EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. Although this bill includes some modest improvements to charter school regulation over current laws, it still falls short of ensuring that charter schools are held to high standards for educational quality, accountability and accessibility for all students.

Charter school education currently lies at the center of a growing movement to challenge traditional notions of what public education means in America. Although it is important for students to have choice within the educational model, we cannot solely rely on charter schools and private for—profit companies to solve all of our educational challenges within our public school system. There is considerable research which documents mixed reviews of success among charter schools. In a national study conducted by Stanford University economist Margaret Raymond, she found that only 17 percent of charter schools were superior to the local public schools, 37 percent of charter schools received worse results than comparable neighborhood schools and 46 percent did about the same.

With more than 1.5 million students enrolled in charter schools that vary widely in quality, it is critical that we, as a nation, have protections in place that will ensure these students achieve educational success and this bill falls short of ensuring just that. We must enhance the focus on charter schools' and authorizers' accountability. We must enhance the ever so important role of parents and the community's input in the authorizing process. We must to ensure that adequate educational resources play a critical role in improving achievement for all students. With this bill's lack of transparency and accountability requirements, guarantee to adequate resources and parental and community involvement we will only further exacerbate current resource and opportunity gaps in the American educational system.

I appreciate my colleague Rep. GEORGE MILLER's commitment to equality education in American and his hard work on this bill but I think is important for us to take a closer look at this bill's provisions just to ensure that every student receives a quality education that is transparent, holds its educators accountable and is most importantly equal.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY & BIKE TOUR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at the Farmers Branch Remembrance Service to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. "Stars and Spokes" is a terrific reminder of the resilience of our nation and the ability of the American people to put our differences aside for the sake of our country men and women.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL NICHOLAS HEATH NULL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Explosive Ordnance Disposal Nicholas Heath Null who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Null was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Null was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, two Iraqi Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Null is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Null an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Null's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF S&C ELECTRIC COMPANY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to S&C Electric Company, an exemplary business and essential community partner, which will be celebrating 100 years of service on September 25.

In 1909, after a dangerous fire at Commonwealth Edison's Chicago Fisk Generating Station, the utility asked Edmond Schweitzer and Nicholas Conrad to create a safer electric switch. In 1911, the men invented the Liquid Power Fuse and founded Schweitzer & Conrad, kicking off a century of job creation and technological innovation.

Today S&C, under the direction of C.E.O. John Estey, is a leader in smart energy solutions for our increasingly complex electric grid.

The company has pioneered electric power switching technologies that manage consumer demand aberrations as a result of plug-in vehicles, address peak energy crunches, and integrate clean and renewable energy into utility companies' existing electrical framework. Its commitment to quality has established the company as the industry leader in long-term value. And its commitment to its employees, including a benefits package that provides tuition reimbursement, has kept 350 employees at the company for over 25 years each. These traits will ensure that S&C remains a leader in electric power solutions for the next century.

The next century will compel our country to conserve precious energy resources, create new technologies to enhance efficiency, and incorporate clean energy alternatives. Companies like S&C will be instrumental in that process and will enable the United States to lead the world in energy innovation.

I am proud to count S&C among the companies in my district and its employees among my constituents. I congratulate them on this major milestone, and I look forward to their continued success in the 100 years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ATANACIO GARCIA OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly amazing citizen of our country, Mr. Atanacio Garcia of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Garcia has dedicated his entire life to serving the United States of America. At the age of 22, he enlisted in the military and served 8 years, including a stint in Korea and Germany. Upon his discharge, Mr. Garcia returned to Texas and joined the U.S. Postal Service. In addition to working for the Postal Service for 24 years, Mr. Garcia also served in the Texas Air National Guard from March 14, 1963–March 13, 1982.

Since his retirement in 1984, Mr. Garcia has remained steadfast in his commitment to civic duty and civic responsibility, and he has continuously worked to help the people of San Antonio. Mr. Garcia worked to help bring the first public pool to San Antonio's Westside neighborhood, and he has been a constant figure at neighborhood events and local community service projects.

Even after all of these incredible achievements and accomplishments, Mr. Garcia has still felt the need to do even more for his country. Concerned about America's growing debt, he decided to take matters into his own hands. Starting in 2009, Mr. Garcia made a pledge to send $50 every month to the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Public Debt in order to pay down our national debt. In order to maintain his monthly pledge, Mr. Garcia uses money he makes from selling aluminum cans that he collects in his neighborhood.

Obviously, we cannot all have the sense of public service and civic duty of Mr. Atanacio Garcia, but it is my hope that we can all strive to be a little more like Mr. Garcia. If lawmakers and corporations were able to embody just a fraction of his willingness to solve problems by putting America first, I do not believe that our country would have the problems that it does.

I want to thank Mr. Garcia for his tireless efforts and dedication to his community and to his country. He is a pillar of the San Antonio community, and an example for citizens across the country. It is truly an honor to represent constituents, such as Mr. Atanacio Garcia, in the U.S. Congress, and again, I would like to ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this incredible public servant and citizen of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE LINE OF DUTY DEATH GRATUITY ACT OF 2011

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, with my colleague Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON, to introduce the Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act.

As our nation approaches the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11th, it is important to acknowledge that the attacks in New York and Washington, DC, were not the first shots fired in this war, but rather just an escalation of previous attacks against the UnitedStates.

Over the course of the upcoming weekend, Americans will reflect on the events of 10 years ago. Where were they on that terrible day? What were they doing when the towers fell and when the Pentagon was hit? How did they react when it became apparent that it was a terrorist attack on our country?

The events of that day have guided our Federal Government's approach, and indeed our society's approach, to preventing future attacks in many different ways.

However, there is another significant date—a date that may be less familiar to many Americans. That date is August 7, 1998. I know that for many Americans, if not most, it is difficult to recall what they were doing or where they were that day.

For the Department of State, and for many Foreign Service Officers and members of the State Department family, that date is a defining moment in each of their lives.

On the afternoon of August 7, 1998, over 8,000 miles from Capitol Hill on the continent of Africa, Al Qaeda terrorists set off two simultaneous truck bombs at the entrances to our embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dares Salaam, Tanzania.

When the smoke finally cleared, 300 people were dead. Twelve Americans and 40 citizens of Kenya and Tanzania who were working for the United States Government were among those killed. More than 5,000 were injured, and two United States embassies were destroyed.

Although the attacks were directed at American facilities, the vast majority of casualties were local citizens.

Fifteen years earlier, in 1983, a suicide bomber attacked the United States Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. In that tragedy, sixty people died—mostly embassy staff members and U.S. service members. At that time, it was the deadliest attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission, and isconsidered by some to mark the beginning of attacks by Islamist extremist groups on the United States.

After the Beirut attack, a Commission was set up under the leadership of former Navy Admiral Bobby Inman. Recommendations were made, funding was provided, and the State Department was charged to replace 77 embassies and consulates that failed to meet basic security standards.

The Commission stated that "a large number of facilities around the world, which once may have represented the optimal site for the conduct of American diplomacy, [should] be replaced by more physically secure sites and buildings. The Panel believe[s] that it [is] essential that a substantial relocation and building program be initiated and carried out with dispatch."Despite this recommendation from the Inman Commission, a lack of appropriate sites and a lack of funding resulted in the Department completing only 22 of the planned Inman embassies.

By the time of the East African bombings, the Department had only one new embassy under construction. After the 1998 East African attacks, another Commission was set up, again under the leadership of retired Navy Admiral William Crowe. Once again recommendations were made, funding was provided, and the State Department was charged to replace 187 aging and unsecure embassies. The State Department worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget and the United States Congress to ensure that a funding commitment was put in place.In response, Congress passed the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999.

Over the last 13 years, the Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations has completed, or has under construction, more than 100 facilities around the globe. Approximately 25,000 federal employees have moved into safer, more secure, and functional facilities overseas. With this latest building program, the State Department has moved one-quarter of all U.S. Government overseas employees into new facilities.

Since the East African bombings, American diplomatic facilities have been attacked over 140 times. Recently, attacks in Belgrade, Serbia; Sanaa, Yemen; Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and many others have been covered on the news. When they happen, these events are breaking news stories, but are often quickly forgotten. The State Department has been fortunate in each of these attacks that the perpetrators of the violence have never breached the hard line of the embassy building.

While the State Department continues to build secure facilities, the 13 years since the East Africa bombings have seen the world become more dangerous. The goal of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings is to construct facilities that provide American diplomats with safe and functional facilities where they can advance foreign policy, and ultimately make the world better, safer and more secure. Until that day comes, however, these Federal employees who bravely serve our nation continue to be at risk of terrorist attack.

Many of the Foreign Service Officers who work in United States diplomatic platforms serve alongside and face the same hazards and risks as our military personnel and intelligence officers.

As Foreign Service employees engage more visibly in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is important

that they know that their contributions and sacrifices are as highly valued as those of our military personnel.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would authorize the Department of State to provide compensation for the families of fallen Foreign Service employees that is comparable to what is provided to the families of fallen military personnel.

Under current law, the surviving family members of an American Foreign Service employee are entitled to one year's salary and the proceeds of their federal life insurance benefit. In contrast, the family of a fallen member of the military is entitled to an enhanced life insurance and death gratuity that was authorized by the United States Congress in 2005. This is a disparity that can no longer be overlooked.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would ensure that the families of Foreign Service employees receive, at a minimum, a death gratuity equal of $100,000, matching the benefit provided to military personnel. An enhanced life insurance benefit of at least $400,000 for Foreign Service employees serving at a recognized danger pay post also matches the benefit available to military personnel participating in combat operations or stationed in combat zones. Foreign Service employees with a higher yearly salary or life insurance payout will maintain their benefits as they exist under current law.

This legislation also recognizes our moral obligation to the families of the twelve Americans killed in the August 1998 Al Qaeda bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Many of the surviving family members of that incident have endured significant and continuing financial and personal hardships that serve as a poignant example of the burdens faced by such survivors. These families have been unable to seek damages through the courts as other families in similar situations have because such actions are limited to state-sponsored acts of terror.

Similar legislation has passed the House of Representatives in previous Congressional sessions, but failed to clear the hurdle of the United States Senate. Then-Congressman ROY BLUNT (R–MO) continually led this effort over the years, and I am honored to carry the torch during the 112th Congress.

As we approach the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we need to recognize the individuals who died at the hand of a terrorist attack three years before 9/11, and uphold our foremost responsibility to our courageous and dedicated Foreign Service employees and their families.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CRYPTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS MICHAEL JOSEPH STRANGE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cryptologic Technician Petty Officer First Class Michael Joseph Strange who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Strange was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Strange was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and other campaign and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Strange is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Strange an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Strange's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF EVERETT M. WOODEL, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE AS DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF OHIO'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding public servant from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. My District Director, Everett M. Woodel, Jr. of Port Clinton, Ohio left after twelve years of service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

Everett Woodel began his service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District as a District Representative to the late Congressman Paul E. Gillmor. During his tenure with the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett also filled the role as the Deputy Communications Director. Following the vacancy left by the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett's professionalism and dedication to the constituents and issues of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District made him an outstanding pick to serve as the Deputy District Director. In 2010, when my former District Director retired, Everett handily took over the position as District Director.

A veteran of the United States Army, Everett has served our country with pride and compassion. As a public servant, I have found Everett to be dedicated to the citizens of Northwest Ohio, not only managing the day to day functions of my district offices, but also demonstrating that the well-being of the constituents of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is paramount in making this the hallmark of his career with the United States House of Representatives. Everett will continue his commitment to public service as he has accepted a position with the State of Ohio's Industrial Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Everett M. Woodel, Jr. for his roles in Ohio's Fifth District Offices. Our communities have undoubtedly benefited from his years of faithful service. We wish Everett M. Woodel, Jr. all of the best upon his departure as District Director of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at this Valor Commitment Dedication to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, ''America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.'' They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. This Remembrance Service is a sign that we are moving forward as a nation, and that while we may have bent on 9/11, we shall never be broken.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR JON THOMAS TUMILSON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Jon Thomas Tumilson who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Tumilson was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Tumilson was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including

two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Tumilson is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Tumilson an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Tumilson's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this anniversary is first, last and always a day of remembrance. The shock and horror of that day has receded. But all of us remember where we were on that morning when passenger jets became missiles, striking the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The mountains of debris left when they collapsed are gone. The Pentagon has long since been restored. The field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania is a burial ground still, where contemplation by those who return is reverent and sorrowful. Two Utahns were aboard one of the hijacked planes that struck the first tower; another Utahn died at his job in the Pentagon when a third jet crashed into it.

