EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RIVERBANK NAVAL PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS JAMES RAY LAYTON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor fallen Riverbank Naval Petty Officer Third Class James Ray Layton.

HM3 James Ray Layton was born in Livermore, California on January 29, 1987 and died September 8, 2009 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. Artist, healer and music lover James Ray Layton brought joy and love into the lives of his family, friends and Comrades in Arms.

At the time of his death Layton was assigned to Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan, which is responsible for training and equipping Afghan security forces. Lt. Cmdr. John Daniels, a Navy spokesman at the Pentagon, said Layton deployed to Afghanistan with an element of the Okinawa-based 3rd Marine Division. Layton enlisted Dec. 20, 2007.

Layton's death was described by McClatchy Newspapers correspondent Jonathan Landay, who was embedded with a group of Marines and pinned down by heavy fire in a rugged section of Kunar Province on Tuesday. ''The Marines were cut down as they sought cover in a trench at the base of the village's first layer cake-style stone house. Much of their ammunition was gone. One Marine (later determined to be Layton) was bending over a second, tending his wounds, when both were killed, said Marine Cpl. Dakota Meyer, 21, of Greensburg, Ky., who retrieved their bodies.''

Layton is the 28th soldier or Marine from the Northern San Joaquin Valley and foothills killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the first from Riverbank.

He is survived by his father Brent Layton, mother Nikki Freitas, step-father Gilbert Freitas, brothers Jonathon, Jesse, Brandon and Sage, and sister Jordan, grandmothers Kathy Anderson and Shirley Hughes, grandfather Winn Layton, stepsister Andrea Freitas, stepbrother Jason Freitas, and loving aunts, uncles and cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his Papa, Ray Hughes.

HONORING MR. RONNY VANDYKE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Mr. Ronny VanDyke on the occasion of his retirement, on September 1, 2011, and to thank him for his more than thirty-three years of distinguished service and dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. VanDyke has played an integral role in the Information Technology journey of the House. He began in 1978 as a COBOL programmer supporting mainframe applications, transitioned readily into online application development using CICS, and then integrated mainframe and workstation technologies for the Information Services and Integrated Systems (ISIS) project. Finally, Mr. VanDyke worked on the design, development and support of the CAO's Web-based services.

Mr. VanDyke developed the first electronic mail system on the House mainframe and played a key role in the design and development of the mainframe-based Member Information Network (MIN). MIN provided congressional offices with online information services including newswires, LEGIS and GRANTS, as well as Member services such as scheduling, casework and tracking. Mr. VanDyke excels at developing standardized processes that are then readily adapted for multiple uses in support of House office business.

Mr. VanDyke played a key role in the design and development of the first release of the www.house.gov web site and the Write Your Representative Service, providing Members their first opportunity for a customized Web presence and e-communications.

Many of the core services Mr. VanDyke originally developed for the mainframe, he successfully made available on the Internet. These services continue to provide Member offices ease of communication with their constituency including, but not limited to, Google Site Search, custom in-House content management and publishing services, zip code authentication, and Web form processes enabling both the development of dynamic surveys as well as the electronic submission of constituent requests to one's specific House Representative.

Mr. VanDyke's knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance of his daily tasks have been exemplary. His ability to adapt to emerging technologies and his skilled transition of core House services has provided House offices seamless support and earned the respect of his coworkers, peers and management. Mr. VanDyke has provided House offices with superior customer service, almost always from behind the scenes, by providing those on the front lines with the confidence to propose technical solutions knowing that he will make it work.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Mr. Ronny VanDyke for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the House.

We wish him many wonderful years to fulfill his retirement dreams.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, nearly two-thirds of Americans say that job creation should be Washington's top priority. But no one here needs an opinion poll to learn that. I am sure all my colleagues are hearing what I hear by mail, fax, e-mail, Twitter, phone calls, Facebook, and passersby on the street. Everyone is saying, ''Congress, get on with it! Make jobs! Get America to work! Get my husband, my cousin, my daughter to work.'' And, yet again, the Republican majority in the House is playing political games—wasting time debating a senseless resolution when we could, and should, be doing the work that the American people sent us here to do: creating jobs and revitalizing our economy. I recently visited several manufacturers in Central New Jersey to hear directly from job creators about what the federal government can do to promote growth. The political circus surrounding the debt ceiling negotiations was not mentioned once. With 25 million Americans either unemployed or underemployed, it's time to stop the political shenanigans and focus on the task at hand: putting America back to work. The debt ceiling debate this summer already wasted months that could have otherwise been spent focusing on job creation. In the end, the government made the responsible choice to pay its bills—case closed. Instead of further exacerbating the partisan divide on Capitol Hill, we should be coming together to fashion an effective, bipartisan jobs bill that the American people expect and deserve. How much time must we waste before we get serious about putting America back to work?

