP DRIVE TO STOP REBELS

(By Jeffrey Gettleman)

NAIROBI, KENYA.—The Sudanese Army and its allied militias have gone on an unsparing rampage to crush rebel fighters in the Nuba Mountains of central Sudan, bombing thatch-roofed villages, executing elders, burning churches and pitching another region of the country into crisis, according to United Nations officials and villagers who have escaped.

"The market was burning," said Salah Kaka, a mother of four who trekked for days with thousands of others to a mushrooming refugee camp after her husband disappeared during an air raid. "I dug ditches in the ground and hid the children."

Tens of thousands of rebel fighters have refused the government's threat to disarm, digging into the craggy hillsides. They are demanding political reform and autonomy, a familiar refrain in Sudan's marginalized hinterlands that has set off insurgencies in Darfur in the west, as well as eastern and southern Sudan.

"This is going to spread like wildfire," said an American official who was not authorized to speak publicly. Without mediation, "you're going to have massive destruction and death in central Sudan, and no one seems able to do anything about it."

The Sudanese Army has sealed off the area and threatened to shoot down United Nations helicopters. Sudan's forces detained four United Nations peacekeepers and subjected them to "a mock firing squad," the organization said Monday, calling the intimidation part of a strategy to make it nearly impossible for aid agencies and monitors to work in the region.

It seems that the Sudanese government, facing upheaval on several fronts, especially with the southern third of the country preparing to declare independence next month, is determined to suppress the rebels and prevent them from encouraging other restive areas to rise up.

Even after the southerners secede, countless fault lines remain in northern Sudan. Non-Arab people in the Nuba Mountains, Darfur, Blue Nile State, Kasala—and all the way down the Nile to Egypt—have long been chafing against an increasingly isolated government dominated by a small group of Arabs and led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, a war crimes suspect indicted by the International Criminal Court.

"Bashir is facing enormous pressure," said E. J. Hogendoorn, a program director at the International Crisis Group. "There are a number of areas that could rebel again," he said, and the offensive in the Nuba Mountains "may actually exacerbate resentment and inadvertently unite armed opposition movements."

United Nations officials in Southern Kordofan, the state that includes the Nuba Mountains, estimate that dozens have been killed in aerial bombings in the past two weeks and maybe dozens more in extrajudicial killings. Nuban officials put the civilian death toll in the hundreds.

Sudanese soldiers are planting land mines in several towns, United Nations officials said, and possibly digging mass graves. Many people in the mountains are Christian, and church officials say Christians have been attacked and churches burned.

"So many people have been made to leave their homes," said Ali Shamilla, liaison officer for the Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organization. "Many are living in caves."

Witnesses said government soldiers were shooting "the black people," a reference to Nubans, who are often darker skinned than the Arab-dominated military. Human rights groups worry that this could begin a new round of ethnic cleansing, given the wholesale destruction of communities that has been part of how war is fought in Sudan.

Hundreds of thousands died in Darfur after the government razed villages and armed militias to throttle rebels there, leading to genocide charges against Mr. Bashir. Millions died in the decades of civil war between north and south, under many of the same tactics.

The same thing happened in Nuba. In the mid–1980s, southern rebels opened bases in the Nuba Mountains. Residents who had long felt discriminated against by the Arab rulers of Sudan joined the southerners in droves.

The rulers responded by arming Arab militias—just as it would in Darfur—and setting them loose on impoverished villagers. Tens of thousands of civilians were killed and villagers were incarcerated in "peace camps," forced to convert to Islam. Entire villages were wiped out.

"Nuba were often just shot on sight by Khartoum forces, no questions asked," said Roger P. Winter, a former State Department official, who testified Thursday during a Congressional hearing on Sudan's future. "Today, again, Nuba are positioned for liquidation by Khartoum forces."

This may sound hyperbolic. But as Julie Flint, an author who first visited the Nuba area in 1992, argued, some of the same men responsible for earlier atrocities in Nuba are in charge once again, including Ahmed Haroun, the Southern Kordofan governor, indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity connected to Darfur.

"A new war in Nuba threatens to be a replay of Darfur," Ms. Flint said.

The Sudanese government does not deny bombing Nuban villages, arguing that the Nuba militia were supposed to disarm but did not. One Sudanese official said the war could go on "for some years." Nuban militia leaders have vowed to fight until there is "regime change" in Khartoum or autonomy for Nuba.

Under the accords that set in motion the south's secession, Nubans were supposed to hold "popular consultations" to determine their future, but that has not happened. Now that the south is on the verge of realizing its hard-fought goal—independence many Nubans feel their demands have been deferred.

In the north, oil had helped buy friends and woo enemies, but huge economic uncertainties loom. The south has most of the oil, and in any deal before the south splits off, the north will almost certainly get less than it used to.

Already, riots have broken out in central Sudan's Arab heartland, as Mr. Bashir has warned of austerity measures. Many analysts say the recent military activity along the north-south border, including the north's seizure of the disputed Abyei area and its push in the Nuba Mountains, is part of a hard-knuckled negotiation to secure more oil revenue.

Southern Sudan's leaders are reluctant to go to war over Nuba, but the southern-allied militiamen in Nuba are part of the overall southern military command, so the south could be dragged into the conflict.

During a recent meeting, the top Nuban militia commander, Abdel Aziz al-Hilu, said that before any cease-fire he would have to inform "Chairman Salva," meaning southern

Sudan's president, Salva Kiir. Mr. Abdel Aziz also said that if things don't change, ''fires will just break out everywhere, here, in Blue Nile, in Darfur,'' according to someone at the meeting.

''We, the people of Sudan, are ready to remove them,'' vowed Mr. Abdel Aziz, the person said. ''We have guns.''

Josh Kron contributed reporting from Parieng, Sudan.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to support our Nation's first responders. The Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2011 reauthorizes two programs—the Assistance for Firefighters Grant, AFG, Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, SAFER, program—that were created to help local fire departments across the country maintain and increase their capabilities to do all that is asked of them, including fighting fires and responding to medical emergencies and disasters.

Maintaining the equipment, training, and personnel to safely and swiftly respond to calls for assistance is increasingly difficult. Fire departments around the country have been forced to lay off firefighters and do without needed equipment and training. The fire grant programs have played an important role in helping local fire departments overcome some of these challenges, providing over $6 billion in assistance since 2000. These grants have been essential to maintaining public safety in many communities.

Fire is a serious problem in the United States, killing over 3,000 people a year—a rate higher than all other industrialized countries. In addition, approximately 20,000 people are injured, over 100 firefighters are killed in the line of duty, and $10 billion in property is lost each year due to fire. Statistics show that minorities and low-income Americans are disproportionately the victims of fires. In addition to providing the resources necessary to ensure our fire departments have the equipment and personnel they need, the AFG program supports fire prevention and safety activities to help reduce the numbers of death, injury, and loss.

The bill I am introducing today is nearly identical to the bill that moved through the Science and Technology Committee and then passed the House by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote last Congress.

The good news is that, even in these times of increasing partisanship, this common sense bill has once again garnered widespread support. I am pleased to be joined by the bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus in introducing the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act, along with other members from both sides of the aisle who have long supported these important programs.

We need to ensure that our firefighters and emergency medical personnel have the tools that they need to protect us. This legislation will do just that.

As the Ranking Member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which has jurisdiction over these programs, I look forward to working with my colleagues to put this important bill on the fast track and ensure that these critical programs are reauthorized as expeditiously as possible.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER ERBE FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Christopher Erbe for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Christopher has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAVESINK HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY NUMBER 1

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Navesink Hook and Ladder Company #1 of Middletown, New Jersey, as its members gather to celebrate its 125th Anniversary. Since its founding in 1886, Navesink Hook and Ladder Company has faithfully protected the local residents, businesses and visitors of the Township. Their honorable and courageous actions are undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Navesink Hook and Ladder Company was founded on May 1, 1886 and remains an all-volunteer organization. Throughout their rich history, the members of this fire company have exemplified their unwavering dedication and service toward members of the community. They have risked their lives to respond to various emergencies involving fire, carbon monoxide, motor vehicle accidents and other various rescues. Their responsibilities have begun to expand beyond the borders of Middletown and have also assisted neighboring towns including Highlands, Rumson, Fair Haven, Keansburg, Sea Bright and Atlantic Highlands. Navesink Hook and Ladder Company promotes a proud and longstanding history of valor and sacrifice. Their heroic actions while serving their community is a testament to the selfless actions of the members to protect and serve the residents of Middletown. The members of this fire company continue to exemplify their unwavering dedication and service for their fellow citizens and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Navesink Hook and Ladder Company #2 on its 125th Anniversary and thanking the men and women who have served and protected the Township of Middletown.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. BEN COX, SR., ORIGINAL FREEDOM RIDER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a trailblazer and humanitarian, Reverend Ben Elton Cox, Sr. Reverend Cox's life mission was to fight for the equal rights of blacks in southern states where Jim Crow laws and intimidation tactics hindered and denied blacks the right to beaches, hotels, schools, restaurants, and jobs that whites enjoyed. Though confronted with hatred, violence and blatant racial discrimination, Reverend Cox's courageous acts and unyielding belief in equality for all people subsequently effected change across this country.

Reverend Cox was a fervent community activist and devoted NAACP member. He was not only a leader of the Freedom Rides in Little Rock, but was one of the original 13 Riders on the first Congress of Racial Equality Freedom Ride in 1961. His role during the movement helped amplify the voice of oppressed blacks in the south and shape future civil rights policy in the United States that would advance the rights and freedoms of African Americans.

Family, friends, and freedom riders described Reverend Cox as one of the young Americans who repeatedly exhibited courage and bravery in the cause of Civil Rights. Ben Cox and 12 others faced violent opposition and discord from Klansmen and angry mobs during the Freedom Rides traveling throughout the south. In his own words, Reverend Cox said he'd been in 37 states for civil rights and in jail 17 times and that his life had been threatened 87 times in writing. Sacrificing their safety and endangering the lives of their families—harassed, jailed and brutally beaten by their detractors, Reverend Cox and the Freedom Riders were on the ''front line'' of a civil war and remained steadfast in the fight against racism, discrimination and inequality in the segregated south and around the country. Ben Cox embodied courage and was a champion of the struggle for human rights.

Again, I ask that my colleagues please join me in saluting the life and legacy of Civil Rights leader and Freedom Rider Rev. Benjamin ''Elton'' Cox, Sr.

ELECTION SUPPORT CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I voted against H.R. 672, a bill that ends the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), an independent and bipartisan commission whose main function is to improve and oversee elections in the U.S.

This bill would transfer much of the EAC's responsibilities and funds to the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), whose main priority

is not election administration, but rather enforcing federal campaign laws. In a letter to the House Administration Committee, the FEC noted that they could ''contract with outside groups to fulfill aspects of the EAC's responsibilities.'' Facilitating free and fair elections is an inherently governmental function that should not be outsourced.

The world's leading democracy should not affix a price on free and fair elections, but that is exactly what Congress does in this legislation. In effect, H.R. 672 says that preventing another crisis like the one we saw during the 2000 presidential election—where millions of Americans did not have their ballots counted due to failed voting machines—is too expensive and is not a priority.