The passing days brought much heartache. Not all Americans lost family members during the terrorist attacks, yet it felt as though we did. In the aftermath, many of us lit candles, mailed donations, flew our flag, and hugged our children more tightly at night as we tucked them into bed. The heroes of 9/11—members of the New York and Port Authority police departments and the New York City firefighters—quickly replaced the frightening images of the hijackers. From across this country, ordinary people put comfortable lives on hold in order to join the rescue and recovery effort. Later on, thousands of men and women from all walks of life stepped forward, donned our country's uniform and took the fight to those who plotted against America. Terrorists tried to break America apart; instead, their actions brought Americans together.

The September 11th attacks triggered American resilience. We worked hard to return to normal—a new kind of normal. As a Nation, we have made ourselves safer and more vigilant—at airports, on trains, on subways, at ports and in cyberspace. We strengthened intelligence and information sharing, we traced the money and shut down terrorist bank accounts, and we foiled al Qaeda. The U.S. and its allies have hunted down, captured or killed over 600 U.S. targets, including the masterminds of 9/11—Khalid Sheikh Muhammad and Osama bin Laden.

Ultimately, it is America's courage and America's values that defeated the terrorists. As British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in an address to Congress, ''We are so much more powerful in all conventional ways than the terrorists. In the end, it is not our power alone that will defeat this evil. Our ultimate weapon is not our guns, but our beliefs.'' This anniversary is but one marker along the way to building on the dream that is our democratic Nation—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S HARVEST LUNCHEON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, to acknowledge and honor the 50th Anniversary of Modesto Chamber of Commerce's Harvest Luncheon.

The first luncheon dates back to 1956 when a Modesto Junior College Scholarship was generated from a lunch honoring the richness of Stanislaus County's agriculture.

In 1961, the Modesto Chamber of Commerce officially became the sponsor of the Harvest Luncheon;

In 1961, Stanislaus County's agricultural production was $142,031,000;

The luncheon was originally established to showcase local growers and producers and to demonstrate the impact of agriculture in Stanislaus County;

In 1980, Bill Lyons, Sr. offered to donate the beef and ''charge'' for the luncheon to increase the scholarship dollars for Modesto Jr. College students with agricultural related majors;

In 1996, the Harvest Luncheon Scholarship was renamed to honor two giants in Stanislaus County agriculture, Henry Voss, former Secretary and Claire Berryhilll, past Director, of the California Department of Food and Agriculture;

In 2002, Del Monte Foods became a private partnership leader and has since generously donated $10,000 annually to the Modesto Chamber of Commerce Voss/Berryhill Modesto Junior College Ag Scholarship Program, significantly increasing the amount of scholarship dollars awarded;

With the exception of 1961 and 1963 through 1965, 456 students have been awarded in excess of $300,000 in scholarships in the past 50 years;

In 2011, Stanislaus County's agricultural production was $2,572,434,000;

The luncheon is made possible through the generous donations of agribusiness and agricultural producers and processors from throughout Stanislaus County.

The Harvest Lunch/Ag Aware Committee consists of 33 dedicated individuals plus innumerable volunteers who plan for six months and serve in excess of 800 attendees in fifteen minutes.

The tradition of giving thanks for Stanislaus County's bountiful harvest of over 350 agricultural commodities continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. CARDOZA and me in honoring Modesto Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of sponsoring the Harvest Luncheon so scholarships for agriculture related majors can continue to be awarded. The luncheon is a valuable asset to the community and should be celebrated.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR AARON CARSON VAUGHN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Aaron Carson Vaughn who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Petty Officer Vaughn was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Vaughn was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Vaughn is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Vaughn an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Vaughn's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now at the Carrollton Remembrance Service to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us

knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. With the Grace of God we have made great strides since that day, but with much left to be done we ask Him to continue to guide us on the path to national recovery.

H. RES. 391, RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

This Sunday our nation will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. It was a day that changed the way we live and view the world.

It was a difficult time for all of us, but most difficult for the families, friends, relatives and communities who lost loved ones on that day.

In the Boston Public Garden is a memorial to those in Massachusetts and New England who were lost on that day. At the entrance to the memorial is a simple plaque that reads: "September 11, 2001: The people of Massachusetts will always remember our families, our husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, grandchildren, companions, friends and neighbors."

Among the 207 names enshrined in the Public Garden 9/11 Memorial are six from my district in Massachusetts: Lynn Goodchild from Attleboro; Christopher Zarba, Jr., from Hopkinton; Linda George and Robin Kaplan from Westborough; Dianne Snyder from Westport; and Tara Creamer from Worcester.

Today my thoughts and sympathies remain with their families, friends and loved ones. Many had children, some who are scarcely more than a decade old, others who are now teenagers or entering college. Each had vibrant lives and futures. We carry their memory in our hearts and our thoughts.

I would like to insert the names of all the Massachusetts residents who perished on 9/11.

I think about the future we are called upon to create and build in the next decade, before we reach the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. In the days following the attacks, then British Prime Minister Tony Blair called upon the world to use the sense of unity and human sympathy engendered by the attacks to create a "community for good." While referencing the need to help the African nations reach their full potential, he focused on creating a common purpose to help the world's most vulnerable—the hungry, the poor, women and children; those without education, food, water or dignified work.

I often reflect on how well we as Americans and the international community have responded to that challenge. I look at the famine in the Horn of Africa, and I can see where we have reached out to Ethiopians and Kenyans and helped them become stronger and more resilient to the shocks brought on by natural disasters and long-term droughts. These investments have kept millions from falling into famine, but there's still more to do.

Right next door, in Somalia, a nation torn by decades of war and instability, tens of millions are facing famine, hardest hit are the children. We need to do more.

I look next door in my own cities and towns, and I find families struggling to put food on the table, as we look at a period of extended unemployment and attacks against state and federal safety-net programs. We need to do more—and we need to do better.

On the first Sunday following the 9/11 attacks, I was at an ecumenical service in Worcester, Massachusetts. I said then that "as our faith teaches us: Love is stronger than hate."

I still believe that.

I still believe that peace-making—an end to poverty and oppression—is a vital part of any global effort to end terrorism once and for all.

I still believe that respecting the basic rights and dignity of all people is the best expression of who we are as America.

And I still believe that this is the future we must recommit ourselves to creating and becoming a reality.

MASSACHUSETTS VICTIMS OF 9/11

RESIDENTS Victim Name	City/Town	State	Location on 9/11/01
Jeffrey W. Coombs	Abington	MA	AA Flight 11
Philip M. Rosenzweig	Acton	MA	AA Flight 11
Madeline Sweeney	Acton	MA	AA Flight 11
Robert Jay Hayes	Amesbury	MA	AA Flight 11
Mildred Naiman	Andover	MA	AA Flight 11
Betty Ann Ong	Andover	MA	AA Flight 11
Joseph Mathai	Arlington	MA	World Trade Center
Lynn Catherine Goodchild	Attleboro	MA	UA Flight 175
Brian D. Sweeney	Barnstable	MA	UA Flight 175
Charles E. Jones	Bedford	MA	AA Flight 11
Carlos Alberto Montoya	Bellmont	MA	AA Flight 11
Paul Friedman	Belmont	MA	AA Flight 11
Edward (Ted) R. Hennessy Jr.	Belmont	MA	AA Flight 11
Jessica Leigh Sachs	Billerica	MA	AA Flight 11
Graham Andrew Berkeley	Boston	MA	UA Flight 175
Eric Samadikan Hartono	Boston	MA	UA Flight 175
Todd Russell Hill	Boston	MA	World Trade Center
Christopher D. Mello	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Rahma Salie	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Heather Lee Smith	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Michael Theodoridis	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Christine Barbuto	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Kelly Ann Booms	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Karleton D.B. Fyfe	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Daniel C. Lewin	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Maile Rachel Hale	Cambridge	MA	World Trade Center
John Charles Jenkins	Cambridge	MA	AA Flight 11
Myra Joy Aronson	Charlestown	MA	AA Flight 11
Christopher M. Morrison	Charlestown	MA	World Trade Center
Dave Bernard	Chelmsford	MA	World Trade Center
Alexander Milan Filipov	Concord	MA	AA Flight 11
Karen A. Martin	Danvers	MA	AA Flight 11
Deborah Medwig	Dedham	MA	World Trade Center
Sonia Morales Puopolo	Dover	MA	AA Flight 11
John Ogonowski	Dracut	MA	AA Flight 11
Antonio Jesus Montoya Valdes	East Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
James Anthony Trentini	Everett	MA	AA Flight 11
Mary Barbara Trentini	Everett	MA	AA Flight 11
Michael Gregory McGinty	Foxboro	MA	World Trade Center
Judy Larocque	Framingham	MA	AA Flight 11
Laura Lee Morabito	Framingham	MA	AA Flight 11
Christine Lee Hanson	Groton	MA	UA Flight 175
Peter Hanson	Groton	MA	UA Flight 175
Sue Kim Hanson	Groton	MA	UA Flight 175
Jane M. Orth	Haverhill	MA	AA Flight 11
Christopher Rudolph Zarba Jr.	Hopkinton	MA	AA Flight 11

MASSACHUSETTS VICTIMS OF 9/11—Continued

RESIDENTS Victim Name	City/Town	State	Location on 9/11/01
Jesus Sanchez	Hudson	MA	UA Flight 175
Jean Destrehan Roger	Longmeadow	MA	AA Flight 11
Brian Kinney	Lowell	MA	UA Flight 175
Garnet Edward (Ace) Bailey	Lynnfield	MA	UA Flight 175
Raymond J. Rocha	Malden	MA	World Trade Center
Ralph Francis Kershaw	Manchester-by-the-Sea	MA	UA Flight 175
Frederick Rimmele	Marblehead	MA	UA Flight 175
William M. Weems	Marblehead	MA	UA Flight 175
Barbara Jean (Bobbi) Arestegui	Marstons Mills	MA	AA Flight 11
Douglas A. Gowell	Methuen	MA	UA Flight 175
Kenneth E. Waldie	Methuen	MA	AA Flight 11
Herbert W. Homer	Milford	MA	UA Flight 175
Lisa Reinhart Fenn Gordenstein	Needham	MA	AA Flight 11
David E. Retik	Needham	MA	AA Flight 11
Paige Farley-Hackel	Newton	MA	AA Flight 11
John Nicholas Humber Jr.	Newton	MA	AA Flight 11
Richard Barry Ross	Newton	MA	AA Flight 11
Amy E. Toyen	Newton	MA	World Trade Center
John (Jay) Corcoran III	Norwell	MA	UA Flight 175
Donald Americo DiTullio	Peabody	MA	AA Flight 11
Natalie Janis Lasden	Peabody	MA	AA Flight 11
Marianne MacFarlane	Revere	MA	UA Flight 175
Capt. Gerald Francis Deconto	Sandwich	MA	Pentagon
Anna Williams Allison	Stoneham	MA	AA Flight 11
Peter Morgan Goodrich	Sudbury	MA	UA Flight 175
Cora Hidalgo Holland	Sudbury	MA	AA Flight 11
Robert Adrien Jalbert	Swampscott	MA	UA Flight 175
Peter el-Hachem	Tewksbury	MA	AA Flight 11
Peter Alan Gay	Tewksbury	MA	AA Flight 11
Christoffer Mikael Carstanjen	Turner Falls	MA	UA Flight 175
David DiMeglio	Wakefield	MA	AA Flight 11
Jane Louise Simpkin	Wayland	MA	UA Flight 175
John Brett Cahill	Wellesley	MA	UA Flight 175
Neilie Anne Heffernan Casey	Wellesley	MA	AA Flight 11
Edmund Glazer	Wellesley	MA	AA Flight 11
Patrick J. Quigley VI	Wellesley	MA	UA Flight 175
Mark Lawrence Bavis	West Newton	MA	UA Flight 175
Linda M. George	Westboro	MA	AA Flight 11
Robin Kaplan	Westboro	MA	AA Flight 11
James E. Hayden	Westford	MA	UA Flight 175
Susan A. MacKay	Westford	MA	AA Flight 11
Dianne Bulls Snyder	Westport Point	MA	AA Flight 11
Patrick Currivan	Winchester	MA	AA Flight 11
Kathleen Ann Nicosia	Winthrop	MA	AA Flight 11
Tara Kathleen Creamer	Worcester	MA	AA Flight 11

THOUGHTS ON 9/11 REMEMBRANCE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. I would like to take a moment to recognize Florida International University's series of events in remembrance of 9/11 and share my thoughts on the events that unraveled that fateful September morning.