EDISON INTERNATIONAL

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Edison International on its 125th year of business.

Edison was founded on July 4, 1886 in Visalia, California and from then on, Edison has worked to find new and more efficient ways to serve its customers safely and reliably. For example, in 1898, Orville Ensign, an Edison engineer, designed the first insulator made from porcelain instead of glass which enabled the company to increase voltage on transmission lines. In the early 1900s, Edison engineer James Lighthipe designed the longest and highest voltage transmission line. It was also the first to be supported entirely by steel towers.

Today, Edison employs over 14,000 individuals in Southern California alone and its utility subsidiary, Southern California Edison, has over 12,000 miles of transmission lines. Edison is also currently building the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, the largest wind transmission venture in the United States. Edison is also involved with developing wind energy. Edison Mission Energy, one of the largest developers of wind energy, has 30 projects in operation or under construction in 11 states.

Edison continues looking towards the future and is leading an initiative to prepare the electric grid for the widespread adoption of plug-in electric vehicles. Finally, Edison is currently working to upgrade its electric system infrastructure so that they will be prepared for the next 125 years.

It is important to note the dedication of Edison International to the communities it serves. With many families struggling in the current economy, Edison is working with residents and businesses to help them save money by utilizing energy efficiency techniques. In addition, in 2010, employees contributed $4.3 million to schools and non-profits. This year, to celebrate its 125th anniversary, Edison employees are taking part in 125 community service events, including assisting City of Hope and other valuable organizations.

Congratulations to Edison and its employees for 125 years of innovation, reliable service and commitment to the community.

HONORING NATHAN JAY CHALOUPKA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Jay Chaloupka. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathan designed and built an outdoor prayer and meditation area for the First United Methodist Church of Kearney.

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

RECOGNIZING STREET SOCCER USA

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Street Soccer USA, a leader in sports-based youth development for Americans facing homelessness.

SSUSA builds trust through sports to help adults and youth overcome homelessness, and is a powerful tool for workforce development, educational advancement, improved health, and crime and violence reduction.

This summer, over 200 athletes from 18 U.S. cities competed as part of the Nation's premier sport-for-change event in DC June 10–12.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating this year's participating teams. They are among a distinguished group of individuals dedicated to improving their lives.

Congratulations to the men's and women's teams from Street Soccer Minneapolis, both of whom took home the Leonsis Trophy for first place.

Thanks to the hard-working employees and volunteers who made the event such a huge success. May God bless you with many more successful years ahead.

Indeed these individuals are demonstrating that ending homelessness and poverty is a team sport!

HONORING CHRISTOPHER NOAL BROWNING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Noal Browning. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 237, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christopher designed and constructed a divider wall around the restrooms at Bunceton Park in Bunceton, Missouri.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. WILLIAM ASTOR KIRK, SR., EDUCATOR AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William Astor Kirk, Sr., educator, social activist and author. Dr. William Astor Kirk, Sr., was the eldest of six children born to Alex and Exella Kirk in Harleton, Texas. He briefly attended Wiley College in Marshall, Texas before enrolling in Howard University in Washington, DC where he received both a bachelor's and master's degree, respectively.

Dr. Kirk led a life devoted to family, faith and intellectual pursuits and fought to bring about social justice and equality for African Americans in public facilities and accommodations in educational institutions. Dr. Kirk and his wife of more than sixty years, Vivian Tramble married in 1946 and had two children. The Kirk's core values centered on faith and family and intellectual curiosity and social responsibility—beliefs Dr. Kirk graciously shared with family and friends.