It is deeply ironic that just as Florida—the state responsible for the bulk of voter complications in 2000 that prompted Congress to pass the Help America Vote Act—signs into law onerous voter registration requirements, Congress is dismantling a bipartisan solution that helped ensure the effective administration of elections.

This is a politicized bill that is well wide of the mark of true government reform. Simply repealing the EAC, like Republicans did with the Presidential Election Fund earlier this year, further undermines America's democracy and is a step in the wrong direction. I oppose this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVANT CHURCH OF SAINT ALEXANDER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the parishioners of the Servant Church of St. Alexander on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of service to the residents of Southeast Michigan.

Originally named the Church of St. Alexander, the Parish was founded on June 21, 1961 at 27835 Shiawassee Road in Farmington Hills, where it remains to this very day. Founded with 600 participating families, the Church has experienced both times of trial and prosperity in its life, but has always remained strong with dedicated parishioners who have worked hard to strengthen their community. St. Alexander has been led by four different pastors during its 50 years in Farmington Hills and under the leadership of the Reverend Robert McGrath. St. Alexander has continued to flourish and bring in congregants from well beyond its own parish, with almost half of its members coming from outside the Parish.

The hallmark of St. Alexander is its service programs—first fully realized under Reverend James Wright, who served as pastor for 25 years and weaved service into the very fabric of the Servant Church of St. Alexander. Under his leadership St. Alexander launched its food pantry which has operated for over 25 years and fed nearly 2,600 hungry families in 2010 alone. In addition, the Church also collects and distributes food baskets on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas to assist families in need during the holidays.

While St. Alexander's food pantry and holiday food drives deeply impact many in our community, it is not the full extent of the charitable work in which the Church and its parishioners are engaged. Every spring the parish puts together teams that support Rebuilding Oakland County, a program that assists low income home owners with much needed renovations and improvements across Oakland County. The parishioners of St. Alexander also support annual blood drives and even take a percentage of the Church's weekend collections and send them to the local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, an organization that provides service to individuals and families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Servant Church of St. Alexander and the remarkable impact its parishioners have had on so many residents in our Southeast Michigan community. The parishioners' commitment to serving our community is truly a most valued virtue at a time when so many families in Michigan are struggling. I congratulate the parishioners and leaders of St. Alexander on achieving this great milestone and wish them many more years of fellowship and productive service to our community.

THE BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND OF RALEIGH, NC HEADS BACK TO THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Broughton High School Band of Raleigh, North Carolina and Band Director Mr. Jeffrey ''JR'' Richardson.

The Needham B. Broughton High School in Raleigh will be representing North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic States for the 2012 Tournament of Roses Parade. In an almost unheard of occurrence, the Broughton Band has been invited back after their successful 2008 Parade showing. Being invited back after only 4 years is a great accomplishment considering that most bands, if ever asked back, are usually asked back many years later. The Broughton Band was one of three bands that made it through the entire 6 mile parade in 2008 without one student having to leave the parade route early; the only other two bands were the Marine Band and the Virginia Military Institute Band. The students of the Broughton High School Band have not only worked very hard to be invited back to the Tournament of Roses Parade, but they have also raised the money to pay their own way to California.

I am very pleased to recognize the Broughton High School Band of Raleigh, North Carolina for this prestigious invite. I wish them the best as they continue their preparation for this exciting event. An event of this magnitude is certainly something in which the school, the students, and the state of North Carolina can have great pride.

CONGRATULATING SKYLER JAMES REESE FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Skyler James Reese for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

As the son of a retired Air Force officer, Skyler showed his determination to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout by continuing his scouting in five different states where he had to prove himself each time. Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Skyler has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING SENIOR OFFICER JOHNNY JONES OF THE GRAPEVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR 31 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to rise today to recognize Senior Officer Johnny Jones of the Grapevine Police Department. Mr. Jones is a dedicated public servant who is retiring after 31 years of remarkable service to the Grapevine community.

Mr. Jones was born in Denton, Texas, spending his childhood and youth growing up in Grapevine. Soon after graduating from Grapevine High School, Mr. Jones took a position on June 19, 1980 with the Grapevine Police Department as a dispatcher. On June 16, 1981, upon completing the police academy, Mr. Jones was appointed to the Grapevine Police Department. Since then, Mr. Jones has attained the highest level of law enforcement certification as a Texas Peace Officer and Master Peace Officer by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. A critical member of the Grapevine Police Department, Mr. Jones has served in various roles. These include the positions of dispatcher, patrol officer, motorcycle officer, detective, and crime prevention officer.

In 1998, Mr. Jones left the police department to join the City of Grapevine's Information Technology Department as a customer service manager. One year later, Mr. Jones returned to the police force with added skills and expertise. Not long after returning to the police force he became a Certified Forensic Computer Examiner, one of only approximately 700 in the world. Mr. Jones has used his expert knowledge and skills in forensic computer examination to aid the Grapevine Police Department in capturing numerous online sexual predators and other felons.

Over the course of his 31-year career, Mr. Jones has remained committed to the service and protection of the City of Grapevine and its

residents. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senior Officer Jones for his distinguished career with the Grapevine Police Department.

AWARENESS OF DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Duchenne is a progressive muscle disorder for which there is no cure and affects boys disproportionately. According to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, the disease affects approximately 1 in 3,500 live male births. Conditions of the disease include deterioration of the muscle tissue, abnormal bone development, paralysis and eventually death.

Earlier this year, my office was contacted by several families from my district whose young sons are living with Duchenne.

Duchenne takes lives too quickly, but due in large part to research developments, there are signs of hope.

Over the last five years, Congress has appropriated $157 million to the National Institutes of Health for Duchenne efforts. In 2010, the NIH awarded three grants specifically to New Jersey institutions totaling $874,000.

Two of the grants were awarded to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, to explore treatments for congenital diseases, and the third went to TRIM-Edicine, for research of protein therapies for muscular dystrophy.

I hope these and other innovations bring us closer to finding the answers that we need to help and even cure Duchenne MD.

HONORING THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLAWN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brooklawn Fire Company for its 100 years of service to the citizens of Brooklawn. The brave men of the Brooklawn Fire Company have consistently displayed true heroism and commitment throughout the past century. I thank them for their service.

Founded in 1911, the Brooklawn Fire Company was originally two separate departments. After the Broadway Fire Company and Brooklawn Volunteer Company had served the area for a number of years, the two companies merged in order to increase efficiency and enhance coverage. On January 27, 1942, the two became the Brooklawn Volunteer Fire Company. Throughout this process, serving the community was always the top priority. To this day, the men of the Brooklawn Fire Company are active public servants and dedicated members of the community, sponsoring local events and fostering a sense of safety in the Borough of Brooklawn.

With 2 stations, 25 active members, and 15 inactive members, the Brooklawn Fire Company is committed to the community. As volunteers, these citizen fire fighters are often wrongly overlooked. They have dedicated their time and energy to uphold a simple promise: to answer the call of duty whenever the fire alarm rings. Their sense of community reaches far beyond the borders of Brooklawn. When neighboring towns call for help, the Brooklawn Fire Company stands ready to serve. Today, I honor these men for continuing and keeping a century long tradition of service alive and thriving. Their heroism and sacrifice are exemplary for the Borough of Brooklawn and the entire South Jersey community.

CONGRATULATING STEPHEN PHILIP SLADE FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stephen Philip Slade for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Stephen showed his dedication to his community and to scouting by fixing and painting a rusted swing set for a local school in Merritt Island, Florida. Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Christian has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING DON MASSEY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Don Massey and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 83.

Born in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee on April 28, 1928 to Samuel Henry and Ila Marie Massey, Don became enamored of the automobile business when, at the age of 14, he took a summer job as a porter at a Jacksonville, Florida Dodge dealership. Ten years later Don, now married to his beloved Joyce, had moved to Michigan with $300.00 and a love of cars. Employed at a used Desoto/Plymouth dealership in Wayne, this natural salesman moved on to Paul McGlone Chevrolet where he advanced to the position of General Manager within two years. Under his direction, McGlone became the number one Chevrolet dealership in the world from 1958 until 1960.

Deteriorating health and a stern warning from his doctor dictated Don make drastic changes to his heavy workload and, in 1960, he felt he had no choice but to retire. After several months, Mr. Massey felt well enough to begin a new venture and opened a very successful used car lot of his own in 1961. Five years later, Don again retired, selling the lot, and moved to Plymouth, Michigan. Boredom quickly set in and Don bought "a little store that sold a couple hundred Oldsmobiles and fifty-sixty Cadillacs a year." He intended to work half days. A New Year's Day 1967 blizzard dropped several feet of snow and while digging out to inventory his stock, the indomitable Don sold seven cars. In a short time Don Massey Cadillac would become the top Cadillac dealer in the world, a title it would hold consistently.

A legendary salesman, Don believed in acquainting himself with his customers. His friendly approach brought him many a friend and sold many a car. In 1981, Don Massey acquired the second of his many dealerships when he purchased Capitol Cadillac located in Lansing, Michigan. Over the next decade he expanded his successful Southern charm to Colorado, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, Kentucky, California and Texas. When General Motors launched its Saturn brand, Massey opened the first of three Saturn dealerships in the Detroit area in 1990. Although he sold every brand under the General Motors umbrella, Don Massey became known as "The Cadillac King".

Don Massey believed in his employees and promoted from within. His distinctive Southern drawl was recognizable in radio commercials for his dealerships. While he was never one to micromanage his businesses, he always left an imprint of his unassuming, personable style, and was an active member of his community. He co-sponsored the Plymouth Ice Sculpture contest, held an open barbecue on the 4th of July and donated the lights to the Plymouth baseball park bearing his name. He wanted his wife Joyce to be remembered. Massey built a wing on the Colorado hospital she was treated in after a debilitating car accident and named it after her. Don partnered with the St. Joseph Mercy Health System to establish the Joyce M. Massey Traumatic Brain Injury Day Treatment Center. A beautiful garden at Madonna University, in my hometown of Livonia, also bears the late Joyce Massey's name.

As Don was nearing 70, offers to buy the colossal Massey conglomerate began. In 1998, he sold his three Saturn dealerships to General Motors. The next year GM bought his Ann Arbor Cadillac showroom but an offer to purchase the rest of the Massey holdings was rejected. Don sold his portfolio of sixteen dealerships in 2002 but he remained the voice of the dealership which still bears his name. One enduring piece of advice he shared, "Keep both feet firmly on the ground and don't overextend yourself—socially or financially."

Sadly, on June 10, 2011, Don passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. Reuniting in eternity with his beloved wife Joyce, daughter Joellen and brothers Tom and Sam Henry, Don is survived by his children Donald Jr. and Brenda, brother Bobby and sister Ruth.

Mr. Speaker, Don Massey will be long remembered as a dedicated husband, legendary businessman, philanthropist, community leader and above all as a friend. Don was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community and his country. Today, as we bid Don Massey farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering patriotism and legendary service to our community and our country.