It has been 10 years since the horror of 9/11, a day that will be forever ingrained in our memories. On that day, America came face to face with an evil the likes of which our shores had never before witnessed. This unconscionable terrorist attack—this barbaric and cowardly act of 19 men—declared war not only on America, but on freedom itself. Nearly 3,000 innocent victims—of all races, religions and ethnicities—lost their lives that morning. Millions more suffered in anguish as the news of the events quickly unfolded on our television sets and radios worldwide.

We were left asking the questions: Why and who? Why would anyone purposefully and mercilessly attack innocent civilians? Who could be so nefarious? In the succeeding years, we received the answers to our questions. We have identified our enemy and we have brought many of them to justice. Though our enemy has been weakened, we must remain steadfast in our resolve and vigilance to ensure that an attack like this will never again be brought upon our citizens. This is the debt we owe to those who perished on September 11th and to all of their loved ones.

For many of us, the memories of that day remain vivid—and wounds remain fresh—yet we gather here today to pay tribute not only to those innocent victims who lost their lives, but to those who gave their lives so that others may live. We gather here to remind the world of the courage and strength of our citizens. We gather here, united, to remind our enemies that our resolve will not waver; our spirit will never diminish. We gather today to honor the memories of every man and woman lost, and to give them our solemn promise that we will never forget; we will never rest until their lasting memorial is a world of peaceful coexistence.

9/11 PATRIOT DAY MEMORIAL CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now, on Patriot Day, to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, ''America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.'' They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. May we be strengthened through the Grace of God as the Coppell firefighters remind us how Americans have always moved forward from national tragedy—together, with our local, state, and national communities, our heads raised high.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR JASON RAY WORKMAN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Jason Ray Workman who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Workman was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Workman was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Workman is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Workman an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Workman's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11, WE WILL NEVER FORGET

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, every American old enough to remember September 11th, 2001 will never forget where they were when the Twin Towers fell. Ten years have passed since the most devastating attack America has ever sustained, yet the events of that terrible day defy the very nature of time and history. As a nation, they will always be with us.

They will be with us in the stories of the Twin Towers, where firefighters and office workers alike knowingly gave their own lives so others might live. Of the passengers on Flight 93 who faced certain death with steely courage and foiled the attack on the Capitol. Of the first responders who jeopardized their own physical and mental health to rescue those who could be rescued, and recover the final remains of those who could not. Of the brave men and women who volunteered to serve our nation in its hour of need, and the families that have sacrificed along with them.

These stories must be the legacy of September 11th, told in stone and steel in memorials across this great Nation and in so many Long Island communities. I will be honored to attend remembrances in our area in the coming days where Americans of all ages, and all religious and ethnic heritages, join together to commemorate what drew us together in the aftermath of September 11th and what binds us still.

Mr. Speaker, may the passage of time continue to heal the wounds of that painful day, but may we remember that our nation's darkest hour also stands among our finest.

9/11, We Will Never Forget.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Ten years ago, our nation experienced unimaginable tragedy when terrorists turned airplanes into weapons and killed thousands of Americans. Although a decade has passed since that horrible day, the wounds of September 11, 2001, are still fresh. We continue to grieve for the men and women who were killed in those brutal attacks. They are not forgotten, and our sincerest sympathies remain with their families and friends.

As Americans, that day has become a critical moment in our shared history. We all remember what we were doing on September 11, 2001; how our own lives paused in the face of national tragedy.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we also pay tribute to the brave public servants—firefighters, policemen, EMTs, and volunteers, who rushed to the scene of destruction that day, many of whom lost their own lives in their efforts to help others. Men and women who, instead of fleeing the danger, ran into the flaming buildings in hopes of aiding survivors. In the days and weeks that followed, men and women came from the Chicago area and other cities and towns across the country to assist in the recovery efforts. These courageous men and women, together with the countless more who have since worked to keep our nation safe, deserve our deepest gratitude.

They also deserve our support. Last December, I was proud to vote in favor of legislation to cover the cost of medical care for the thousands of 9/11 first responders and others who became sick from breathing in toxic fumes, dust, and smoke after their heroic rescue work. This July, the World Trade Center Health Program began providing full medical screening and treatment benefits to eligible World Trade Center responders, recovery and cleanup workers, building occupants, and residents who were directly impacted and adversely affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

And this year, we remember those who were killed that day with the knowledge that Osama bin Laden will never again be able to threaten American families with terror, thanks to the brave leadership of President Obama, the careful work of our intelligence community, and the extraordinary courage of a team of Navy Seals. We can celebrate that in the past decade, al Qaeda has been repeatedly thwarted in its attempts to perpetrate another 9/11-style attack on our American homeland. And while we remain vigilant in the face of ongoing global threats, we cannot and will not live our lives in fear.

In the hours and days that followed the horrific attacks, Americans from all different backgrounds came together in a remarkable display of unity in the face of unspeakable violence and hatred. In my own community of Chicago, hundreds of people of all faiths—Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, and Sikh—came together to walk down Devon Avenue. We stood shoulder to shoulder during this difficult time, to remember those who died and to pay tribute to the American values of freedom, equality, and tolerance. We stood together in solidarity, and stated that as a community that we would not allow terrorist attacks to turn us against each other.

Ten years later, we should aspire to rekindle this spirit of unity as Americans. Today, we come together to remember those who were killed, thank those who have served our communities and our nation, and celebrate the resilience of the American spirit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 692, I missed rollcall 692 on September 7, 2011, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING LEE ROY SELMON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a Tampa Bay sports and community legend: Lee Roy Selmon. Not only was he a fundamental figure in the sports arena, but he was also a man of exemplary character.

Mr. Selmon began his extraordinary football career at the University of Oklahoma where he was cited as the best player in the university's history, helping the team win two National Championships. When he launched into his professional football career, not only was he chosen first in the 1976 draft, but he was also the first ever draft pick by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The team had clearly chosen wisely. During his tenure with the Buccaneers, he was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year, selected for the Pro Bowl six times consecutively, and helped them to two NFC Championship games. In 1995, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Though his pro football career ended after the 1984 season, he was instrumental in the founding and development of the University of South Florida's football team. He began his work at USF as the associate athletic director in 1993 and the athletic director in 2001. I am honored to have a USF football helmet signed by Mr. Selmon displayed in my Congressional office. He guided the team from its inception, based out of a trailer on campus, to a fighting force in the Big East.

Many of those who knew him well commented about his gentle demeanor, his modest nature, and his engaging smile. Not only was he a legend in his work, but he also left a lasting impression on the hearts of those he encountered.

Though he was taken much too soon, his legacy both on and off the field will not be forgotten. Lee Roy Selmon's name will remain memorialized in the Tampa Bay Community, spanning the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway and his restaurant chain, but more importantly we can find solace that the person behind the name will remain a guiding influence in the Tampa Bay community.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR KEVIN ARTHUR HOUSTON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Kevin Arthur Houston who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Houston was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Houston was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, two Purple Heart Medals, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Houston is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Chief Houston an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Houston's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

HONORING JERE MELO OF FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life, civic accomplishments and exemplary public service of Jere Melo, city council member and former mayor of the City of Fort Bragg on the Mendocino Coast. Jere Melo, 69, a personal friend of mine who was tragically murdered on August 27, 2011, leaves a bigger than life swath throughout this beautiful coastal town.

Born and raised in Mount Shasta in northwestern California, Jere Melo received a degree in forestry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1964. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served in South Korea and completed six years as a commander in the Army Reserves. In 1966 he moved to Fort Bragg where he worked in the local lumber mill. A much admired and loved father, brother, uncle, and devoted husband, Jere was married to the love of his life, Madeleine, for twenty-four years.

Jere Melo is known for using his personable skills to get things done in a cooperative way while all the while pursuing renewable methods to keep jobs in the forests. With his affable nature, ready smile and indefatigable energy, Jere Melo was a gentle giant of a man who used multiple approaches to listening to all sides and resolving problems, thus gaining the respect of many facets of the community.

Jere was the mayor of Fort Bragg from 2000 until 2004 and on the city council for the past 15 years. In addition he has served on the Planning Commission, the Public Safety Committee, the Fire Protection Agency, the League of California Cities and was a leader of the Coastal Cities Issues Group.

For many years, Jere, known as the ''grill master'' coordinated the cooks for the World's Largest Salmon Barbecue, a benefit for salmon restoration. In 2002, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Redwood Region Logging Conference for his decades of work in and on behalf of the timber industry.

Among his crowning achievements was spearheading the fundraising for the new Timberwolf High School stadium. He was an instrumental and valuable supporter of the Fort Bragg Fire Department. And he delighted animal lovers with his support and work for the local dog park and the animal shelter.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Jere Melo has earned the admiration and respect of his peers, his community and his family. A gentleman, a forester, a facilitator and someone who easily worked with differing viewpoints, Jere embodied what every citizen wishes from a political representative. He was a friend and colleague whose legacy and contributions are long lasting not only in Fort Bragg but throughout the Northern California coast and timber country. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor an extraordinary citizen, Jere Melo.

IRENA AND MIKE MEDAVOY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friends, Irena and Mike Medavoy, who are being honored with the prestigious Humanitarian Torch of Learning Award by The American Friends of the Hebrew University. Their commitment to philanthropic and humanitarian causes has been of great benefit to children, Israel, and the global Jewish community, and they are well deserving of this recognition.

I know firsthand of the outstanding contributions that Irena and Mike have made in our community. Irena is the Executive Vice-Chair of Cedars-Sinai Hospital's C.O.A.C.H. program, and dedicates her time to a clinic on wheels that provides free primary health care services for low-income children and their families. She is also the founder of ''Team Safe-T,'' an emergency preparedness program for California's public school system, which teaches age-appropriate emergency information and preparedness skills for students in grades K–12.

Mike, as chairman and co-Founder of Phoenix Pictures, has helped create and produce numerous films, including recent blockbusters, Shutter Island and Black Swan. He dedicates much of his time to policy issues and is currently a member of both the Council on Foreign Relations and the Homeland Security Advisory Council. He also serves on the advisory board of the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy. He has authored the bestselling book ''You're Only As Good As Your Next One [. . .]'' and with co-author Nathan Gardels, he wrote a thoughtful assessment on the impact of the media on U.S. foreign policy, ''American Idol After Iraq: Competing for Hearts and Minds in the Global Media Age.'' Mike has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the Lifetime Achievement Award (1998) at the Cannes Film Festival, Chevalier of the French Government's Legion of Honor, the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and Producers Guild of America Vision Award. He was also inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame and received a star on Hollywood Boulevard. His intellectual curiosity and sophisticated analysis of current events and history has made him a valued advisor to me on issues I grapple with on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Medavoys have given generously of their time and energy to political, humanitarian and philanthropic causes in Los Angeles. Through their tireless work with many charities and non-governmental organizations, the Medavoys have made an indelible mark on our worldwide community. Irena and Mike are among the most dedicated and valuable leaders in our society.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Irena and Mike Medavoy for their many contributions and to congratulate them on receiving this honor from the American Friends of The Hebrew University.