Upon completing his Master's degree in Government from Howard University in 1974, Dr. Kirk and wife Vivian relocated to Austin, Texas where he assumed the position of professor of Government and Economics at Huston-Tillotson College. Dr. Kirk, active in Austin civic life was an organizer in the local chapter of the NAACP and arranged peaceful protests that led to desegregation of the Austin Public Library and many other public facilities. Dr. Kirk's work against discrimination also focused on the University of Texas where he applied and was admitted to a PhD Program. Dr. Kirk's refusal to study in segregated classes prompted a lawsuit by the Austin chapter of the NAACP. Subsequently, Kirk began his studies at the University after a United States Supreme Court ruling of Sweatt v. Painter, which ended segregation of the University's school was applied to its graduate program as well. In 1958, W. Astor Kirk, Sr. became the first African American to earn and receive a Doctorate in Political Science from the University of Texas.

Dr. Kirk was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London, England. Professionally, in addition to his teaching post at Huston-Tillotson, Dr. Kirk was adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland and had teaching assignments at Rutgers University, Boston University School of Theology and Howard University.

Dr. Kirk also had a distinguished career as a federal government executive and management consultant. In 1968, Dr. Kirk was personally recruited by President Lyndon B. Johnson for the post of Deputy Regional Director (Southwest Region) of the United States Office of Economic Opportunity. He continued his government service under the Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations. Following his retirement from the federal civil service, Dr. Kirk founded and was CEO of Organization Management Services Corporation, an organizational development firm.

Prior to his passing, Dr. Kirk initiated an anti-discrimination mass petition in an effort with the Church to end, in his words, ''the mandatory negative differential treatment of gays, lesbians and bisexuals United Methodists.''

Dr. Kirk's lifetime of contributions to education, racial and gender equality and broad civil rights issues inspires all, as he was not afraid to tackle the biggest, most looming issues of his day.

Again, I ask that my colleagues please join me in saluting the life and legacy of educator, humanitarian and social activist, Dr. William Astor Kirk, Sr.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO M. ''TONY'' PÉREZ 2011 FRANK P. ZEIDLER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD HONOREE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Antonio M. ''Tony'' Pérez, recipient of the 2011 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award. Mr. Pérez is a long-time social justice advocate, mentor, community leader and consummate professional. He currently serves as secretary-executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM). The Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award acknowledges residents whose efforts most embody the social justice and public service values and vision of former Mayor Zeidler, who died in 2006 at the age of 93.

Mr. Pérez' body of work has been exemplary. He founded the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC), a non-profit vocational training organization that continues to provide employment and education to young adults in Milwaukee. It was modelled after the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Mr. Pérez developed a holistic program that integrates education and life skills with on-the-job work experience for low-income 18–23-year-olds. During his tenure at MCSC from 1991 to 2000, more than 900 participants found jobs and received more than $4.5 million in income. MCSC serves an average of 100 young participants per year and has served approximately 2,000 young adults since its inception.

In 1996, Mr. Pérez was one of six inspirational youth role models and mentors profiled on PBS', ''The Merrow Report: Searching for Heroes''. Mr. Pérez serves on a number of prestigious committees and has received numerous awards including member of the Executive Committee of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, past president of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, and has served as a consultant to the Peace Corps. In 2006, HACM received the prestigious World Leadership Award in London, England for developing solutions to housing that are innovative to city leaders around the world. Also, in 2007 Mr. Pérez was recognized by the National Child Labor Committee with the Lewis Hine Award.

At HACM, Mr. Pérez oversees an internationally-recognized agency that provides affordable housing options for over 12,000 low-income families, elderly and disabled persons in the City of Milwaukee. During his tenure, the agency received or leveraged more than $265 million in development resources. Accomplishments while at HACM include the construction of the $28 million Milwaukee Job Corps Center in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor. The facility opened in the fall 2010 and has resulted in the creation of over 125 administrative, teaching, health care and service jobs. Additionally, during his tenure the City of Milwaukee obtained a five-year, $24 million federal Enterprise Zone grant that helped thousands of youth gain training and employment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud Antonio M. ''Tony'' Pérez hails from the 4th Congressional District and that I can call him friend. I am honored to give praise to his many accomplishments and life time commitment to youth and the entire Milwaukee Community. I wish him many more years of success.

HONORING AUSTIN SALMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Salmon. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin became a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, as well as maintaining a position on the Honor Roll of Liberty North High School in Liberty, Missouri. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin built shelving and renovated the basement of Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church in Raytown, Missouri, a small church long in need of the renovation.

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

PHARMACEUTICAL STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2011

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act of 2011.