OPPOSITION TO GENE PATENTING

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to gene patenting. The sequencing of the human genome was the most momentous medical achievement in this century, with unparalleled implications for patients and our economy. And we cannot squander that success by patenting genes.

The Human Genome Project has helped our economy to grow by $796 billion. Today, 310,000 American jobs are linked to the sequencing of the Human Genome. Furthermore, personalized medicine has transformed the way doctors care for patients. According to the American Medical Association, more than 1,200 genetic tests can be used today to help diagnose and treat over 1,000 different diseases. Personalized medicine helps to provide safer, more cost-effective medicine.

Yet, to fully realize the potential of personalized medicine, we must ensure that our laws and policies keep pace with our science. Today as we consider the patent bill, I would like to clarify the intersection between genes and patents.

Many of us carry within us genes that predispose us to illnesses or influence the effectiveness of medications. These genes are natural products—not inventions. And as natural products, they should not be patented. It's this simple: just as a kidney cannot be patented, genetic sequences should not be patented.

Unfortunately, 20 percent of our genes have already been claimed as intellectual property. For several decades, the U.S. government issued patents on genes. Thankfully the Department of Justice recognized this clear overreach on the part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office—and moved to correct this mistake.

On October 29, 2010, the United States Department of Justice filed an amicus brief in which they explained: ''the unique chain of chemical base pairs that induces a human cell to express a BRCA protein is not a 'human-made invention.' Nor is the fact that particular natural mutations in that unique chain increase a woman's chance of contracting breast or ovarian cancer. Indeed, the relationship between a naturally occurring nucleotide sequence and the molecule it expresses in a human cell—that is, the relationship between genotype and phenotype—is simply a law of nature. The chemical structure of native human genes is a product of nature, and it is no less a product of nature when that structure is 'isolated' from its natural environment than are cotton fibers that have been separated from cotton seeds or coal that has been extracted from the earth.''

The United States Department of Justice has come to the inevitable conclusion that genes are natural products, and not fit for patenting. And last year, a federal court in New York came to the same conclusion.

Not only is the issuance of patents on genes wrong, contrary to common sense, and in violation of Congressional intent, but it also damages human health. Gene patents have cut off access to important tests. For example, the company that owns sole rights to the BRCA1 and BRCA2 sequences—which determines hereditary risk factors around breast and ovarian cancer—charges between $3,000 and $4,000 for a single test. Other laboratories have offered to perform the test for several hundred dollars, but are not able to do so because of the patent on those particular genetic sequences. And the information provided by this test is critical for medical decision-making: Up to 85 percent of those individuals who possess these genetic sequences will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their life. By granting a monopoly, we risk placing these genetic tests out of reach for patients.

Furthermore, gene patents stop innovation in their tracks. They prevent anyone outside of the patent holder from studying the gene sequence under patent. As Dr. Stieglitz of Columbia, a Nobel Prize winning economist, wrote, ''Our genetic makeup is far too complicated for a single entity to hold the keys to any given gene and to be able to choose when, if ever, to share.'' We threaten scientific advancement, if we do not allow scientists to untangle the manifold implications of specific gene sequences. We can not reap the full benefits of personalized medicine if researchers must go to hundreds of different patent holders to analyze one patient's genome.

The battle to keep policy and science marching hand in hand has been a long one, and I worked for dozens of years to ensure that the nation's laws support genetics policy.

In 1995, I introduced legislation, entitled the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), in order to prevent genetic discrimination. For personalized medicine to flourish, patients needed to be able to get genetic tests without the fear that it would endanger their employment or their health insurance. Thirteen years after I first introduced GINA, it was passed into law. GINA is one of the nation's great civil rights laws, which has helped open the door to personalized medicine.

By passing GINA in 2008, the U.S. Congress showed itself to be at the forefront of genetics policy. I expect no less of our government when it comes to gene patenting. Today, the Patent Office has the opportunity to institute evidence-based policy and end the patenting of genes, and it must do so.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Chair, I missed votes on the day of June 16, 2011, because I traveled back to my district to attend the funeral service for a Marine killed in combat, Corporal William Woitowicz. Had I been present, I would have voted for amendments to the FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act that encourage local and regional food systems and fund programs that support the work of minority and socially disadvantaged farmers. I also would have supported amendments that protect taxpayer funds by implementing modest restrictions on excessive farm subsidy payments.

I would have voted against amendments that seek to delay the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's efforts to enforce commonsense rules on risky derivative swaps and other financial transactions, prevent the Department of Agriculture from implementing their climate change adaption policy, or propose deeper cuts to the FDA that would hinder the agency's ability to protect our nation's food supply from food-borne illnesses.

Finally, I would have opposed passage of the overall FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act because of the bill's drastic and indefensible cuts to the Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, program, which provides vital aid for our nation's most vulnerable pregnant women, infants and children. In the last year, WIC provided nutritious food, counseling on healthy eating, and health care referrals to thousands of women and children in my state. Additionally, the underlying bill undermines commonsense financial rules, choosing to protect Wall Street speculators that are driving up gas prices over the American taxpayer. Likewise, I cannot support the deep cuts in FDA funding included in the bill that will severely undermine food safety efforts and increase the risk of food-borne illnesses.

RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL RICHARD JONES' DECADES OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AS A LEADER IN EDUCATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard Jones, the distinguished principal of North Farmington High School, on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 25 years of service to the families and students of Farmington Hills, Michigan through his work as an educator, administrator and community leader.

Mr. Richard Jones started his career in education nearly four decades ago and has been part of the Farmington Hills school district family for the last quarter of a century. He thrived as an English teacher and also a football and tennis coach, creating a comfortable learning environment where students were able to succeed and flourish. After many years in the classroom and on the field, he was made principal of the high school in 1998.

As principal, Mr. Jones treated every student, parent and teacher with dignity and respect. He is someone the students trusted and the teachers looked to for advice. His main goal was always to have a school unified by a message of tolerance and acceptance. During his time as principal he implemented many innovative school-wide programs on issues

ranging from civil rights to energy conservation. One of his hallmark initiatives was to build a student body that turned ''awareness into activism.'' In 2009, he dedicated the school-year to learning about genocide, which enabled powerful levels of student activism to aid the cause in Darfur. Teaming up with Danbury High School in Connecticut, the student body was able to raise $100,000 to help build schools in Sudan.

I was proud to welcome Principal Jones to Washington when he was formally recognized as Michigan's Principal of the Year in 2009, an award that was well deserved for an educator that has poured so much of his time, energy and heart into his students, teachers and the community as a whole. Principal Jones' dedication to the school has earned him numerous other awards for his diligence and interactive teaching methods. He has also earned teacher of the year honors four times, the ''Great Seal of Michigan'' award and the Chair Award from the Farmington Multicultural Multiracial Council. He has been recognized countless times for his unwavering focus on the education and moral growth of his students. In 2009, Principal Jones was also presented with the ''Anne Frank Outstanding Educator Award,'' for his initiatives to educate his students on standing up for what is right.

Mr. Speaker, as a parent of public school students, I am proud to know such an outstanding and dedicated educator and it is my privilege to honor his work to improve the quality of education in Michigan. I know that I stand with many in saying Rick is a great leader, teacher and friend. I ask my colleagues to join me today as I honor Mr. Richard Jones for his lifetime commitment to educating and nurturing the development of thousands of students, on the occasion of his retirement from North Farmington High School.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTIAN SVETICS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Christian Svetics for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Christian has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

REAL MEN COOK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, Father's Day, June 19, 2011, Real Men Cook was once again presented by the nonprofit, Real Men Charities, Inc. for the 22nd consecutive year. Real Men Cook is the largest national service day event on Father's Day in the United States, demonstrating that real men are nurturing: providing sustenance, care, love, and work to build healthy families and communities.

It all began when Kofi Moyo and Yvette Moyo were joined by 10 women and 100 men in 1989 to create a commonsense way to increase male involvement, and to celebrate and demonstrate the rewards of family and community service.

Real Men Cook family celebrations are the nation's longest-running urban Father's Day family event, featuring male volunteers from neighborhoods in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, raising funds, and devoting time and resources to cook and serve samples of their favorite dishes to help nonprofit organizations.

Real Men Cook has transformed Father's Day globally into an exciting and highly anticipated day, growing the tradition of individual and group service and family celebrations around food. Real Men Cook turns the spotlight on the bonus fathers and father-figures who step in when biological fathers are not involved in the lives of children, and encourages the celebration of those men.

Real Men Cook generates national media attention each Father's Day, recognizing fathers and father-figures beyond grandfathers and uncles to coaches, ministers, teachers, neighbors and any man who has donated time and talent to help children and Real Men Cook events have been responsible for raising more than $1 million for the Boys & Girls Clubs, Community Mental Health Council, the South Side YMCA, foundations, museums and family service organizations. In addition, Real Men Cook, through Real Men Charities, presents a Health & Wellness Pavilion in several cities on Father's Day, providing free health screenings, nutritional education, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

This year, Real Men Cook is co-sponsored by Verizon, K&G Fashion Superstore, Illinois Lottery, Moo & Oink, Provident Hospital of Cook County, the Urban Health Initiative of the University of Chicago Medical Centers, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

I take special pride and satisfaction from my own longtime participation in Real Men Cook and I would encourage all Americans to follow this family tradition of volunteerism, family and community contribution on this Father's Day and Father's Days to come.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, nearly 40 years have passed since the Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (also known as the Women's Equality Amendment). This historic Constitutional Amendment was intended to ensure equality for women and men in all areas of society.

The 27th amendment to the Constitution, which concerns Congressional pay raises, was accepted after a 203 year ratification period. When Congress passed the ERA in 1972, it provided that the measure had to be ratified by the necessary number of states (38) within 7 years. This was later extended to the still tight deadline of 10 years, but unfortunately the ERA was just three states shy of full ratification when the deadline passed in 1982. We believe Congress should give the states another chance.

In the past several decades, women have made extraordinary strides toward achieving equality—but this progress is not irreversible. Without the ERA, women have often been denied the ability to seek justice when they have experienced discrimination. The Supreme Court decision in the Virginia Military Institute case (Virginia v. United States) helped clarify that gender ''classifications may not be used . . . to create or perpetuate the legal, social, and economic inferiority of women.'' However, laws can still perpetuate gender classifications that keep women from achieving their full potential. Passage of the ERA is the Constitutional affirmation of the Supreme Court decision.

Our democracy rests on the principle of ''liberty and justice for all.'' We need the ERA to ensure that this concept applies equal to women. I am pleased to introduce this bill with 158 bipartisan original cosponsors and urge my colleagues to support it.

REMEMBERING LEROY NESBIT, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Leroy Nesbit, Jr. Leroy passed away on Monday, June 20th.

When I was a teacher at Flint Central High School, Leroy was a student there. My wife, Gayle, had Leroy as a student in her French class. Even in those early days, we could see his potential for leadership and vision, and Leroy lived up to his full potential. He went on to earn his Associates Degree in Business from Baker Business University, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Ferris State College, and a Masters Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University. He started working for AC Spark Plug as an auditor and worked his way up to a position on General Motors Government Relations Staff.