9/11 MUSICAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others.

It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, ''America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.'' They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity, as embodied in the partnership between Colleyville's public servants and Heritage High School in putting on this event.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our Nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR MATTHEW DAVID MASON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Matthew David Mason who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mason was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mason was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mason is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Chief Mason enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mason's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SHELLEY ROBERTS' DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE AND GREATER SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shelley Roberts, President and CEO of the Community House in Birmingham, Michigan, as she is honored with the Community House's 2011 Community Service Award.

Ms. Roberts has had a long and illustrious career which has spanned both the public and private sectors. For many years prior to her career in the non-profit public sector, Ms. Roberts was employed as an attorney with Dickinson Wright, beginning as an associate and after much hard work, became an equity partner. After her time with the firm, Ms. Roberts went on to work in development for Orchards Children's Services and the Jewish Federation of Detroit, before joining the Community House in 1998.

Ms. Roberts' support of the Community House and its mission extends to well before she joined as its CEO thirteen years ago. Prior to that, she served on its board, undertaking many different responsibilities during her tenure, such as serving as President between 1988 and 1990, where she oversaw the renovation of the Community House and as chair of its Community Advisory and Child Care Advisory Boards.

Under Ms. Roberts' leadership the Community House has been recognized by many community stakeholders for the work it has done to develop cross-cultural dialogue and foster a healthy, productive community. As President and CEO, Ms. Roberts has continued to emphasize the Community House's Race Relations Diversity Task Force and 21st Century Leaders program; both are designed to foster cross-cultural dialogue. She has continued to strengthen its scholarship programs which provide students with the ability to further their arts education. Among the awards Community House has received are New Detroit's Closing the Gap Award and the South Oakland NAACP's Outstanding Community Award for the Community House's support of multicultural programs which have furthered interracial dialogue and understanding. Additionally, the Community House has been recognized as one of the ''101 Best Places to Work'' by Metropolitan Detroit.

While serving in her professional role with the Community House, Ms. Roberts has continued to be an active volunteer leader in the community, investing considerable energy and time into supporting other community agencies and groups. During her volunteer service, Ms. Roberts has served on the boards of the Alzheimer's Association, Common Ground and Planned Parenthood. As an active member of her immediate community, Ms. Roberts also served as President of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Roberts' most current volunteer endeavors include work as a member of the boards of Children's Home, Big D and YouthVille in Detroit, as well as several organizations involving New Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Ms. Roberts is being honored so publicly by the Community House for her many decades of volunteer service, not just to the Community House, but for her work with many organizations across Southeast Michigan. Ms. Roberts' decades of work have undoubtedly impacted the lives of so many across the Southeast Michigan region and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

TEN YEARS AFTER: REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week our nation paused to mark the 10th anniversary of al Qaeda's attack on America. When we remember September 11th, we remember our fear, our shock, our disbelief, our grief. We remember images we wish we could forget. We remember loved ones we wish we could visit just once more. We remember how those who lost a family member channeled their grief and anger into a positive force for change.

In retrospect, we know our fears and our reaction to them were exaggerated. We allowed ourselves to become more suspicious and distrustful, more militant, more divided. And yet September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest.

I remember Todd Beamer of Cranbury, who, along with the other passengers on Flight 93, gave his life to prevent another airplane being used as a weapon against the Capitol or the White House. I also remember ''the Jersey Girls''—Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lorie Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg—who along with other family members successfully fought to have the 9/11 Commission created. These men and women of 9/11—those who died and those who guard their legacy—remind us all what is great and good about our Nation and its people.

Yet I feel hopeful. September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest. Strangers guided strangers away from the collapsing towers. Across the country, lines stretched around the block of men and women waiting to give blood. For at least a moment, we saw our conflicts and rivalries as what they truly are: small and earnest differences among the brothers and sisters of the American family.

Tragedy has a way of bringing people closer together. It doesn't minimize our differences; it magnifies everything we have in common.

I am hopeful today because I believe that, in spite of all the challenges we face, we still have so much in common. We still remain capable of such great things. As we remember our grief, I hope we also remember our unity—and realize that we are bound together as tightly today as we were a decade ago.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JARED WILLIAM DAY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Information Systems Technician Petty Officer First Class Jared William Day who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Day was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Day was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Navy Good Conduct Medals, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal unit decorations.

Petty Officer Jared Day is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Day an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Day's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

SUPPORT OF H. RES. 391, A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the tenth anniversary of one of the darkest days in American history, I would like to use my time to remember those we've lost, reflect on the lessons we've learned, and consider what we can do as a nation to ensure that an attack of this magnitude never occurs on American soil again.

Mr. Speaker, as America helplessly watched the terrifying images of thick clouds of grey smoke rising from the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, emotions of shock, anger, fear, and tremendous sadness washed over the body politic. Never having experienced an attack of this magnitude on American soil before, the events which unfolded on 9/11 engendered a profound shift in the way we conceptualize national security and left an indelible impact on the psyche of every American citizen. This was a day that would have a profound impact on the way every American lives, and would shift a large amount of our country's focus and resources toward a new challenge: the Global War on Terror.

In the days after the 9/11 attacks, we were introduced to a man named Osama bin Laden and the organization he led, al-Qaeda. These previously esoteric monikers became ubiquitous terms synonymous with hate, terror, and anger. Yet, despite the dastardly events that unfolded on that day ten years ago, tales of selfless acts of heroism and tremendous bravery in the face of evil—indicative of the American spirit—made us proud and provided a ray of hope in the fog of uncertainty.

Ten years later, it is important to reflect on the lessons we learned from those brave men, women and children who were unjustly taken from us that day. My heart still aches for all 2,819 people we lost in the attacks, including the 343 firefighters and paramedics, 60 police officers, and those on board United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. We remember the bravery of the PDNY and NYPD first responders who courageously ran up the World Trade Center towers, while thousands of others rapidly evacuated. We also remember the remarkable story of those on United 93 who attempted to regain control of the cockpit after their flight had been hijacked by a group of terrorists that pointed the aircraft in the direction of the building where I currently stand.

I would also like to remember those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives. My heart goes out to the 3,051 children who lost a parent, and to the spouses, parents and relatives of the victims. Just as we promised shortly after the attacks, we will never forget.

In the days and months following 9/11, we saw the true strength of the American people. It was during these times that people were able to momentarily suspend all political, regional, ethnic, and economic divisions to mourn and seek hope in one another. We healed as a Nation; we grew as a Nation. The petty differences that we so often magnify in our society were put aside and we focused on what we had to do to keep our country moving forward in the face of such adversity.

In the decade since 9/11—thanks to American vigilance, resilience, and resolve—al-Qaeda has been unsuccessful in carrying-out another attack on our Nation's soil. Several plots by would-be terrorists trained by al-Qaeda have been foiled by our Nation's intelligence agencies and local law enforcement, including a 2009 plot to bomb New York City's subway and a 2010 plot to place explosive devices on cargo planes entering the U.S.

Our military campaign in Afghanistan successfully overthrew the tyrannical Taliban and significantly hampered the power and mobility of al-Qaeda and its sympathizers. After years of dedicated service by the brave men and women who put country above self in our armed forces, America is safer and Afghanistan is now a fledgling democratic society. However, these accomplishments came with a price. Since 2011, the U.S. has spent over $1.2 trillion on Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also paid for these wars with the lives of 6,026 of our bravest young men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. In my district, we suffered the loss of 12 remarkable servicemen. We remember Long Beach residents: Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano; Sgt. 1st Class Randy D. Collins; Sgt. Anthony J. Davis, Jr.; Sgt. Israel Garcia; Pvt. Ernesto R. Guerra; Pfc. Lyndon A. Marcus, Jr.; Spec. Roberto L. Martinez Salazar; Spec. Astor A. Sunsin-Pineda; Pfc. David T. Toomalatai; Pfc. George D. Torres; and Staff Sgt. Joshua Whitaker, as well as Carson resident Pfc. Daniel P. Cagle of Carson who were all killed in action.

As the troops in the battlefields of Afghanistan begin their withdrawal, we are reminded of the reasons why we entered the war in the first place: to exact justice on those responsible for the attacks on 9/11 and to eliminate their sympathizers' ability to conduct a similar attack in the future. In those two regards, I would argue that we have been extraordinarily successful. Perhaps the most consequential victory of the War on Terror came earlier this year when Osama bin Laden's life was finally ended by a group of Navy SEALs who deftly carried-out a covert operation at bin Laden's secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. I am extremely thankful for President Obama and his Administration's firm leadership in the effort to bring bin Laden to justice. The sense of victory experienced by Americans after the death of Osama bin Laden was so powerful that it seemed to carry us into a new chapter of the War on Terror, one less concerned with fighting the enemy overseas and one more concerned with protecting our citizens at home.

Therefore, I believe that now is the appropriate time to begin a significant withdrawal of troops from war zones in Afghanistan and other parts of the Arab world. Committing millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars to nation building abroad at a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and struggling represents a fundamental misallocation of resources. While keeping the American people safe should always be our top priority, more resources need to be focused protecting our homeland and educating, training and employing the beleaguered American workforce.

We have come a long way in the past 10 years, and we should be proud of the progress we've made as a nation adapting to a post–9/11 world. However, we still have a long way to go to ensure that an attack similar to those on 9/11 never happen in the U.S. again. As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, I am keenly aware of the improvements that need to be made in order to keep the American people safe. For example, I represent a district that is home to the largest port complex in the nation. Each year, over 350,000 containers of cargo pass through the Port Los Angeles alone. These large shipping containers provide would-be terrorists with an excellent way to get hazardous materials into the country. That is why I am a strong proponent of working toward the implementation of a 100% container check rule on ports around the nation. This will ensure that cargo entering the U.S. is safe and will provide peace of mind to millions of Americans who reside near our Nation's ports.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that despite some questionable decision making during the previous administration, our country is stronger and safer than ever before. Although we still have a long way to go, the progress we've made in the last decade to secure our homeland from attack by unconventional forces should make everyone proud. Again, my heart goes out to the families of those who were lost during the attacks and to those who lost their lives fighting the perpetrators of those tragic events. While our country

must never stop moving forward, we must also never forget. The victims of 9/11 are not forgotten.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JOHN DOUANGDARA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master-At-Arms Petty Officer First Class John Douangdara who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Douangdara was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Douangdara was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Douangdara is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Petty Officer Douangdara an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Douangdara's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY & MEMORIAL READINGS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families as we read from those who saw and studied what happened during and after the attacks. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, and together we will make more as Irving and her communities work together to support their American brothers and sisters.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR STEPHEN MATTHEW MILLS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Stephen Matthew Mills who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mills was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mills was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mills is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Mills an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mills' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11: FROM A DAY OF TRAGEDY TO A TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, like every American, I will never forget where I was on the morning of September 11, 2001. As a Member of Congress from Indiana, that day my duties took me to Capitol Hill and to sights and sounds I will never forget.

I witnessed the U.S. Capitol literally hemorrhaging with people running in every direction. I heard the deafening sounds of sirens all around and thunderous booms of military aircraft going supersonic at low altitude. And I saw the columns of mud-brown smoke billowing out of the Pentagon just across the Potomac River.

As the world watched the towers fall in New York City, I witnessed the aftermath of the first attack on our nation's capital since the War of 1812. It was a day when evil triumphed over good and the cunning plans of the enemies of freedom had their moment. They thought they had unleashed violence sufficient to cow a great nation but they were wrong.

What our enemies intended for harm gave birth to a season of national unity and a new generation of heroes. The unity and call to service appeared almost instantly.

At a time of great national division, it is hard to imagine today what Washington DC was like in the hours, weeks and months following September 11th, but the unity of that day did happen. I was there. I saw it.

In the swirl of events that morning, I knew that Congress would need to convene to provide the authority and resources for our national response. As Capitol Hill police officers urged me to leave the grounds, I asked where I could report for duty and was escorted to the office of the Chief of the Capitol Police where the combined leadership of the House and the Senate in both parties was huddled watching the events unfold on several television screens.

When I arrived in the room, the congressional leaders were standing apart, divided by party and by institutions, but as that fateful morning wore on, things changed. Faced with a merciless attack on our nation, the politics of the room dissolved. There were no Republicans in that room, there were no Democrats in that room, just Americans.

I watched as leaders set aside every divisive issue before the Congress and made plans to move resources and programs designed to meet the moment with bipartisan resolve. And that unity would animate the work of the Congress for months following the attack.

But the true legacy of 9–11 cannot be found among political leaders of the day, but in the citizen soldiers and public safety personnel who answered that day with courage and selflessness.

To the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who answered that day with resolve, who did what needed to be done without regard to their own safety, we owe our deepest gratitude. I have prayed with the families and wept at the funerals of Hoosiers who did not shrink from 9–11 but grew into heroes whose names will forever be engraved in the heart of a

grateful nation. To our police, fire and public safety personnel who ran in when others ran out, who braved the flames, who followed the leads and who took such actions as were necessary to bring us a decade free of another terrorist event on American soil belongs the credit for this day. This anniversary belongs to the fallen, their families and to all those whose diligence and tenacity brought safety to our families and justice to our enemies.

A common enemy forged common ground and a new generation of American heroes. Today, we rightly pause to remember those who fell on 9–11 and every day since in the War on Terror. But we also pause to celebrate those Americans who, by their service and sacrifice, have made this day of tragedy into a triumph of freedom.

9/11 COMMEMORATION AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at the Southlake Baptist Church to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended. It is on their behalf that today we honor Police Corporal Randy Thomas and Paramedic Paul Cook.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, ''America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.'' They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. With God's Grace America will continue to move forward, never forgetting the tragedy of 9/11 but also never forgetting the strength our fellow country men and women showed in our time of need.

ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 391 and to honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent Americans who lost their lives 10 years ago, in the attacks on September 11th, 2001. Together, as a nation, we grieved with the families and friends who lost loved ones. Then, together, we began to look forward.

Having had more than 150 constituents and friends murdered by al-Qaeda, I have spent much of the past 10 years with family members of the 9/11 victims. These family members do not need a decade or quarter-century mark to remember their loved ones. For them, each of the 3,652 passing days has been a day of remembrance.

Since that day we have made great progress in securing the Homeland. We created the Department of Homeland Security, and established a Director of National Intelligence to better coordinate the Intelligence Community and facilitate information sharing. Today we are safer.

There is still more that can, and should, be done. Ten years after 9/11 Congress has yet to follow through on some recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, including the call for consolidation of congressional jurisdiction of our homeland security efforts and the allocation of sufficient spectrum for the interoperable communications needs of our first responders.

Killing Osama bin Laden was a tremendous victory for us and all who oppose terrorism. Al Qaeda Central has been damaged, but the organization and its affiliates are as dedicated as they have been. They are working to radicalize and recruit individuals within our own country.

While we may be safer today than we were 10 years ago, we are still in great danger. Al-Qaeda has not given up. It has adapted; its affiliates have grown; it actively recruits from within our own country; and it continues to be an active enemy.

We must not allow ourselves to grow complacent. Although not on the same scale, we have been attacked since 9/11, with many plots thwarted by excellent law enforcement and intelligence work.

We must not forget the lessons we have learned. We must acknowledge how far we've come, but we must not forget that we still have far to go before al-Qaeda and its affiliates are defeated and our Homeland is once again safe from this enemy.

We must never forget what happened on 9/11. As we honor the lives of the victims and stand with their families, we also give our gratitude to the first responders who rushed to the rescue and to the men and women of our military and Intelligence Community who risked and, in many cases, gave their lives to keep America safe. In tribute to them, we must pledge to continue to do all that we possibly can to ensure that similar attacks are never replicated.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SCHERERVILLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville, Indiana as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The congregation, along with Parish Priest, Very Reverend Dobrivoje, and Parish President, Mr. Ray Vukas, will be celebrating this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville is a sister church of Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago, Indiana. The parish was established on October 30, 1911, when a small group of immigrants from Serbia joined together with the goal of preserving Serbian culture and religious tradition. That same year, they obtained the services of a full-time priest and elected their first executive board. The dedication ceremony took place on Saint George's Day, May 6, 1912. Many of the Serbian families sacrificed and gave of their time to assist in building this tremendous place of worship. The church continued to grow, and in the 1920's, a small hall and the parish house were built on the church property. In 1949, construction began on a new banquet hall/social center which was completed a year later. Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church became the second Serbian Church in Indiana following the church built in South Bend.

During its existence, Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church experienced many changes as its membership grew. These changes were not only physical changes to the church itself but also a religious schism within the Serbian Orthodox church that affected its followers. In 1963, a decision from Belgrade regarding the church structure resulted in years of turmoil that divided Serbian Americans and the Serbian Orthodox Church into two groups. By 1970, some of the parishioners who chose to remain under the mother church in Belgrade, Serbia purchased property in Schererville, Indiana for a new church to be built. Within one year, a hall was completed, and by 1980, the new church and parish home were finished. In 1992, the church reunified and what remained from the division were many churches throughout the area spreading Serbian Orthodoxy. The church in Schererville continued to grow, building a hall, a new church, a parish home and a new banquet hall in Schererville.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service, especially to those in need. Over the years, the church has come to the aid of Serbian immigrants by providing food, shelter and assistance in finding employment. The church auxiliary group, Circle of Serbian Sisters, along with three other Circles of Serbian Sisters in Northwest Indiana, hold an annual fundraiser

called Mothers Against Hunger. This event raises tens of thousands of dollars for Serbian orphans in the former Yugoslavia. The St. George parish also supports donations to other charitable organizations such as the Carmelite Home in East Chicago. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville, Indiana on its 100th Anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of Saint George have dedicated themselves to preserving Serbian heritage, tradition, and spiritual beliefs. For their commitment to serving so many in need, the church leaders and congregation are to be admired and are worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO BENZEL'S BAKERY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Benzel's Bakery of Altoona, PA. This year, Benzel's is celebrating its 100th year in business. In 1911, Adolph Benzel came to America with a recipe and a dream to make pretzels. The company started off as a one-man operation, everything done by hand. Today this family business is one of the top pretzel producers in the country. Benzel's employs 70 full time workers and makes 35 varieties of pretzels under the brand name Pennysticks Pretzels. The company gives back to the community. They have established a fund with the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation in honor of Adolph Benzel. The company has also donated $150,000 for a renovation project at a local theatre. I extend my congratulations to Benzel's Bretzel Bakery and expect another hundred years from this great family business.

COMMENDING DEAN JANEWAY, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF WAKEFERN FOOD CORPORATION OF WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dean Janeway, President and Chief Operating Officer of Wakefern Food Corporation. Mr. Janeway is retiring after nearly five decades of service.

Wakefern Food Corporation, headquartered in Woodbridge, New Jersey, is the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the United States. Members of this cooperative operate supermarkets under the "Shop-Rite" banner throughout the Northeast, including several locations in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

Mr. Janeway joined Wakefern in the 1960s as a junior accountant and eventually worked his way to Executive Vice President. He was later named Wakefern's President and Chief Operating Officer in 1995. Under his tenure, Wakefern significantly expanded the corporation serving more localities and employing more people.

Mr. Janeway has been dedicated to giving back to the community. During his tenure, he has directed more than $24 million in donations to regional food banks. Wakefern has also championed numerous local charities in support of medical research and treatment, fighting hunger, and educating young adults. Mr. Janeway has also been honored by the Special Olympics of New Jersey and the Archdiocese of Newark for his support of charitable causes.

I congratulate Mr. Janeway on his tenure with Wakefern Food Corporation and I commend him for his achievements throughout the years.

ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, last year this House dedicated the second week of September as "National Arts in Education Week." As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I was proud to co-sponsor the resolution at the time and my belief in the importance of arts education and a robust arts scene for artists and innovators is as strong as ever.

House Resolution 275—introduced by Rep. JACKIE SPEIER—states, in part: "Arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students."

In the Eighth District of Washington—the District I represent in this House—the community is blessed with teachers, mentors, and parents adamant that young people have an opportunity to participate in the arts. It is a joy for me to host an annual Congressional Arts Competition and view the paintings, photographs, sketches, and sculptures students create. I receive support on picking winners in the contest from members of local school boards, parents, teachers, and interested community members. The Competition culminates in an evening of celebration for the young artists and the smiles and pride on the faces of parents, grandparents, friends, and students light up whatever room the celebration takes place.

Professional and amateur arts exist in my District as well. Even during a historically difficult economic time such as this, support for the arts is robust. The support is present because people understand what arts and artists provide: a unique, illuminating, and important perspective on life.

My hope is that this country and this House never lose its belief in the arts. My hope is that we all continue to view arts education and support for the arts as an indispensable part of our culture and the education of our young people. I'm happy in the knowledge that House Resolution 275 dedicates a week to supporting arts in education and I hope this House joins me in spotlighting the arts in the individual districts of the United States.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF EAST CHICAGO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The congregation, along with Parish Priest, Reverend Aleksandar Savic, and Parish President, Mr. Svetko Balach, will be celebrating this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church of East Chicago, Indiana was established on October 30, 1911, when a small group of immigrants from Serbia joined together with the goal of preserving Serbian culture and religious tradition. That same year, they obtained the services of a full time priest, elected their first executive board, and began construction of their church. The church dedication ceremony took place on Saint George's Day, May 6, 1912. Many of the Serbian families sacrificed and gave of their time to assist in building this tremendous place of worship. The church continued to grow and in the 1920s a small hall and the parish house were built on the church property. In 1949, construction began on a new banquet hall/social center which was completed a year later. Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church became the second Serbian church in Indiana following the church built in South Bend; and is the fourth oldest original Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States in which services continue to be held.

During its existence, Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church Parish experienced many changes as its membership grew. These changes were not only physical changes within the parish itself but also a religious schism within the Serbian Orthodox Church that affected its followers. In 1963, a decision from Belgrade regarding the church structure resulted in years of turmoil that divided Serbian Americans and the Serbian Orthodox Church into two groups. Some members of the church in East Chicago left and went on to build a new church in Northwest Indiana. In 1992, the church reunified and what remained from the division were many churches throughout the area spreading Serbian Orthodoxy. Today the Serbian Orthodox Church remains one of the greatest assets for East Chicago.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service, especially to those in need. Over the years, the church has come to the aid of Serbian immigrants by providing food, shelter and assistance in finding employment. The church auxiliary group, Circle of Serbian Sisters, along with three other Serbian parishes in Northwest Indiana holds an annual fundraiser called Mothers Against Hunger. This event raises tens of thousands of dollars for Serbian orphans in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring

and congratulating the Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church of East Chicago, Indiana on its 100th Anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of Saint George have dedicated themselves to preserving Serbian heritage, tradition, and spiritual beliefs. For their commitment to serving so many in need, the church leaders and congregation are to be admired and are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDGE J.C. McLIN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a just and wise servant of the people, an even-handed and merciful adjudicator of the law, and a humble and decent man, Judge J.C. McLin. He lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Sunday, September 4, 2011. Judge McLin was born in Trenton, Tennessee to Reverend Henry McLin and Louise Doaks McLin. After graduating from Rosenwald High School, he attended and graduated from Lane College. He received a master's degree in Education from University of Tennessee at Martin and a law degree from University of Tennessee College of Law. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1975.

Judge McLin's selfless commitment to our community has made a lasting impact on the lives he touched. After working as an attorney for 25 years, including nine years in private practice, 19 years as a prosecutor and a staff attorney at Memphis Area Legal Services, he was elected to the Shelby County Criminal Court in 2000 where he presided as a judge. In 2004, he was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, only the second African American to hold a seat on that bench. Judge McLin was noted for his gracious, calm and efficient approach to work. He was also regarded as a fair and hard working judge who served on the bench with great dignity and integrity.