As an active volunteer in the credit union movement, Leroy served on the Dort Federal Credit Union Board of Directors since 1975. He held several leadership positions at Dort Federal Credit Union and he was active with credit unions on a national level. He served as the National President of the Council of GM Credit Unions, Chief Coordinator of the Combined Council of Automotive Credit Unions, he was active with the Michigan Credit Union League and the African-American Credit Union Coalition.

Leroy served as Chairman of the Flint Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, past Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Chairman of the Northern Province Senior Kappa Affairs Committee and Northern Province Achievement Committee. He was a member of the Michigan Travel Commission, a

board member of the Flint Disability Network, and 3rd Vice President of the Mariah Consulting Group in Washington DC. He was awarded the General Motors Chairman's Award for Excellence in Community Affairs, the Michigan Credit Union League Hall of Fame—Distinguished Service Award, and the Robert L. Gordon Achievement Award from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

A devout Christian, Leroy accepted Christ as his personal Savior and worshiped with the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church where he is a former member of the Highlight Gospel Chorus and the Progressive Laymen. He leaves behind another church family to treasure his memory, the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in expressing condolences to Leroy's wife Gwendolyn, and his daughter, Jacqueline, his relatives, friends, and the many persons Leroy touched over the years. I have known Leroy since he was a child, watched him grow into an exemplary man, and valued his advice and his friendship. Leroy Nesbit, Jr. is a shining example of a man with the aptitude to excel and the vision to turn his dreams into reality. I will deeply miss him, his wisdom, and his enthusiasm for life.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS B. SCHREIBEL

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of my longest-serving staff, Thomas B. Schreibel. Tom has been by my side for the past 27 years, serving in several roles, including my Chief of Staff for the past 10 years. While Tom's work ethic and guidance have earned him the title Chief of Staff, his loyalty, sense of humor and dedication have earned him the additional titles—friend, family and my peer.

Tom is a natural leader who has demonstrated his capabilities by setting examples and providing sound guidance and mentorship. For the past 27 years, Tom has worked with scores of interns, staffers and Members of Congress. No matter the person, he would treat everyone the same. He would avail himself to his colleagues to work through challenges when they needed his astute judgment or spend precious time with aspiring young staffers who knew that Tom's unique characteristics and insight would aid them in their own lives. Tom has also provided guidance to my colleagues in the House of Representatives who recognized that his expertise and experience in many areas have no equivalent. Throughout his career, Tom has turned many such working relationships into lasting friendships.

Tom's commitment to public service and Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District has served our country well. As the Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I relied on Tom's depth of knowledge, counsel and political sense as I shepherded numerous bills through the House of Representatives. Tom was with me when the USA PATRIOT Act, Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act and the REAL ID Act were passed by Congress and presented to the President for his signature. These, and many other laws I worked on, have made America safer, guaranteed the rights of the disabled, and protected the right to vote. Upon leaving this institution, Tom should know that he played a significant role in these important pieces of legislation.

Tom's departure from the U.S. House of Representatives will leave a void. He has been a rock that I have relied on throughout much of my tenure in Congress. Tom leaves behind a legacy of leadership and dedication that will be a saving grace to my staff, and indeed this institution, long into the future. His example will serve as a beacon of light to all those on Capitol Hill who wish to serve this nation and her people. I hope that future leaders in Congress will be as blessed as I have been.

Please join me in wishing Tom, his wife Dana, and son Brent, all of the best as Tom leaves Congress for new challenges and opportunities. On behalf of my family, the House of Representatives and my staff, I thank Tom for his service to this nation and her people, and congratulate him on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING MASON DOWDY FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mason Dowdy for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Mason provided trail markers for a youth ranch to help hundreds of young adults who re-enact a pioneer lifestyle. Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Mason has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of South Bend, Indiana, which was named a 2011 All-America City Award winner. South Bend received the honor for a second time, having previously won the award in 1967. The city was also a finalist in 2009.

South Bend was one of ten cities receiving the honor, after a delegation from the city told their stories of successful change, innovation and community pride. Highlights included the revitalization of the Northeast Neighborhood, a $215 million mixed-use development and new housing partnership between Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame, the redevelopment of a former hospital site, and the dedication of the Indiana University-South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center. In addition, South Bend was honored for 212 Degrees Stars, a program in which teens influence their peers to stay in school and strive for excellence.

The All-America City competition was created in 1949 by the National Civic League (NCL), which is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that focuses on building healthy and prosperous communities. The competition recognizes cities for civic achievements. A national panel of jurors who are local government, business and nonprofit experts, recognizes the cities that effectively engage their residents, demonstrate environmental stewardship, and encourage job creation.

Once again, I offer my congratulations to Mayor Stephen Lueke, the members of the delegation team, the citizens of this fine city, and all those who have supported South Bend on the road to becoming an All-America City.

A TRIBUTE TO ''KID'' KELLY COLOME

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ''Kid'' Kelly Colome.

Kelly Colome was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico to hard working parents who traveled from Dominican Republic in search of a better life. His father, who had a partial college education, took a job as a cook to support his young family. Kelly's mother was a hard working Christian mother who always made sure to take her four children to school, church, and family activities despite her constant suffering from chronic asthma since childhood. Kelly learned the value of hard work and efforts from having to go to school with his older brother at the age of 3. He fought and worked hard with his mother on progressing and skipping a grade to attend the same school as his brother.

In 1988, his parents moved with the family of six to Washington Heights, New York, where his father found a good art school for his son Kelly to continue his education and love for art and design.

In 1990, Kelly was accepted to the High School of Art and Design without having taken any formal art classes. He joined the high school baseball team and began practicing the sport of boxing simultaneously. He was able to pay for his boxing membership costs with his part time Saturday job at Isabella Geriatric Center on the Meals on Wheels neighborhood elderly meals program. Later that year, he continued practicing only boxing because he was more passionate towards this sport and the personal challenges involved with practicing the sport.

In 1994, he graduated from high school at the age of sixteen. He studied advertising design at New York City College of Technology while practicing boxing, working part time, and still finding time to socialize with family and friends. In 1997, he obtained an Associate's degree and in 2001, he earned a Bachelors of Technology in Communications Design.

The birth of his first child in 1999 helped him mature as a young man and he obtained a fulltime job as a dietary worker at the senior citizens center where he had been employed for almost ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Colome for his extraordinary accomplishments and spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

HONORING THE MERLO STATION HIGH SCHOOL GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to take a moment to honor the incredible work of the Merlo Station High School Gay Straight Alliance. I had the opportunity to present these aspiring young citizens with the Portland Pride Youth Award and want to share with my colleagues how inspired I am by their dedication and accomplishments.

After organizing just last year, the student-led force has been instrumental in addressing homophobia at Merlo Station High School, in the Beaverton School District and in the broader community. Among many other examples of outreach, the Gay Straight Alliance has organized student groups to march in last year's Pride Parade and AIDS Walk, created a 2-day all-school event for National Coming Out Day, and encouraged students to take ownership of their language by developing a "No Bigoted Speech" pledge.

As we continue to debate many of the current GLBT-related pieces of legislation facing the 112th Congress, from the Student and Employee Non Discrimination Acts to the Safe Schools Improvement Act, I encourage my colleagues to remember these passionate students at Merlo Station High School.

I am inspired by this on-the-ground student organizing and will continue championing legislation to advocate for full equality for everyone, regardless of their gender expression or sexual orientation, because it is the right thing to do.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise to strongly object to the Republican majority's mean-spirited $650 million cut to vulnerable women, infants and children. The Republican's Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations legislation, H.R. 2112, chooses to make this drastic reduction to the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, program at a time of economic crisis for millions of American families. WIC is a proven strategy to guarantee that lower-income expectant and breastfeeding mothers and their children up to 5 years of age receive nutritious food. In Minnesota alone, 137,000 children rely on WIC benefits to keep them healthy and help them grow strong.

The federal budget is in crisis and Congress must take serious and immediate steps to tackle rising federal deficits. Members of Congress have a choice about how to reduce the deficit and a choice about who in our society will be asked to make the sacrifices. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Republicans are proposing uneven sacrifices. The Republican majority is choosing to cut $650 million from the women, infants and children in our communities who most need assistance while choosing to protect nearly $4 billion in taxpayer subsidies for Exxon and other large oil companies at a time of record-high gas prices. Up to 350,000 eligible women and children across the country will be denied access to basic nutrition under H.R. 2112.

I urge my colleagues to reject the cuts to WIC in H.R. 2112.

HONORING R.G. SHIPLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great North Carolinian, farmer and agricultural expert, Mr. R.G. Shipley, on the occasion of his 99th Birthday.

Mr. Shipley is a standard-bearer for agriculture in the High Country of North Carolina and has for years served faithfully on the Watauga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Of course, when we say, "served for years," most people assume five or maybe ten years. In fact, Mr. Shipley has faithfully worked with the Watauga County Farm Bureau since its inception in the 1930's. That is a remarkable testament to his dedication to furthering the cause of local agriculture.

R.G. Shipley also taught agriculture as a local high school teacher at Cove Creek High School for many years. During his many years instructing students in agricultural studies he touched countless young lives. Among them was my husband, Tom Foxx, who sat under Mr. Shipley's tutelage as a high school student.

He is truly a remarkable member of the Watauga County community. Even as he approaches his centennial birthday, R.G. Shipley remains active in the agricultural community. In honor of his long agricultural service to the area, an endowment fund has been established in his family's name to support local agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Mr. Shipley in Congress. As he turns 99 years old in the coming week I want to wish him many more years of vibrant life and thank him for his tireless community involvement over the past many decades.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STROMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martin Stroman.

Elder Martin Stroman has been a member of the St. Paul Community Baptist Church since November 1997. He joined after being convicted by the revolutionary and biblical based theology of the Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood.

He has been active in a host of ministries. He has been working in the field of addiction treatment for the past nineteen years. He has been exposed to various treatment modalities. Some of them had a religious perspective, others have been spiritually based and many are clinically driven.

Elder Stroman's professional profile is as follow: educator, trainer, motivator, administrator, program developer, advisor, adjunct professor, entrepreneur and twenty year background in chemical dependency and substance abuse treatment.

Elder Stroman has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Human Services along with many Certificates and Citations relating to his field of work. He is affiliated with the Bedford-Stuyvesant Alcoholism Treatment Center Community Advisory Board as well as Kingsborough.

With the joint 350 CASAC Certificate Program the mission statement reads: "Educated communities, save communities. Our commitment is to provide education and training to improve the quality of life in our community and the world. Educated providers, empower educated clients. We are dedicated to changing client thinking and believing."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Stroman for his extraordinary accomplishments and spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS "NIC" S. O'BRIEN

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem in honor of Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" O'Brien.

OUR BLESSED SON

In honor of Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" S. O'Brien, an American hero, who gave that last full measure. The United States Marines 1st Bat., 5th Marine Reg., 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

On June 9, 2011, in Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" S. O'Brien of Gaston County gave that last full measure in devotion to his country. As we lay his fine body down to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, our prayers and thoughts go out to him and his loved ones. May God Bless them all. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

OUR BLESSED SON

Nic, You . . .
You, Our Blessed Son . . .
Nic, America's bravest of all ones!

Rest now, as thy will be done!
As your fine soul, as up to heaven has so flown . . .
As up to our Lord, as an Angel . . . as now where you so belong!
All In The Army of Our Lord, who has now come home!
To fight the darkness, as over our world you so watch . . . so roam . . .
To watch over us, as thy will be done . . .
And as we lay your most sacred body down to rest . . .
You Nic, are but one of America's very best!
Her Blessed Son!
Your loving parents' and family's, divine one!
As a brave heart who once stood!
All in his most magnificent shades of green, turning evil into good!
As a United States Marine, all in your most golden sheen with all you could!
Of selfless sacrifice, you most brilliant . . . most brilliant of all lights!
As an American Treasure, who but gave That Last Full Measure!
All for what is true and what is right, all for that old Red, White, and Blue . . .
As now our tears roll down our trembling cheeks, when thinking of you we so weep . . .
Our Most Blessed Son, this most beautiful of all ones . . . as for you our heart's ache so deep!
Hooo . . . rah! You United States Marine, as up in Heaven you are now so seen!
All for your loss, all in our pain we now so weep . . . at but the cost to freedom to so keep!
And at night, as you lay your head down to sleep . . .
Across North Carolina, but comes a gentle rain so very deep . . .
Are but our Lord's tears, from up in Heaven . . . for all of your souls to so keep . . .
To ease your pain, now so carried within you so very deep . . .
Until, up in Heaven once again you all shall meet . . .
As our Lord weeps, knowing of your fine son's life . . . as for what he did so forsake!
But, for the greater good . . . in all that he so could, take this with you as you wake!
Moments, are all we have!
To grab hearts! To turn the good into the bad!
To make a difference with in all! As your fine Son had!
To Heaven to seek!
Rest my Son!
You most beautiful Irish one, Lance Corporal O'Brien!
As when we think of you, Irish eyes are smiling!
For we will hear you on the wind . . . your footsteps up in Heaven time and again . . .
And feel you next to us as we sleep . . .
Until, one fine day . . . all up in Heaven, once again we shall all so meet!
And we won't have to cry anymore . . .
You, Our Most Blessed of All Son's!
Your Family's, and America's Most Heroic of All Ones!
As we lay your fine body down to rest!
Lord, take America's son . . . her very Best . . . he's your's!
Amen!

THE LINKS INCORPORATED'S DADE COUNTY CHAPTER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Links Incorporated's Dade County Chapter. On June 18, 2011, The Links Incorporated will celebrate its 25th anniversary at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Florida.

A group of trailblazers seeking to better their community came together on a beautiful Sunday on June 1, 1986, at Miami's Pavilion Hotel, now the Intercontinental Hotel, to launch their beloved Chapter, officially. The Dade County Chapter has continued to fulfill its mission and has grown tremendously.

The Links, Incorporated is an organization of accomplished, dedicated women who are active in the community. The Links members are newsmakers, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work toward the realization of making the name "Links" not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful service.

Among its many accomplishments, the Dade County Chapter has established many programs accessible to all the members in its community. In addition, it has managed to serve and empower Miami-Dade's most underserved, women and children, with unprecedented dedication. Impressively, The Dade County Chapter of Links Inc. has amassed over 100,000 hours of community service.

Spanning the last 25 years, The Links of Miami-Dade has provided educational assistance to students at middle school, high school, and collegiate levels in all areas of study including the arts.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as I honor The Dade County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Today I pay tribute to The Link's History and applaud their current undertaking to secure a bright and prosperous future for African-Americans of Miami-Dade county, the nation, and the world.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF VINCENT LEO DIANA, SR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vincent Leo Diana, Sr., an accomplished attorney, loving husband, veteran, and dear friend. Vincent, a resident of Manchester, Connecticut, passed away on May 27 at the age of 81.

Vinny was a proud Connecticut resident with deep roots in the community. Born in Manchester in 1930, he went to the Nathan Hale School, graduated from Manchester High in 1948, and from Hartford's Trinity College in 1952. After Trinity, he went on to attend law school and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1955. For the next two years, Vinny was on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, entering as a Second Lieutenant. He served his country and as a Judge Advocate, spending most of his time in Tokyo, Japan. When Vinny left the Air Force as a Captain, he returned to practicing law.

A talented and accomplished attorney, Vinny was a man of character and one who used his skills for good outside of his law office at Diana, Conti, & Tunila. Vinny served as a Master and Trial Referee for the Superior Court and was a member of Hartford County's Legal Aid Board. He was also active in the Hartford Country Bar Association, where he was a Director for 25 years. In 2005, Vinny was honored by the Manchester and Hartford Bar Associations for his 50 years of service in the region. On this point I can personally attest to his finely honed legal skills, diligent representation of his clients, and his ethical standards. As a young attorney years ago, I watched Vinny in court handle his advocacy with skill and compassion. He was one of the giants of the Bar in Hartford and Tolland Counties in Connecticut.

Vinny cared very much about his friends and colleagues in Manchester, demonstrating this commitment through leadership of important causes and organizations in town. He was Chairman of the Board for Dyslexic Children, a director of the Girl Scout Committee, and an instrumental player in getting fluoride added to the Manchester water system. He helped young people learn practical management skills as President of the Manchester Jaycees, ensured opportunity for local students as a founding member of his town's Scholarship Foundation, and even chaired the reunion committee for Manchester High's Class of 1948. He was a lifelong Republican and member of Manchester's Republican Town Committee for 50 years.

Vinny was also a spiritual man who, as one might expect, put in many years of faithful service to his parish. In 2009, Hartford's Archbishop, Henry J. Mansell, awarded him the St. Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation for his work.

With all the dedication and devotion Vinny put into each aspect of his life, he saved most of it for his loving wife Gloria, his seven children, and 22 grandchildren. I know of few men who gave as much to their country, profession, congregation, community and family as Vinny did. His lifetime of service will live on for generations in the countless people he helped along the way. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Vincent Leo Diana, Sr.

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA BANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norma Bang.

Norma is a native New Yorker, born and raised in Red Hook, Brooklyn. She graduated from John Jay High School in Park Slope Brooklyn, New York in 1978.

Norma has worked in various positions throughout her career including seven years working in New York's Garment center, two years working on Wall Street in Bank Operations, and twelve years as a Facilities Manager for a large non-profit organization, Homes for the Homeless.

Norma joined Related Companies in December 2002 as a Property Manager of Gateway Center in East New York, Brooklyn. Norma's successful operations of Gateway Center and her excellent relationship with the tenants and the local community is a valuable contribution to Related's development efforts in the New York area.

Norma currently resides in Queens, New York along with her husband of twenty years, Kenneth and three children Brian & Brandon ages seventeen and Nia age twenty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mrs. Bang for her extraordinary accomplishments and her spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATVIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration and recognition of the 450th Anniversary of the Latvian Jewish community. Since the late 1500s, the Jewish people of Latvia have demonstrated incredible perseverance and courage through inconceivable trials and persecutions. As we reflect on this milestone anniversary, let us remember their history and celebrate their future.

The first Jewish settlements in Latvia appeared in the late 16th century. Through steady immigration, expansion, and steadfast resilience, the community grew and spread across the country. As the Jewish population expanded, they contributed immeasurably to the economic, industrial, and cultural development of Latvia. These accomplishments came despite frequently being forced to cope with anti-Semitic laws and cultural prejudice. By the late 1930s, approximately 93,000 Latvian Jews were living and prospering in the country.

In the summer of 1941, Nazi troops occupied Latvia. Within days of the occupation, the Nazis issued special decrees restricting Jewish rights and establishing ghettos. Jews from surrounding countries were forcibly transported to Latvian camps. Tens of thousands were murdered.

By the conclusion of World War II, tragically, only 14,000 Latvian Jews remained. In the years after, Jews from surrounding regions relocated in Latvia—rebuilding their community to more than 36,000 people. In the aftermath of the greatest evil ever perpetrated against a people, the Latvian Jews marched on—restoring their culture and society, fighting against the oppression of Soviet rule. Latvia became one of the centers of Zionist dissidence and Jewish national movements in the Soviet Union. Jewish activists struggled for the right to immigrate to Israel and to openly honor the memory of Holocaust victims. Thousands emigrated to Israel, the United States and Western Europe.

Today, the Latvian Jewish community of 13,000 is experiencing a rebirth. On this, their 450th anniversary, the Jews of Latvia can look back on their history with a solemn pride. Having suffered through terrible hardship, the Latvian Jewry is rebuilding its religious and social life—revitalizing the community's enduring spirit.

I would like to extend special recognition to the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities and the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad for organizing the extremely successful memorial project at Riga, Latvia's oldest Jewish cemetery. Under the leadership and guidance of Chairman Warren Miller and Commissioner Lee Seeman, the memorial at the Old Jewish Cemetery reminds the world of the tragedy of the Jews killed during World War II and asks us to strive for a better future. I am proud to celebrate the Latvian Jewish community's historic anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing their past perseverance and achievements, and in extending our sincere best wishes for their future success and prosperity.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JAMES R. KNAPP COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL AIR STATION, LEMOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain James R. Knapp upon his retirement from the United States Navy.

Captain Knapp is the Commanding Officer at Naval Air Station, Lemoore (NAS Lemoore). He has served the United States Navy with distinguished service during the 27 years of his naval career. His devotion to the Navy and the Nation is inspiring.

My initial experience with Captain Knapp began in 2008, when his service commenced as Commanding Officer for Naval Air Station Lemoore, which is located in my 20th Congressional District in Kings County, California. From our initial meeting, a great working relationship was formed. Whether we needed clarification on a question or a follow up on issues regarding the base, the Captain was always professional, knowledgeable, courteous and helpful.

Captain Knapp attended Texas A&M University and was a member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. He graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Captain Knapp was commissioned as an Ensign for the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program and completed advance flight training in 1986, receiving his orders to the "Rough Raiders" of VFA–125 for F/A–18 FRS training. His naval career was commensurate with his education, earning his Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He has over 3,500 flight hours in the F/A–18A–E series and 1,258 arrested landings on 11 different flight decks, six of which remain in active service. Furthermore, Captain Knapp participated in the USS Nimitz (CVN–68) Operation "Iraqi Freedom" 2003 deployment. Prior to his serving as Commanding Officer at NAS Lemoore, Captain Knapp served as Chief of Staff of Strategy, Plans and Assessment Directorate of the Multi-National Force-Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq.

In his illustrious career, Captain Knapp received many awards which include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Air Medal (2 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy Achievement Medal (2 awards), and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (8 awards).