Judge McLin was a faithful member of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as an associate minister. He supported the work of local organizer Stevie Moore to fight youth violence and he founded the Information, Assistance, and Monitoring program which gives criminal offenders a chance to rehabilitate themselves. He served on the board of the Memphis Second Chance Program which aims to help ex-offenders find a job. He leaves behind a legacy of service and faith that will continue to resonate in the Memphis community for many years to come.

Judge McLin was 64 years of age. He is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Mollie Jenkins McLin; his sons, Jason and Thebe; his daughter, Monette; his mother, Louise; two sisters, Shirley Drake and Patsy Smith; and a wealth of other family, friends and colleagues who will cherish his memory. His was a life well-lived.

STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY FROM JOHN BURTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker. I commend to my colleagues' attention the following statement on the debate over Social Security from John Burton, our former colleague here in the House, the former president of the California State Senate, and the current chair of the California Democratic Party. John has a long and distinguished career in standing up for the economic interests of the middle class and the long-term strength of the American economy.

NO SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS ON THE TABLE

(By John Burton)

Chair, California Democratic Party
Member of Congress 1975–1982
California State Assemblyman 1998–1994
California State Senate President 1998–2004

There has been a lot of pressure from Republicans, the Chamber of Commerce, and newspaper editorials to put everything on the table, including Social Security, in order to deal with the federal deficit. That is a load of baloney.

No way in the world should Social Security be put on the table to deal with the deficit. One thing should be abundantly clear—Social Security has nothing to do with the current budget deficit or any budget deficit for that matter. It is a self-funding program that pays for itself. The program has actually lent the government money by purchasing U.S. Treasury notes and bonds.

Furthermore, Social Security, as a separate trust fund, was never included in the U.S. budget until President Lyndon Johnson decided to include it to demonstrate that domestic spending had increased even though our military spending went up during the Vietnam War.

The social security system is in sound fiscal shape. It has a surplus that will be present until 2037. There is a great deal of fuss about the fact that benefits paid out of the program would exceed the Social Security tax revenue and the fund has to be tapped to make the difference. That is exactly how the social security trust fund is supposed to work. That's why Congress created it. The bonds in the trust fund earn interest. Therefore the total value of the fund will continue to grow after that day. If nothing else changes, the total payout benefit will not exceed tax revenue plus interest on the bonds until 2024.

Some claim that the trust fund has constantly been looted. Now it is little more than a pile of worthless paper. They are not telling the truth. That paper is in fact a pile of U.S. Treasury bonds, even now considered to be the safest investment in the world. Under the law, the federal government is obligated to pay the bonds held by the trust fund, just as it has to pay interests on other government bonds. The thought that the government would default on its bonds owed to the social security trust fund is a pipe dream.

If there are perceived future problems with the Social Security system, that is a separate issue unrelated to the ''deficit crisis'' and could be solved in an orderly manner. A point of fact is that if the government pays what it owes the fund, it will be solvent for another 26 years.

If the Social Security issue is ''to be dealt with,'' the easy solution is to raise the payroll tax ceiling, which is now around $107,000. When the ceiling was set, it was assumed that payroll tax would cover 90% of all wages. When the ceiling was set in 1983, the top 1% of Americans received 11.6% of total income. Today that 1% takes in more than 20% of the total income. If the formula pushes it back up to 90% of all wages envisioned in the 1983 legislation, the ceiling would rise to $180,000. The long-term social security problem would be solved.

In the meantime, the fund is safe and solvent through four presidential elections. It is solvent for twelve more years, if not twenty-six more years before there are any problems.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW UPRISING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and Co-Chairman of the Poland Caucus, I have long been struck by the way in which history casts both long shadows and rays of light in Poland. I have had the privilege of traveling to Poland, one of America's closest allies, and was overwhelmed by the weight of history when I met with those who are building the Museum of the History of Poland's choose. Institutions like this are not only critical for Poland's future generations, but for what all of us, around the world, can learn from Poland.

Today, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, a courageous act of defiance by the people of Poland against the brutal Nazi occupation during the Second World War.

On August 1, 1944, the Polish Underground began its struggle to liberate Warsaw, to further weaken the collapsing German eastern front and to establish Polish sovereignty in response to the Red Army's advance to the city's outskirts. Despite the courage and fortitude of the Polish people, the Underground could not overcome the Nazis' determination to oversee the complete destruction of the Home Army and the city, bolstered by official orders and a directive that the massacre was to serve as a ''terrifying example'' to Europe.

More than 200,000 civilians and members of the Home Army were killed in Warsaw over a 63-day period. Between August 5 and August 8, the Nazis murdered more than 40,000 people—overwhelmingly civilians—in the Wola district of Warsaw alone. Survivors, describing the horror of the executions, told of the indiscriminate slaughter of thousands of women and children. Approximately 700,000 Warsaw residents were expelled from their homes and forced out of the city—many sent to death, labor, or POW camps.

Hitler ordered that Warsaw should be razed to the ground; Heinrich Himmler declaring in the most chilling terms that Warsaw ''must completely disappear from the surface of the earth.'' To that end, the Nazis systematically targeted buildings filled with deep meaning for the Poles, including cultural treasures, monuments, palaces, libraries, churches, and the Old Town. By the beginning of October, the Polish capitol was reduced to rubble—85 percent of the buildings in Warsaw had been destroyed.

But from ashes come diamonds and, despite this barbaric campaign, the Polish desire for freedom and liberty could not be extinguished—not even by the decades of communist oppression which followed the end of the war. Such courage and resilience continues to define the Polish people.

Today, Poland is a successful democracy and one of our strongest military allies. More to the point, Poland's leadership on issues related to democracy and human rights gives true meaning to the alliance concept of ''shared values.'' Poland has tirelessly support democratic movements in Northern Africa and Eastern Europe, particularly in Tunisia, through democracy activists and transition experts, and Belarus. Poland has served as a regional force in the effort to encourage human rights and democracy in Belarus in the wake of the December 2010 post-election political crackdown, maintaining free media outlets that operate in Belarus and opening Polish universities to students expelled for pro-democracy activities.

On July 1, Poland assumed the six-months rotating Presidency of the European Union. It can only strengthen our transatlantic alliance to have the EU led by a country that has accomplished so much over the past 20 years both political and economically. As it happens, Poland has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe and is the only EU country not faced with a recession amidst the global financial crisis.

As chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and co-chairman of the Congressional Poland Caucus, I commend Poland's leadership on democracy and human rights throughout the OSCE region and globally. Polish-American ties remain strong and steadfast because of such dedication to these common values. More than that, however, I have unwavering respect and admiration for the people of Poland, whose courage and determination in the face of so many historic tragedies—of which the Warsaw Massacre is only one example—is a source of continued inspiration.

TRIBUTE TO SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

In 1904, a small group of top professionals in Philadelphia set out to create an organization that would provide a vehicle for black men of high stature to network and learn the best from one another. These visionaries were Dr. Algernon B. Jackson, Dr. Henry McKee Minton, Dr. Edwin C. Howard and Dr. Richard J. Warrick.

At that time of Sigma Pi Phi's founding, accomplished black men lived and worked in isolation as they were not offered participation in professional and cultural associations organized by the white community. Inequities such as racism, discrimination, segregation, and inequality were rampant throughout the United States. It took the ingenuity and courage displayed by these men based on their shared conditions to form an organization that would not only bring them together in fellowship, but benefit the country they loved for more than a century to come.

To quote Dr. Minton ''professional men should have an organization that should be a fraternity in the true sense of the word; one whose chief thought should not be to visit the sick and bury the dead, but to bind men of like qualities, tastes and attainments into a close and sacred union that they might know the best of one another.'' Members would not be ''selected on the basis of brains alone—but in addition to congeniality, culture and good fellowship; that they shall have behind them [at initiation] a record of accomplishment, not merely be men of promise and good education.'' His fraternity would contain the ''best of Skull and Bones of Yale and of Phi Beta Kappa.''

Today, the dream of Drs. Jackson, Minton, Howard and Warrick lives on and is stronger than ever. Sigma Pi Phi has over 5,000 members and 126 chapters throughout the United States and the West Indies. Members of Sigma Pi Phi have provided leadership and service during the Great Depression, World War I, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and addressed social issues such as urban housing, and many other critical issues affecting all people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Sigma Pi Phi for their tireless work which has benefited our great nation for more than a century. Our country is a better one because of Sigma Pi Phi and I am proud to honor them today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 692.

Had I been present for rollcall 692, on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 67, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, I would have voted ''aye.''

HONORING HENRY GIVENS, JR., PH.D., PRESIDENT, HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native St. Louisan, Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., who has served as president of Harris-Stowe State University since it became a state institution in 1979. He was educated in the St. Louis public schools and earned his baccalaureate degree at Lincoln University in Missouri. He earned his master's degree at the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University. His postdoctoral studies in higher education administration were at Harvard University.

Dr. Givens' professional experience in education is both broad and varied. He began his career as a teacher in the Webster Groves School District and became principal of the first prototype of a magnet school in the nation. Before leaving the Webster Groves public schools, he held the post of Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools. Soon after, he became the first African-American to serve Missouri as Assistant Commissioner of Education, which he did for 5 years.

At the request of the Governor of Missouri, Dr. Givens served as interim president at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, during a financial crisis in 1987, while continuing his duties at Harris-Stowe. Such an appointment was without precedent in Missouri public higher education.

Under the leadership of Dr. Givens, Harris-Stowe has greatly expanded its degree programs; has significantly increased its facilities—from one building to seven, and including, for the first time in its long history of over 150 years, the new state-of-the-art William L. Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center and the Rev. Dr. William G. Gillespie Residence Hall and Student Center. An eighth new building, a second residence hall, is currently under construction. In addition, Harris-Stowe has opened its first business school satellite campus in South St. Louis; has expanded the University's academic program to include 14 degree offerings in selected applied professional disciplines; has tripled its student enrollment since entering the State System; and has changed its status from College to University, to name a few of its accomplishments.

Dr. Givens has served as Chairman of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Celebration Commission for Missouri since its inception in 1986 to 2011. Under his dynamic leadership, the State of Missouri now hosts the second-largest celebration in the nation, extending to every corner of Missouri. Dr. Givens was appointed by President Barack Obama to the HBCU Capital Finance Program Advisory Board, and has served in the past and present on local, national, and international groups as a consultant, including the U.S. State Department at its American School in Lima, Peru. In addition, he currently serves on several local, state and national Boards and Commissions. He serves on the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority board, and on local and national Corporate Boards of Directors, including, U.S. Bank (Regional).

He is a past board member of Laclede Gas/Laclede Group, Peabody Energy, Inc., and Automobile Club of Missouri (AAA). President Givens is affiliated with numerous national and local professional and social organizations, and has received over 125 national, state and local awards and recognitions, including honorary doctorate degrees from Saint Louis University, Lincoln University and Washington University-St. Louis.

Dr. Givens is married to Belma Evans Givens. They have a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN EAST AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Two months ago, this Subcommittee held a hearing on Somalia that revealed the extent of the suffering from what witnesses agreed was the worst drought in the Horn of Africa since the 1950s. Our hearing today is, in part, a follow-up to that July 7th hearing in order to examine the U.S. Agency for International Development's long-term strategy to address humanitarian crises in East Africa, such as the current devastating drought. The need for this continued focus on the region is apparent given the ongoing, disturbing reports that we are receiving about Sudanese attacks on its Blue Nile State that will drive residents into South Sudan and reports of theft of international food aid.

We now know that an estimated 13.1 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The United States to date has devoted a total of $604.6 million in humanitarian assistance funding for the Horn of Africa. At the same time, our government has devoted $370.7 million in Fiscal Year 2011 to helping the newly independent Government of South Sudan respond to crises largely caused by Republic of the Sudan attacks that have sent people streaming into this young nation.