It is fitting that the President of the United States has presented Captain James R. Knapp with the Legion of Merit for his outstanding leadership. I ask that excerpts from the Citation be printed in the RECORD:

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Lemoore, California from September 2008 to June 2011. Captain Knapp's tenure as Commanding Officer of the world's largest Naval Air Station was exemplified by visionary leadership, mission accomplishment, and an unrelenting drive to improve the lives of Sailors and their families. Despite fiscal restraints and ever-changing requirements, his proactive engagement across the spectrum of strategic imperatives at Naval Air Station, Lemoore resulted in sustained five-star support to Commander Strike Fighter Wing Pacific, which has significantly contributed to the lethality of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. His tremendous foresight and business acumen prevented airfield encroachment and his direct involvement in water usage issues in the western San Joaquin Valley instilled new hope for local farmers and the regional economy. His personal involvement in the local community was highlighted by the establishment of a perennial Community Relations Program which contributed over 11,000 manhours towards numerous noteworthy projects, further strengthening the relationship between the air station and the local community. Additionally, his overwhelming concern for his sailors was demonstrated by personally performing over 320 Career Development Boards, directly contributing to the professional, financial and personal growth of each Sailor in his command. Captain Knapp's superior performance of duties highlights the culmination of 27 years of honorable and dedicated service. By his dynamic direction, keen judgment and loyal devotion to duty, Captain Knapp reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Captain Knapp is a man of outstanding character and we will remain grateful for his unwavering dedication and exceptional insight during his career at NAS Lemoore and to our country. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for his hard work, selfless service, and dedication to the United States Navy. I want to personally wish Captain Knapp much continued success and my best wishes to his wife, Nancy and his children; daughter, Lauren, sons, Will and Ryan, as they embark on their new endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR GRAYLING FERRAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Grayling Ferrand.

Pastor Ferrand serves on Friends of Recovery, a statewide grass root advocacy board because of his passion and firsthand knowledge of those impacted or affected by the disease of addiction. He is committed towards reducing the adverse effects of alcoholism and

drug addiction via advocating for better prevention, treatment and recovery services in the New York State area and abroad.

He was born in Harlem, New York and is the eldest son of eight siblings. He joined in matrimony with Talisa S. Ferrand and together they have one daughter and five grandchildren.

Pastor Ferrand earned a Masters Degree and received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Bible Faith School on May 18, 2008. He worked at Reality House Inc, obtained his CASAC, and became part of the NYS OASAS faculty helping individuals facing drug and alcohol addiction. He also worked as a Program Director in other treatment programs. In 2010 he received a Human Services Board Certified Practitioner certification. He is the author of three books entitled: ''We Fall Down But We Get Up'' (the Prodigal Son), Life After Death (The Do's & Don't) and Nos Caemos Pero Nos Levantamos (El Hijo Prodigo).

Pastor Ferrand's Christian journey was influenced by many of the socio-cultural and political dynamics impacting society during the time of the Civil Rights Movements and Black Panthers. He was also raised in the Baptist faith.

In 1999 Pastor Ferrand began attending the Temple of Blessings C.O.G.I.C. under the leadership of Pastor David Grayson Jr. where he became an armor bearer and then a Deacon.

In September 2000, Pastor Ferrand was ordained by Overseer Frieda Harrison of the Jehovah Jireh Ministries. He and his wife then organized the ''Reaching Across the World Ministries, Inc. (RAWM)'', with the mission of providing human services that are geared toward reducing social ills impacting humanity.

Pastor Ferrand expanded services at RAWM's to include a 350 Hour Educational Training Program, licensed by the NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services, the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board and the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors. He continues to provide annual summer youth employment, counseling, self help groups, job interviewing skills, college internships for undergraduates and graduates as well as a host of other human services. As a result of his servitude, he has received numerous proclamations and other accolades.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Pastor Grayling Ferrand for his extraordinary accomplishments and his spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

HONORING ROBERT DUNCAN

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true model Hoosier and American upon his retirement.

For nearly 40 years, Mr. Robert Duncan has been the backbone of aviation law in Indiana. As a leader in the aviation community, Mr. Duncan has helped author, advocated for and implemented the most innovative aviation policy in the country for the State of Indiana and the Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA). Mr. Duncan has played a pivotal role in the growth of the Indianapolis Airport, and ultimately, central Indiana and the country. The special attention Mr. Duncan has paid to successfully balancing the growth of our Indiana's main International Airport, with the protection of the rights of private citizens a high priority, is a model for economic growth and personal freedom in any industry. His efforts are a part of Indiana's Comeback story.

More specifically, Mr. Duncan was the lead negotiator on all central Indiana aviation-related land acquisition during his years of service to Indiana. Notably, the expansion of the airport, as well as land acquisitions for the smaller community airports nearby, has enabled the growth that the IAA has contributed to the Hoosier state. In addition, Mr. Duncan was directly responsible for the placement of a United States Postal Service hub with the IAA. With the establishment of this hub, it laid the groundwork that would attract other private sector package carriers and logistics companies that now operate in Indianapolis and nearby communities. The economic impact these expansions have had is immeasurable. I see the fruits of Bob's efforts everyday in West Central Indiana.

With a long list of accolades for his years of leadership, Mr. Duncan has been named the Indiana Aviation Man of the Year, as well as receiving a Special Recognition Award from the Aviation Association of Indiana. Throughout his career, Mr. Duncan has made it a habit to assist other airports with legal matters, at no cost, aiding growth and demonstrating the dedication and passion he has with the aviation community throughout the state, to the benefit of all Hoosiers and travelers to and from our state.

Mr. Duncan also routinely volunteers his time for charitable efforts, both in aviation and in his local community. From his efforts with the Brownsburg Public Library to his coaching of basketball and softball, Mr. Duncan has the heart of a true public servant. Additionally, Mr. Duncan has routinely flown charitable Angel Flights throughout the country, to aide those in need of transportation for medical treatment without the means to travel. I am particularly familiar with this type of program, and Bob and I have piloted several Angel Flights together.

As a graduate of Hanover College and Indiana University's School of Law, Bob contributes back to the education of others interested in aviation and aviation law. Bob is a supervising private flight instructor, as well as an adjunct professor in aviation law at Indiana University's School of Law, Indianapolis.

Hoosiers especially, and Americans, are lucky to have benefited from the years of dedicated service in planning and abundant expertise provided by Mr. Duncan for nearly four decades. His volunteerism is an added classic Hoosier trait. Bob has exemplified the essence of Hoosier values with his commonsense leadership and dedication to the betterment of our great state. For his efforts and ethics, I am proud to commend this Hoosier, Robert Duncan, upon his pending retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO DEVELOP THE SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce an essential bill for the redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront in the District of Columbia. The bill transfers unencumbered ownership of the Southwest Waterfront from the federal government to the District. Although the District has owned the Waterfront since the 1960s, the land has been encumbered by restrictions put in place by Congress before the District got home rule; a time when development by the city was not contemplated. My bill updates outdated legislation and allows for the highest and best use of the land.

The bill would amend the D.C. Code to allow the District to transfer the property by quitclaim deed, to update the site description of the land to conform with its current configuration, to allow for the sale of condominiums on the land, to remove references to an urban renewal plan that has expired, to remove references to the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, which no longer exists, and to expand the permissible uses for the Fish Market in order to allow the sale of other foods, beverages, produce, and flowers.

The District of Columbia has created a 21st-century vision for the Southwest Waterfront and is actively engaged in a revitalization and redevelopment that will draw visitors down 10th street from the National Mall. However, as was typical for District land before home rule, the original law restricts the use of the land along the waterfront to lease-only arrangements, driving down the useful value of the land and making it impossible to replace antiquated structures with new buildings for new uses. The restrictions on the land serve no federal purpose and seriously limit needed revenue for the city. Federal officials have been consulted on the transfer and have no objection to it.

The federal government has no interest in the waterfront land other than the Maine Lobsterman Memorial and the Titanic Memorial, which have been carved out of the transfer. Because of the current restrictions on the land, part of the waterfront is an underused eyesore. However, the redevelopment will bring 2.5 million square feet of mixed-use development to the waterfront, including public and private docks, restaurants, office buildings and residences, providing jobs and local revenue at a time when they are most needed.

This is a noncontroversial bill that removes out-of-date laws and involves no cost to the federal government. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

RECOGNIZING FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY'S RECEIPT OF THE GOLD MEDAL AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Park Authority of their receipt of the 2010 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. This prestigious award is the park and recreation industry's highest honor.

The Fairfax County Park Authority was commended for its outstanding performance in all categories. The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), presented the award to the Fairfax County Park Authority at the NRPA Annual Congress & Exposition in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Now a three-time Gold Medal Award recipient and a finalist for several years, the Fairfax County Park Authority has demonstrated excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development, and agency recognition.

The Fairfax County Park Authority serves a population of more than one million residents, which places the Park Authority in the Class I category, the tier for park agencies that serve a population of 250,000 and over. The Park Authority hosts a myriad of annual events, and operates indoor and outdoor athletic and recreation facilities, historic sites, and natural areas.

I would like to commend the Fairfax County Park Authority for the exceptional service it provides to the citizens of Fairfax County and the entire Commonwealth. Their hard work and dedication has improved the quality of life for so many.

REV. DR. ANTHONY M. GRAHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Rev. Dr. Anthony M. Graham.

At the age of twelve, Anthony Graham was inspired to join the ministry. It was at that time that he began preaching in his local assembly. At the age of seventeen, he graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and entered the United States Army. After six years in the military, serving in Washington State and Korea; he enrolled in York College, where he met his lovely wife Leslie-Ann. They have been married for 20 years with three children, Amara, Anthony Jr, and Amira. Dr. Graham is listed in Who's Who in American Universities & Colleges. He graduated with a B.S. in accounting from York College, a M.B.A. from St. John's University, a Doctor of Ministry from Bakke Graduate University and a PhD from Georgetown Wesleyan University.

Dr. Graham, who was selected as the Claude A. Ries Pastor of the Year for 2005 by Houghton College, is a tenured High School teacher in the New York Public School System. He is an accomplished pastor, teacher, and conference speaker.

Dr. Graham serves as Senior pastor of the New Hope Family Worship Center, an inner-city multicultural ministry. This church was planted twenty years ago and started with twelve members. It now has a weekly average attendance of 500 people. New Hope has several ministries, including an after-school program, computer literacy program, G.E.D. program, compassion Ministries (providing food and clothing to the needy).

In his district he is also recognized as a leader. He was elected on four occasions as a delegate to General Conference for his district, has served as Chairman of the Metropolitan Zone for five years and has been a member of the District Board of Administration for fourteen years. He has traveled and ministered in several parts of the world, including Australia, Barbados, Canada, China, Colombia South America, England, Guyana, Jamaica, India, Korea, Russia, St. Thomas, Trinidad & Tobago, and in many parts of the United States. He frequently ministers in the areas of revival, Christian development, financial stewardship, team building and principles for success in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Rev. Dr. Anthony M. Graham.

HONORING THE LATE LAURENCE BUTLER ''LARRY'' DILLARD

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Laurence Butler ''Larry'' Dillard, my longtime Communications Director, trusted advisor and childhood friend. Larry passed away unexpectedly on April 20, 2011.

Larry was born on June 8, 1951 in Newport News, Virginia. He attended Hampton High School and Hampton Institute (now Hampton University). He went on to earn his degree in Mass Communications from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he became the proud charter member of the Eta Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

I have known Larry since Little League Baseball. We grew up in St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Newport News and he later covered me as a reporter for WRIC-Channel 8 in Richmond when I served in the Virginia House of Delegates.

A decade before joining my congressional office in Washington, Larry's first stint on Capitol Hill was with another Virginian, Republican Congressman Tom Bliley of Richmond. A few years later, Larry worked for the Republican National Committee and Senator John Warner's reelection campaign.

Larry must have had a political change of heart or he simply wanted to help an old friend because he joined my campaign staff in when I first ran for Congress in 1992. After the election, he joined my congressional office and became one of my most trusted advisors, Communications Director, and Capitol Hill scheduler. For eighteen and a half years, the many people who have interacted with my office got to know Larry very well. He made every visitor feel as if they were the most important person to ever visit my office, especially the shipbuilders. As one of several members of his family who worked at the Newport News Shipyard, he was always a perfect host for shipyard workers when they visited Washington. Additionally, Larry was affectionately known as the ''Mayor of Capitol Hill.'' From congressional staff to Members of Congress to the many support personnel on Capitol Hill, everyone came to know and love Larry because Larry truly cared about them. Hundreds of Hill staff and young people have been touched by Larry's mentorship and advice. He embodied the true meaning of a Virginia gentleman.

Larry helped me accomplish a lot for my constituents and his fellow Virginians. He helped secure funding for Hampton University's Proton Cancer Center and fought for justice for America's black farmers. He was a historian and was famous for his tours of the Capitol. He was also an enthusiastic advocate for the recognition of the 14 African Americans who were awarded Medals of Honor at New Market Heights in Henrico, Virginia during the Civil War. Larry was also very active with the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum in Washington.

There are no words to describe the profound loss and sorrow that pervades all those who had the good fortune to know Larry. He will be remembered as a tireless worker, devoted friend, brother, father, husband and mentor to many. Larry was a passionate history buff, avid Yankees fan, fountain of knowledge, skillful diplomat and the consummate spokesperson.

Larry passed away doing what he loved the most—touring one of his favorite historic Civil War sites, Fort Monroe. I was on that tour with Senator MARK WARNER. We got the official presentation in the front of bus, but everybody in the back of the bus got the real scoop from Larry Dillard. He will be thought about often and sorely missed.

My deepest sympathies and prayers are with his wife Sherry, his son Brandon, his brother Randy and the entire Dillard family.

INTRODUCING THE POST-DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Post-Deployment Strategy Act of 2011, which would amend the War Powers Resolution to require the President to develop a post-deployment strategy when introducing our United States Armed Forces into combat operations.

Going to war is one of the most important decisions a government can make. From the sheer magnitude of financial burden to the devastating effects of loss of life, war is among our nation's costliest undertaking. This is why it is crucial to develop a set of objectives and a clear plan of action prior to engaging in a conflict. Currently, the President is not required to have such a plan in place before sending our men and women in uniform into combat.

Estimates put the direct and indirect cost of the Iraq War at a staggering $3 trillion, with

over 4,000 American lives lost and over 33,000 soldiers wounded. Our U.S. debt increased from $6.4 trillion in March 2003 to $10 trillion in the pre-financial crisis months of 2008, and the war in Iraq is directly responsible for at least a quarter of that sum. While there are many contrasting perspectives on U.S. involvement in Iraq, all can agree that having established a clear and informed plan for the country's occupation and stabilization prior to the invasion would have helped to decrease the loss of life, injuries as well as the wasteful use of resources.

This legislation will require the President to submit a post-deployment strategy to Congress not later than 48 hours after introducing our military into combat operations. This plan will articulate the interests of the United States, define the goals and objectives of the operation, and lay out a strategy for success.

Establishing a clear and informed plan for a country's occupation prior to introducing Armed Forces will help better allocate resources, and decrease the loss of life and the cost of conflicts. It is crucial to have the tools and resources in place to ensure the stabilization of conflict areas, and the safe return of our troops. It is both unacceptable and irresponsible to send our loved ones to war without a long-term plan of action.

Mr. Speaker, as instability escalates in the Middle East and with U.S. military operations in Libya underway, the need for a clear post-deployment strategy is greater than ever. We owe our soldiers, their families, and the taxpayers clear justification for sending our Armed Forces into combat. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2011, I missed the following rollcall votes because I was unavoidably detained out of town: rollcall vote No. 413—on agreeing to the LaTourette amendment; rollcall vote No. 414—on agreeing to the Amash amendment; rollcall vote No. 415—on agreeing to the Sherman amendment; and rollcall vote No. 416—on retaining Title II (Department of Veterans Affairs). All of these rollcall votes were on amendments to H.R. 2055, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 413 and 416, and "nay" on rollcall Nos. 414 and 415.

MR. SANTOS CRESPO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Santos Crespo.

Santos Crespo, a Bronx native, started in the labor movement in 1975 when he and other co-workers helped to organize the Substance Abuse Counselors in the New York City Board of Education. He would be elected shop steward in his district after they became members of the New York City Board of Education Employees Local 372, District Council 37, AFSCME, and served for over 10 years as its Executive Vice President.

Today, he is presently the President of the largest municipal employees union in New York City, District Council 37, AFSCME, and the President of the largest local union within DC 37, representing over 26,000 employees within the New York City Department of Education, Local 372.

Santos is also a founding member and currently the chairperson of the DC 37 Latino Heritage Committee, served for 6 years as President of the New York City Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), a member of the New York City Hispanic Labor Committee and he also serves on LCLAA National Executive Board. He is a member of the New York City Chapter of Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) and a former Teaching Fellow for the Organizing Institute of the AFL–CIO. Santos has received numerous awards; Humanitarian Assistance Award for his assistance during the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center tragedy, The New York Daily News Viva New York as a 2004 Latino Influential, The New York Dominican Officers Organization for Outstanding Service in the Labor Movement and the New York LCLAA Labor Award, The New York Hispanic Labor Committee Friambrerra Labor Award and The New York State Puerto Rican/Hispanic Legislative Task Force Somo El Futuro Labor Award, and the 111th Congress paid tribute to his leadership and commitment in the labor community by entering his accomplishments into the records of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Crespo' extraordinary achievements

HONORING COLONEL FRANK K. BROOKS' 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Frank K. Brooks for his 30 years of exceptional service and dedication to the United States Air Force. He retired from active duty on May 31, 2011.

Colonel Brooks was born in New Roads, Louisiana. He was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the Air Force in 1981, upon his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. In 1982, he completed his Master of Science in Information Systems at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Following graduate school, his operational assignments included duties as a Computer Program Design Engineer at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois and as the Chief of the Data Systems Branch for the Secretary of the Air Force Special Projects Office.

Over the past two years, Colonel Brooks has served as the Chief Information Officer of Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region, United States Northern Command, where he was responsible for the coordination of interoperable emergency communications with defense mission partners in the National Capital Region. His efforts have provided for robust and reliable command and control systems to enable defense support to civil authorities. He has integrated cyberspace operations and planning into the JFHQ–NCR mission, making it one of the first domestic commands to integrate full-spectrum information operations in the Air Force. His thoughtful management, aggressive integration of emerging technologies, and active engagement with interagency partners has made the National Capital Region safer and better prepared to respond to any emergency. His adherence to the highest standards of professional conduct is a credit to all that wear the uniform of the United States Air Force.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Brooks served as the Deputy Chief, United States Military Training Mission, Riyadh, Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On behalf of the Department of the Air Force, he managed the exchange of critical military information systems and communications technologies with the military forces of Saudi Arabia.

Colonel Brooks has served in a variety of staff and leadership positions both stateside and overseas. He has served in a variety of operational and staff positions in the communications and space career fields, including one group command, five squadron commands, Secretary of Defense Fellowship (Netscape/AOL), Education with Industry (Boeing), Air Force Communications Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, the Joint Staff and special operations, as well as director of communications and information systems for two major commands.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to Frank, his wife Penelope, and their daughters Lauren and Nicole for their unwavering support of our country and the freedom we hold so dear. We congratulate Colonel Brooks on the completion of an exemplary active-duty career and wish him well in the next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL VOICES FOR EQUALITY EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary efforts of National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment (NVEEE) in providing support services to youth and families affected by bullying, violence, and suicide through preventative education and communication.

Jowharah Sanders, founder of National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment; says, "Bullying is not just an action; it is inaction as well". I agree wholeheartedly. Fortunately, Ms. Sanders understands that we will have to work together from the ground up to defeat bullying at every level.

Sanders, a drum major for the voiceless and victimized, founded NVEEE in October 2009. Driven by a personal mission, Sanders sought to help those who have been affected by bullying, violence, victimization, and abuse in

their lives, to prevent it from happening to as many children and families as she can, and to show them that they are not alone—even when they feel the most disempowered. Sanders challenged friends and colleagues to join the struggle for peace and equality, and ultimately to be the change they want to see in the world.

National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment has been a pioneer in the eradication of bullying. In Florida alone, NVEEE has reached more than 750 students through the ''Not on My Watch Bullying and Prevention Workshop'', which features workshops led by NVEEE's Teen Mentors and Peace Ambassadors. This campaign increases awareness of the violence surrounding youth and young adults, and empowers students and communities to take action by refusing to be bystanders. In March 2011 this workshop became accessible to educational institutions across the nation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as I honor the National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment for their stance against bullying. The exemplary dedication demonstrated to this cause is to be commended and I give her my full support.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW JERSEY CULTURE CHANGE COLLABORATIVE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative. Since its founding just last year, the coalition of non-profit organizations, retirement communities, and government bodies has worked to promote dignified long-term health care for senior citizens. This week, the coalition is holding ''Culture Change: New Choices for the Elderly,'' an event dedicated to the sharing of ideas for the improvement of health care for the elderly. I would like to draw attention to the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative and formally thank the group for its beneficial—and necessary—work.

The New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative is a network of professional organizations that is working across the state to improve health care for the elderly. Members of the coalition are the Health Care Association of New Jersey, Green Hill Inc., Healthcare Quality Strategies Inc., Leading Age New Jersey, New Jersey Hospital Association, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, and Van Dyk Health Care. Each member organization provides a unique perspective on aging and health care issues, and, together, the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative has the potential to make a real transformation in the way that senior citizens receive long-term health care. Although it is a nascent movement, I have full confidence that it will improve the lives of New Jersey residents by working for more benevolent and patient-centered health care policies. In that light, I would like to request that the week of June 19 be designated National Nursing Home Culture Change Week.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative on its founding. I would also like to congratulate the coalition for the statewide learning session it is holding this week. The work of the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative is essential to promoting healthy lifestyles and improving long-term care.

SGT. FRANCISCO ESTRADA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Francisco Estrada.

Sgt. Estrada was born on February 8, 1960 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. His father, too, was a policeman and he grew up hearing stories of his father's bravery and dignity while on patrol. These stories inspired him to protect and serve his community.