The drought in East Africa apparently is part of a persistent weather trend in the region, but there is disagreement on the extent to which the La Niña and El Niño weather phenomena will affect weather patterns in East Africa over time. The current La Niña phenomenon, which began in August 2010, results in wetter than normal conditions in Australia and parts of Asia from December to February and drier than normal conditions over equatorial East Africa over the same period, leading to the current drought in the region.

But while drought is one reason for food shortages, it is exacerbated by stagnating agricultural development and unsustainable forms of livelihood. In our July 7th hearing, Nancy E. Lindborg, Assistant Administrator in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, raised the issue of the long-term need for changes in livelihoods in the region. She quoted a local cattle herder as saying, "We are seeing the end of the pastoral lifestyle as we know it."

In countries across the region, as Lindborg testified, nomads are without water and pasture and unable to migrate safely. Many of them are left without assets or income, and as they migrate out of rural areas to urban areas, they strain an already stressed situation.

There are nomads in Africa from Western Sahara to Sudan. If weather conditions have conspired to end what in some cases are livelihoods developed over millennia, who will work with these pastoralists to develop new ways of surviving? Part of our humanitarian strategy, therefore, must involve working with African governments on developing viable strategies for helping nomads transition into new livelihoods that fit their skills and are sustainable in often resource-poor conditions. In the long run, donors will be increasingly less likely to continue to support people suffering through repeated droughts in the same areas. We must break this cycle now and help them to find durable solutions for the future.

In Somalia, the hardest hit country in the region, the terrorist group al-Shabaab has obstructed the delivery of humanitarian assistance and directly threatened aid agencies. It has also interrogated aid workers and accused them of spying for the West or proselytizing. Maritime piracy and the hijacking of aid shipments have also hindered the provision of aid. By late 2009, threats against humanitarian workers and attacks against aid compounds had driven many international groups out of al-Shabaab-controlled areas; most of the remaining groups left southern Somalia in 2010. The result has been an estimated 2.2 million people in southern Somalia, representing some 60% of those who remain in the country, in need of aid but currently out of reach of most aid agencies.

We face serious questions about how to meet the desperate needs of people like those living in areas controlled by al-Shabaab. We want to prevent terrorist organizations from benefitting from humanitarian aid, but we must balance this concern with our desire to keep alive those needing food, water and medicine. There has to be a solution that not only prevents aid from going to terrorists, but also prevents the terrorists from perpetrating further violence against their own people by denying them access to life-saving assistance.

Meanwhile, our government is helping the new Government of South Sudan to effectively respond to the expectations of the population for essential services and improved livelihoods, as well as containing the conflicts that are likely to erupt. This new government is learning to handle the normal business of establishing a government even as an estimated 371,455 people have migrated from the North to South Sudan, as well as to Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States in the Republic of the Sudan and the disputed area of Abyei since October 30th of last year.

Apparently continuing attacks in Southern Kordofan and now Blue Nile State will only continue the flight of thousands of people into South Sudan. Given its troubled relationship with the Republic of the Sudan to the North, our assistance to the new government must build its capacity as a democratically elected institution and help enable it to avoid and address such crises. Empowerment should be our focus as we help this new government take its place among the world's nations.

Drought and other natural disasters and man-made catastrophes due to conflict have been a persistent story in East Africa. In an era of limited resources, we must encourage adapted lifestyles, develop strategies for delivering aid in conflict areas and enable our partner governments to manage crises more successfully. We look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses as to how we can move toward achieving these goals.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE DAY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Peoria, Illinois' establishment of September 11th Remembrance Day on September 10th this year. In recognition of the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the citizens of Peoria are dedicating September 10, 2011 to remember those who lost their lives on that day and the brave men and women who, despite the dangers, rushed to help others.

The images of the attacks on September 11th are seared into our national memory. Those who lived through that terrible day, in New York, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania, as well as in cities and towns across the nation, will always remember where they were when they heard that the United States was under attack. Two thousand eight hundred nineteen people lost their lives on that tragic day, and the citizens of Peoria honor them with this Day of Remembrance.

The tragedy of September 11th will never be forgotten, but neither should the spirit of unity brought about by countless acts of heroism on that day and in the days following; acts of ordinary Americans who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances and answered the call to help. It is in honor of those who died, but also of those who rushed into burning buildings, sacrificed themselves to protect countless others, and came from all across the country to offer assistance that residents of Peoria pause on the Day of Remembrance.

Abraham Lincoln, who once represented Central Illinois in this chamber, said on the battlefield at Gettysburg, "it is from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion." We as Americans renewed our devotion to our national values in the wake of September 11th, values that unite rather than divide us. Through the establishment of this Day of Remembrance, Peoria residents continue their dedication to that same cause. This nation has endured many challenges, but the American people have always joined together to overcome them.

Therefore, in honor of the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, I recognize Peoria, Illinois' establishment of September 11th Remembrance Day.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE LOCAL 537 PIPEFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, the Massachusetts delegation moves today to honor the Local 537 Pipefitters Association of Boston, which will be celebrating its Centennial on Saturday, September 10, 2011. It is with pride

that we reflect on the many accomplishments of Local 537 members and with appreciation that we commend the organization for its unparalleled service to our great state.

The history of Local 537 is a lesson in perseverance. The Pipefitters have seen decades of prosperity followed by years of declining job opportunities. In response, Local 537 members have become more versatile. They have borne witness not only to the advancements in the technology and materials on which their trade is dependent, but also to the evolution of workers' rights and labor unions. When hard times have fallen, the Pipefitters found work across the continent at the Trans-Alaskan pipeline, across borders to the oil fields of Canada and across state lines to construction jobs in New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—always to return when new opportunities arose at home.

With a membership of over 2,600, the jurisdiction of Local 537 covers Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties and extends into Plymouth and Worcester counties. From Boston to Lowell and Salem to Quincy, the work of Local 537 is visible within the interiors of the very landmarks that make our state and cities unique and recognizable. They have left their mark on the resident halls and academic facilities of Harvard University, Boston College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University; the piping systems in the Deer Island Water Treatment Plant and Weymouth Power Plant; and beneath the bleachers of the stadiums and arenas that house New England's proud sports teams.

Today, Local 537 retains the competitive edge and adaptive spirit of the original plumbers, gas fitters and steam fitters who first organized themselves over a century ago. The Pipefitters are a true Massachusetts institution and we thank the organization for its numerous contributions to the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATING JULIE YOUNG, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 HAROLD W. McGRAW, JR. PRIZE IN EDUCATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Ms. Julie Young upon receiving the 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Ms. Young is highly regarded for her hard work and dedication to improving education in this country and for helping to create a smarter, better educated world.

Ms. Young is President and CEO of the nation's largest and most influential virtual program: Florida Virtual School. Her journey began with a love for teaching and a dedication to learning that dates back to childhood. Today, she is passionate about the positive impact that Florida Virtual School has on thousands of families. I have been fortunate to work with Ms. Young as the Florida Virtual School has grown from 77 students in 1997 to its current enrollment of over 130,000 K–12 students.

Ms. Young's interest in combining technology and learning began when she served as a teacher trainer for a partnership between her school district and IBM. That experience also ignited her with the vision to apply proven business principles to education. She interacts regularly with business, education, and policy leaders across the nation to shape the future of learning, and she sees Florida Virtual School playing a significant role.

Ms. Young is also excited about the opportunities online education and blended learning models have provided for the profession. These innovations help to retain great teachers who might have otherwise left the field. She takes particular pleasure in identifying and growing leaders.

In addition to directing the work of 1,500 employees, Ms. Young is a frequent national speaker. She serves on the Board of the United States Distance Learning Association, International Association for K–12 Online Learning, Florida Learning Alliance, Florida TaxWatch Center for Educational Performance and Accountability, Florida Sterling Council Board of Directors, K–12 Blackboard Advisory Council Member, and Microsoft K–12 Advisory Council Member Assistant. She was also recognized by Technology & Learning Magazine as one of the Top 30 influencers in Ed Tech, along with Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. In 2003, she was inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association ''Hall of Fame.''

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate and applaud Ms. Young for her work. She is most deserving of the 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education as she inspires others to follow in her footsteps.

HONORING ALICE FINCH LEE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with all Alabamians in sending warm personal congratulations to a beloved member of our community, Miss Alice Finch Lee, who celebrates her 100th birthday on Sunday, September 11, 2011. ''Miss Alice's'' compassion for others is matched only by her determination for justice. Her life-long dedication to civility and fairness is a credit to our state.

Monroeville, Alabama not only wears the crown of literary capital of our state with its ties to such giants of letters as Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee, among others, but it is also home to a one-of-a-kind legal lion.

Miss Alice grew up in a tight-knit family accustomed to making a difference. Her father, the late A.C. Lee, was a respected businessman and attorney. He owned the local newspaper, The Monroe Journal, while also practicing law. His inscrutable reputation for fairness is believed to have inspired Miss Alice's younger sister, Nelle, in crafting the character Atticus Finch in her world famous novel To Kill a Mockingbird.

Miss Alice was a quick study, joining her father at the age of 18 in running the newspaper. It wasn't long before she also acquired an interest in law. Her decision to attend law school, a move strongly supported by her father, was a bold one considering women were not often seen in the legal profession during the 1930's and 40's. Undeterred, she graduated from the Birmingham School of Law and passed Alabama Bar in 1943.

It was Monroeville's good fortune that Miss Alice came back home and partnered with her father in practicing law in her hometown. Joining what is now considered to be one of the oldest law firms in Alabama, Barnett, Bugg, Lee & Carter, Miss Alice made a name for herself as a calm but reliable voice for equality and an advocate for the disadvantaged. Never seeking attention or accolade, she is best known for her uncommon generosity. A recent newspaper profile accordingly dubbed Miss Alice as ''Atticus Finch in a skirt.''

At the tender young age of 100, Miss Alice still works in her Monroeville law office attending to her clients' needs on a daily basis and giving each the full measure of her attention. When I personally looked in on her last week she was busy reviewing a contract and graciously gave me a few minutes to wish her a happy birthday.

She has been called a trailblazer, a role model and an advocate for what is right. In South Alabama, we are also proud to call her our friend. Miss Alice, on your 100th birthday, we wish you much joy and happiness, with a heartfelt prayer for many more to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Constitution Week.

Founded in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a volunteer women's service organization devoted to promoting patriotism, preserving history, and educating future generations. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to devote the week of September 17th–23rd for the observance of Constitution Week and to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed this resolution into law the following year. This year marks the 224th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution.

The Constitution is much more than a historic document; it serves as a guide for our country and represents our commitment to the principles of freedom, liberty, and the unalienable rights of every American. It is woven into the very fabric of our great Nation—elected officials take oaths to support and defend it; citizens are free because of it; and our government design and functions exist because of it. Constitution Week provides us with a moment to pause and reflect upon our country's founding and renew our duty to protect and defend the Constitution.

I am thankful for DAR's efforts to promoting Constitution Week and raising awareness about the importance of our Constitution and our Nation's rich history. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me celebrating Constitution Week.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,685,550,385,913.19.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $4,047,124,639,619.39 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

EULOGY AT THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. MOLLOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a eulogy I delivered for the memorial tribute and ceremony of James T. Molloy, who served as the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. MOLLOY

Roseann, Amy, members of the Molloy, Straub and Hayden families. Honorable Members of Congress, past and present, distinguished guests and friends of Jim Molloy. To Congressman Jim Stanton, thank you for many years' of friendship to Jim Molloy and organizing this celebration of his life.

Jim Molloy served as Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives for more than two decades. He served under four House Speakers, five U.S. Presidents and thousands of Members of Congress. He introduced and hosted Heads of State, foreign dignitaries and organized more than 71 joint sessions of Congress.

In this, the nation's capitol, a city that Jim Molloy loved and called his second home for more than 40 years, not a more decent, giving and gentle man lived or could be found. He was referred to in many ways here: The Honorable Doorkeeper, James T. Molloy, J.T. Molloy and, as his great friend Speaker Tip O'Neill was often heard saying in a slightly agitated voice, ''Molloy get in here!''