With the help and support of fellow officer Sgt. Victor Perez, Sgt. Estrada worked with the Coney Island community of Searise Towers as a Peace Officer from 1987 to 1992. Afterwards, he became a New York City Hospital Police Officer for Bellevue Hospital. Shortly after in January 1993, he was diagnosed with diabetes. After taking medical leave, the Sergeant gained a civil service position at Woodhull Hospital Police Department. In May 2001, Estrada was given a certificate of appreciation from the New York City Detectives Endowment Association for assisting the NYPD with the Brooklyn Strangler case. After finally achieving the rank of Sergeant in 2002, Estrada finally had the opportunity to teach other officers the skills he acquired. With undying support of his wonderful wife and family and driven by the love of his city, the Sergeant served proudly in New York City for thirty years. In 2009, with much consideration and remorse, Sgt. Estrada retired, citing the medical strain caused by his diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Estrada for fighting both crime and disease with nobility and professionalism.

HONORING MR. LOU VIVERITO, A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT FOR 42 YEARS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant and a good friend, Lou Viverito. After 16 years of service in the Illinois State Senate, Mayor Brady and the citizens of Bedford Park will name 73rd Street at Central Avenue after Mr. Viverito. Such an honor is an appropriate recognition for a champion for his constituents, as Mr. Viverito has been for the last 42 years.

After serving bravely in the Korean War and receiving multiple decorations, Mr. Viverito began his political career in 1965. He was elected as Stickney Township Democratic Committeeman in 1970 and quickly stood out as a force in local politics. Since 1973, Mr. Viverito has served as President of Stickney's Public Health District where he has made some of his greatest contributions. Thousands of people receive health care through Stickney's high quality facilities every year. As a landmark of his life's work, a brand new clinic, completely paid for, will open later this month in large part due to the efforts of Mr. Viverito.

In 1994, he was elected as an Illinois State Senator and served until his retirement this year. Mr. Viverito's distinguished career in the Illinois State Senate was characterized by dedicated service and several honorable distinctions. He served as Minority Whip for the Senate Democratic Caucus and as Assistant Majority Leader and was a leader on healthcare issues in Illinois for years.

Beyond his service in Illinois' legislative body, Mr. Viverito has held several other public positions, including Stickney Township Supervisor, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago, and Member of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Viverito is well-known in Chicago due to his civic participation, and his work ethic and infectious smile have made him a beloved member of the Chicago community. He resides with his wife, Carolyn, in the City of Burbank. He also has three grown children and five grandsons.

At tomorrow's ceremony, Mayor Brady of Bedford Park will properly honor Mr. Viverito by renaming a street and holding a reception for him. Please join me in honoring Mr. Viverito as a public servant whose deeds will be remembered for years to come throughout Chicago and Illinois. May he enjoy tomorrow's ceremony in his honor and may he enjoy a long and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING ARMANDO PEREZ ROURA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and accomplishments of a distinguished radio journalist and community activist of South Florida, Armando Perez Roura.

Armando Perez Roura is a highly recognized and admired member within the communications arena. Born and educated in Cuba, Mr. Perez Roura became President of the National Broadcast College of Cuba at a very young age. Aside from being a grand communicator, Mr. Perez Roura is known for combating the Castro dictatorship from the moment they kidnapped Cuba in 1959.

In 1969, he was forced to flee from his native land. The United States welcomed him upon his arrival. Since then, Mr. Perez Roura has contributed tremendously to the community of South Florida and has worked unremittingly for the liberty of Cuba. He is Founder and President of ''La Unidad Cubana,'' an anti-Castro coalition encompassing various organizations. Due to his profound knowledge and expertise, Mr. Perez Roura has been a political advisor to various countries.

Mr. Perez Roura, with his unique style, has relentlessly condemned each of the crimes committed by the Castro regime and raised awareness on their efforts to spread terrorism

around the world. He has kept the memory of all those who have been victimized by the regime alive in our hearts.

Mr. Perez Roura embodies the American dream and is testament of what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication. Breaking through both language and culture barriers Mr. Perez Roura has become one of the most listened to radio personalities in Miami. Having received a Bachelor in Political Science, Mr. Perez Roura serves as a docent and mentor to many journalists, political leaders, and activists.

He is the pioneer of Spanish Radio and TV, which further exemplifies his exceptional work as a journalist. Mr. Perez Roura is the Founder and Director of Radio Mambi one of the most famous radio stations in South Florida. He produces, hosts and co-hosts various talk shows, Noticieros, En Caliente, La Noticia y Usted and Mesa Redonda. He also produces a daily editorial Toma Nota and regularly writes for Diario las Americas and El Semanario Libre. Throughout the years, Mr. Perez Roura's work has received various awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the voice of Cuban exiles, my dear friend, Mr. Armando Perez Roura. He has defended democratic principles, Republican ideals and Cuba's freedom. In the words of Jose Marti, apostle of the liberty of Cuba, ''Honrar, honra.''

ELECTION SUPPORT CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 672 ''Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act.'' This bill seeks to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the EAC Standards Board, and the EAC Board of Advisors 61 days after enactment of this Act. It also requires that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) perform EAC functions with respect to certain existing contracts and agreements during the transition period for finishing EAC affairs.

I oppose this bill because it undermines the intent behind the Help America Vote Act. Let me remind those who have forgotten of the chaos in the days following the election of 2000. Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002 which helped create the Election Assistance Commission. The EAC was created to help state and local election officials use current technology and best practices when overseeing elections.

The EAC oversees voting-system testing and certification. The EAC tests and certifies voting machines for use in elections to safeguard against the problems of 2000 election in Florida; and creates voluntary voting guidelines for states, instilling confidence in the democratic process of this country for all voters.

The Commission also develops and fosters the training and organization of more than 8,000 election administrators throughout the nation.

The EAC's certification program is helping state and local governments save money by using its oversight role to coordinate with manufacturers and local election officials to ensure that the existing equipment meets its durability and longevity potential. This saves state and local governments from the unnecessary expense of new voting equipment.

The Commission plays a major role in collecting accurate and comparable election data.

Living in a nation guided by the spirit of democracy and by which the American people are the voices for change, I do not see how H.R. 672 can continue this legacy. Without the EAC, there would be no federal agency focused on improving the quality of elections. With this, the American people will lose faith in our democracy and, to tell you the truth so will I.

The American people have not forgotten the chaos of the 2000, and let us ensure that this Congress remembers those troubling days as well. We must never forget the feeling of fear and uncertainty as the fabric of our democracy and our faithful constitution was put to test. I feel for scores of votes in Florida, whose voices were not heard as fraud and corruption consumed polling stations. As a representative of Texas, a state of over 20 million people, I refuse to have any voice of Texas' constituents, or mine of the 18th district, be stifled by those who think otherwise.

In the society we live in, it is often those who cannot defend themselves or those with limited political power whose voices are often overshadowed. Among this group are oftentimes the poor, women, the uneducated, the inept, and the elderly. The EAC has worked tirelessly to end this trend. Through research, grant-making and the development of voting guidelines, the Election Assistance Commission is helping many groups gain their Constitutional right to vote, including racial and ethnic minorities, members of the Armed Services (especially those serving overseas), disabled Americans and senior citizens.

The EAC has worked to improve the accessibility of more than 37 million disabled voters with disabilities.

It also has worked to create electronic voting systems for our brave men and women in uniform fighting overseas so that they are able to vote abroad.

Considering my belief that the termination of the EAC would untangle progress our democracy has made in bringing uniformity and equality among states in the voting process, I strongly urge opposition to this bill. If the EAC is terminated, it is very likely we will see many more elections like the election of 2000. If we care about the legacy of our democracy and our constitution, I urge opposition to H.R. 672.

HONORING ST. CLETUS PARISH OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AS A FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Cletus Parish on its 60th anniversary as a community of faith in La Grange, Illinois. I express my admiration and appreciation of St. Cletus' commitment to upholding the values and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and its congregation's devotion to charity and spiritual development. On July 3rd, St. Cletus Church will celebrate 60 years of spiritual guidance and compassionate service to the 3rd District and the Chicago-area community.

A part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, St. Cletus offers ten masses weekly in addition to formal education through its school, religious education, and youth and Hispanic ministries. Each Christmas season, St. Cletus reaches out to the less fortunate in its inter-city sharing parish, St. Agatha's, and to other needy families. Through the parish's Advent Giving Tree, St. Cletus parishioners generously donate food and gift baskets to brighten the Christmas season for hundreds of needy families. St. Cletus' commitment to service extends beyond the holiday season as well. The St. Cletus Food Pantry distributes bags of groceries provided by parishioners to hundreds of less fortunate families in local communities. Through these services, the St. Cletus community upholds the Catholic ideals of love, sacrifice, and charity.

Because many of the original members of St. Cletus were returning World War II veterans, the parish has always been strongly patriotic. The Parish honors veterans from all over the area every year on July 4th with a special Mass which I am proud to participate in.

From its campus in La Grange, St. Cletus fosters a community of compassionate believers and followers of Jesus Christ, welcoming all to join its family of faith. I am proud to honor St. Cletus' commitment to providing spiritual nourishment through worship, the celebration of the sacraments, education, and service to the 3rd District of Illinois. I congratulate St. Cletus' pastor, Father Clark, and the entire parish community, and I know St. Cletus will continue to be a valuable spiritual asset to La Grange and the Chicago region for years to come.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General James D. Thurman, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea, Vice Admiral William H. McRaven, USN, to be admiral and Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and Lieutenant General John R. Allen, USMC, to be general and Commander, International Security Assistance Force, and United States Forces, Afghanistan.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on access to the secondary market for small financial institutions.

SD–538

Finance

To hold hearings to examine complexity and the tax gap, focusing on making tax compliance easier and collecting what's due.

SD–215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Libya and war powers.

SD–419

Judiciary

Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the ''Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act''.

SD–226

Environment and Public Works

Water and Wildlife Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the status of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

SD–406

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of Defense Subcommittee

To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for national and military intelligence programs.

SVC–217

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 20, authorizing the limited use of the United States Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya.

SD–419

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

2:45 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the state of livestock in America.

SD–G50

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for military construction and veterans affairs, and related agencies.

SD–124

JUNE 29

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the emergence of swap execution facilities, focusing on a progress report.

SD–538

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine privacy and data security, focusing on protecting consumers in the modern world.

SR–253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Derek J. Mitchell, of Connecticut, to be Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, with the rank of Ambassador, and Frankie Annette Reed, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, both of the Department of State.

SD–419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 958, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, S. 1094, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–416), an original bill entitled, ''Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization of 2011'', and any pending nominations.

SD–106

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–342

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine barriers to justice and accountability, focusing on how the Supreme Court's recent rulings will affect corporate behavior.

SD–226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gineen Maria Bresso, of Florida, Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, all to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.

SR–301

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine promoting broader access to public transportation for America's older adults and people with disabilities.

SD–538

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the diplomat's shield, focusing on diplomatic security and its implications for United States diplomacy.

SD–342

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR–418

JUNE 30

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine perspectives on deficit reduction, focusing on a review of key issues.

SD–215

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of democracy in the Americas.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH–219