There was the time that the Dalai Lama came to Congress to have a personal audience with Speaker O'Neill. The Speaker was delayed and Jim was dispatched to entertain His Holiness until the Speaker arrived. Jim nervously tried to make conversation but the Dalia Lama sat silently, smiling. After a couple of minutes of awkward silence, the Dalai Lama pointed to Jim's wrist and commented on the beautiful watch Jim was wearing. Jim removed the watch and tried to give it to the him. The Dalai Lama humbly declined. Jim persevered insisting that he take the watch as a gift. Holding the watch closer to the Dalai Lama, Jim said it was a cheap credit union watch that only cost $14, please take it. At that moment, the Speaker walked in the room and said to an aide, ''I leave Molloy with the Dalai Lama for 5 minutes and he's begging the man to buy his watch.''

While it is his love of the institution and that bellowing voice from the back of the House Chamber to announce the arrival of the President of the United States that we remember. It is his larger than life personality, generous spirit, self deprecating humor and loyalty to his beloved South Buffalo that we will miss.

Jim Molloy was a favorite son of South Buffalo. He was the middle child of Matthew and Catherine Molloy. And along with them and his two sisters, Kathy and Janet, grew up at Bloomfield Avenue in Holy Family Parish. Jim was a Buffalo city school teacher, he worked as a grain scooper along the waterfront, was a second generation Buffalo firefighter and served as 2nd Zone democratic chairman at the age of 27, the youngest zone chairman in New York State.

As Doorkeeper he administered an annual budget of more than $9 million and supervised more than 400 employees. Jim served as Chairman of the Congressional Federal Credit Union for 36 years. He recruited the best young minds from the nation's most prestigious educational institutions to start their careers right here in the nation's capital, among them: Holy Family and St. Theresa's grammar schools and South Park, Mount Mercy and Bishop Timon High schools. If you came from these schools and your father was a Buffalo Firefighter and had a second front as a grain scooper you received even more special attention and consideration. Someone once said: you know Jim, next to Mercy Hospital on Abbott Road, you might just be the largest employer of South Buffalo people. To which Jim responded, ''How many people work at Mercy!''

Jim Molloy's door was never reserved exclusively for the high and mighty, for Kings and Queens. It was a door open to all, through which people of every walk of life could enter the greatest democratic institution, in the greatest nation, in the only world we know. Yes Jim Molloy played gracious host to Presidents and world leaders because he was required to. But he played host to the sons and daughters of union bricklayers and city firemen because he could and wanted to.

I was one of those kids. My Dad was a union bricklayer and local politician. He and Jim grew up on Bloomfield Avenue, my Dad at 74, Jim at 106. They attended Holy Family grammar school together and were steeped in the deep tradition of South Buffalo politics. My dad died of Alzheimer's three years ago. It's a tough disease whose origins are unknown but whose end is certain. But one of the last things my Dad worked for and remembered fully was watching his son sworn in as a Member of the United States Congress. I tell you this because it's really not my story. It's his and his family's and it's the story of my community, and it's Jim Molloy's as well. And the simple idea that one generation makes sacrifices to make way, to open doors, if you will, for the next.

Jim Molloy was with us that day and I was honored to have him celebrating that achievement with my family and friends. Someone there commented that I was the first South Buffalo representative in Congress. I really wasn't though. Jim Molloy will always be the first and greatest Congressional representative Buffalo ever had, and it is through the door that he kept that that opportunity was possible for someone else.

After 34 doorkeepers of the House of Representatives and a tradition dating back to 1789, the new Speaker in 1994 was forced to abolish the position of doorkeeper. I say forced because he knew Jim Molloy could never be replaced.

In a 2005 interview with Tim Russet for NPR's oral history project, Story Corps, Tim and Jim shared recollections of childhood memories in South Buffalo. Tim concluded the interview by saying that the best way to describe Jim was as a good man, who knew everybody, and who was always proud of taking care of his own. That is Jim Molloy's legacy.

That is how he lived his life and that life, in all its goodness and graciousness, has made all of us better.

That is how Jim's friends in Washington, South Buffalo, and across the nation will remember him: as a good man, who knew everybody, and who was always proud of taking care of his own. So today we express gratitude for many things. I give thanks to you and for the opportunity and Honor to be here this morning.

We give thanks to Jim Molloy for the life that he lived, and friendship that he gave, and only for the people of the country and the community that he loved. And finally we give thanks for a good and generous nation. A good and generous nation that makes Jim Molloy's and all of our stories possible.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this 10th anniversary of the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, I simply want to pay tribute to the American people, and to our country, and what it stands for: our enduring commitment to the freedoms we cherish, to liberty and democracy, and to our system of government and our way of life.

The attacks on 9/11 against the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here in Washington, and over the skies of Pennsylvania, took nearly 3,000 lives. It was the worst attack against the homeland since Pearl Harbor, and a higher death toll was inflicted on 9/11 than even on that date in 1941 ''that will live in infamy,'' as Franklin Roosevelt memorialized for the nation.

On this 9/11, our sole responsibilities are the simple, sacred acts of remembrance and rededication: remembrance of those whose lives were taken, and rededication to our country and its future.

Those who perished will never be forgotten; their names are called out every year. And if anything, American patriotism is stronger than ever.

The 9/11 attacks were directed at our freedoms, our way of life, and modern civilization itself. It was an assault against American leadership in the world, against the ideals that have guided us since the founding of the Republic, and against the rule of law and any sense of morality.

But the fact is that those responsible for 9/11 could never—and will never—defeat the United States of America. No act of terrorism can overcome the spirit of the American people and our pursuit of our destiny.

Our resolve from that terrible day was clear: to pursue and defeat those who perpetrated this evil, and to make sure they can never again threaten the United States of America and those who live here.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we must note that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have now lasted longer than the Civil War and World War II combined. We have suffered substantial casualties—over 6,300 dead and 35,000 injured in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. The financial cost of the

two wars is over $1.2 trillion—nearly equal to this year's Federal budget deficit. President Bush did not ask the American people for a tax increase to finance these wars, so we have not only a legacy of great human casualties, but also one of immense financial debt.

The American involvement in the war in Iraq is drawing to a close, and I support President Obama's stated intention to remove all American combat forces by year's end.

But I also believe it past time to end our involvement in Afghanistan. We should bring our troops home now. There is nothing more for our forces to achieve there. There are other fronts in the war on terror, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Sudan, and we need to continue our efforts to combat violent extremists in those countries. But there is no overriding purpose served by continuing military involvement in Afghanistan. Let us leave Afghanistan to its people, and reserve the right to strike at any foe arising from Afghanistan that poses a threat to our country and its people.

As a nation we grieve for those whose lives were so brutally taken on 9/11. We honor their memory, and we support their families. And I hope that all our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be brought home to us very soon.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER: 25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking Women's Business Development Center and the two remarkable women who founded it.

In 1986, Hedy M. Ratner and S. Carol Dougal saw a need: the lack of support for women eager to participate in the business world. Then, through their vision and persistence, they worked to address that need by creating the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC). The goals they set were ambitious to say the least—to accelerate the growth of women-owned businesses and microenterprise ownership, to increase the economic impact of women business owners on families and communities, to build awareness of business ownership as a path to economic self-sufficiency, and to help stimulate policy and system changes to empower women in the economy. Today, 25 years later, the achievements of the WBDC are evident, even as it continues to be an innovative national leader in expanding opportunities for women.

The Center already has helped more than 65,000 women in the greater Chicago area start, improve and expand their small businesses. Its success has spurred the creation of 14 other centers in 6 states. The oldest and largest women's business assistance center in the country, the WBDC is constantly developing and implementing new approaches to help potential and current women business owners. The Center and its amazing staff give women the tools, the needed support and the confidence to know that they can become successful entrepreneurs.

Whether you are a woman with a glimmer of an idea for creating a business or an established woman business owner who wants to take advantage of new opportunities, the WBDC is there to help. The Center provides a full range of programs and services: financial literacy and entrepreneurial trainings, workshops, one-to-one counseling, and capacity building. Its programs include Women's Business Enterprise, Women's Business Finance, Procurement and Technical Assistance, Child Care Business Initiative, and Latina Business Development.

Hedy and Carol are recognized leaders who have advised business groups and public officials at all levels about ways to help women improve their families' well-being and our nation by creating new business opportunities. I am one of many who have been fortunate enough to receive their advice on ways to improve federal contracting and lending policies and to learn about the barriers that must be torn down so that more women can enter realm of business ownership.

I congratulate Hedy, Carol and the extraordinary staff of the Women's Business Development Center for 25 years of success. I know that they will help many, many more women become business owners and leaders in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIXTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BUISNESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) on its sixty-second anniversary.

Since its founding in 1949, the ABWA has devoted itself to providing valuable educational, training, and networking opportunities to business women. Alongside three businesswomen from Kansas City, Mr. Hilary A. Bufton, Jr., recognized the important role of women in the American workforce and sought to utilize and develop their knowledge and skills by starting the ABWA. Over the past sixty-two years, the ABWA has flourished into an expansive network with many members in chapters across the nation.

Due to the inclusive nature of the organization, the ABWA has a diverse membership, encompassing women from a variety of professions. The commitment to the professional development of women and harnessing their entrepreneurial spirit and potential has made the ABWA an important and influential organization. Many, including President Ronald Reagan, have recognized their hard work and contributions to the American economy.

I am delighted to express my hearty congratulations to the ABWA as they celebrate sixty-two years of success. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the ABWA.

HONORING AMERICAN NEPHROLOGY NURSES ASSOCIATION KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the high quality health care provided by America's nephrology nurses. The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) has designated September 11–17, 2011 as Nephrology Nurses Week to help draw attention to the growing health problem of kidney disease and the tireless efforts of the men and women who care for those afflicted by it. I would particularly like to thank ANNA Chapter 504 Northern California which represents the many dedicated nurses in the San Francisco Bay Area and the North and South Bay Areas. These hardworking professionals provide hands-on care for individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), creating essential and personal nurse/patient relationships.

Unfortunately, kidney disease touches many in my home district. Minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders are particularly affected by CKD because of under-treatment or lack of proper management for diabetes and hypertension, the two major causes of ESRD. Kidney disease afflicts both young and old, but close to 50 percent of those over 65 develop chronic kidney disease.

Those suffering from kidney disease are often people who require our support the most. Nephrology nurses give that support every day in every treatment modality. In caring for patients, nephrology nurses show that they are skilled, knowledgeable, motivated, professional and compassionate. These qualities make a serious difference in the lives of millions of people.

Again, thank you to each of America's nephrology nurses for your dedication, your skills, and the care and comfort you provide every day. You deserve more than just a week's attention each year. I hope that this body will work to support both nurses and patients in the upcoming sessions, and to ensure that those who stand against kidney disease don't stand alone.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDYTHE M. ABDULLAH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah on her investiture as the sixth president of Essex County College. As the first female to lead this 13,000 student institution, Dr. Abdullah has already demonstrated her strong competency in leadership and her knowledge of academia. Clearly, these attributes contributed to her selection as president following the college's nationwide search for a replacement for President Emeritus, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba.

Dr. Abdullah's impressive background as a college administrator which includes her presidency at Florida State College has allowed

her to easily transition to the Essex County College Campus. That experience coupled with her undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University, her Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida and her Leadership Certificate from Harvard University make her very qualified to add her distinctive branding to Essex County College.

Fortunately, for the community at large, Dr. Abdullah understands the unique challenges faced by students with potential but who lack the resources needed to obtain a higher education. Accordingly, she has launched multiple initiatives that will allow Essex County College to address the economic requirements of students while preparing them for the future. In fact, the underlying theme: Changing Lives . . . Building Futures includes actionable processes that are measurable and comprehensive in their scope.

Since her arrival in Newark, Dr. Abdullah has impressed me with her willingness to make tough but necessary decisions. This investiture is a fitting culmination of her obvious dedication to excellence. I am pleased to join her family, faculty, colleagues, students and the Greater Newark community in feting her on this wonderful occasion.