Across the country, unused and expired pharmaceuticals are polluting our water ways, poisoning our children, and putting our public safety at risk. Americans should have a convenient and safe option when they want to rid their cabinets of unused drugs. The pharmaceutical stewardship bill I introduced today would ensure that these drugs are kept out of drinking water and out of the hands of both criminals and unsuspecting children.

The need for a safe drug disposal program has never been greater. In a 2008 investigation, pharmaceutical contamination was found in 24 out of 28 metropolitan areas' drinking water. Over 50 pharmaceuticals or byproducts were found in the Philadelphia source watershed alone.

Unlike the citizens of approximately a dozen other countries, Americans do not have a convenient and consistent place to bring their medications. Without a drug take back program, pharmaceuticals are frequently diverted to purposes for which they were not intended.

The results can be deadly. Unguarded, unused pharmaceuticals can cause accidental poisonings, be misused, or diverted for criminal purposes.

Every fifteen minutes, a child under four will overdose on drugs found at home. In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that unintentional prescription opioid overdoses now kill more Americans than cocaine and heroin combined. In Florida, the death rate for prescription drugs increased 84 percent.

Without safe disposal options, our most vulnerable and unsuspecting citizens are in the bull's eye of a proliferating pharmaceutical black market. The elderly are at risk of violent home break-ins, scams, and death as prescription drug addicts seek to steal their medications.

Drug thieves also target 'open house' events and ask to use the bathroom in order to have access to the medicine cabinet. The problem is so rampant that realtors in Ohio are given medication lockboxes to store medications during open houses and the National Association of Realtors recommends hiding all prescription medications during open houses.

Americans who want to reduce the threat to their health and safety posed by leftover prescription medications have few options.

Federal agencies from the Office of National Drug Control Policy to the Drug Enforcement Agency are encouraging Americans to use secure medicine take-back programs to return drugs for environmentally sound disposal. But these programs are too few and far between, and communities are struggling to provide them. Because secure take-back programs are not widely available, the FDA currently recommends that the most toxic and addictive substances be flushed down the toilet and into the wastewater system. When take-back programs are not available, federal agencies are forced to advise that all other unwanted pills should be mixed with undesirable substances in an attempt to prevent theft and then thrown in the trash for delivery to the landfill.

The current disposal methods are inadequate and even dangerous. A mother with Crohn's disease was prescribed an opioid patch 100 times stronger than morphine but she was afraid her plumbing could not handle the used patch so she threw it away. Her 4-year old died after finding and applying the patch from the trash.

Furthermore, pharmaceuticals disposed in the trash or down the drain reach our nation's waterways and our drinking water.

In 2002, the United States Geological Survey found that 80 percent of streams and 93 percent of groundwater was contaminated with at least one pharmaceutical. In 2008, an investigation found that at least 46 million Americans are exposed to prescription drugs through their drinking water. Others are exposed when food crops are fertilized with polluted biosolids and absorb pharmaceuticals through the roots to the plant itself. Perhaps even more frightening is that the current extent of pharmaceutical pollution is unknown and understudied.

Aquatic organisms and indeed whole ecosystems can never escape this witches brew of pharmaceuticals. The USGS recently reported the widespread sexual disruption in fish across the United States. Of the many compounds in the pharmaceutical slurry that

aquatic organisms swim in, estrogens are particularly concerning. In a review of the literature, fish were found to be particularly susceptible to these endocrine disrupting chemicals. Intersexed fish are found around the nation and even at a wastewater treatment plant in the Nation's Capital. In this District of Columbia study, female eggs were found in over 80 percent of the small mouth bass male reproductive organs.

Unused and expired pharmaceuticals are a threat to our homes, families, communities, and the environment. Sporadic take back events are not sufficient. DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart recently stated that the 309 tons of pills collected at two recent community-funded take-back events ''represents a clear need for a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs.''

Public safety organizations and medical organizations have called for expanded drug takeback programs. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) senior vice president and chief medical officer, Allan Korn, M.D., stated that ''Unused prescription medicines that remain in homes can be misused or abused if they get in the wrong hands of children, family or friends,'' and commended, ''providing a safe and easy way for Americans to drop off their unnecessary prescription drugs.''

The bill I introduce today would help solve these serious environmental, public health, and public safety concerns by providing Americans with a convenient way to safely dispose of their pharmaceuticals. Producer responsibility and stewardship is the backbone of this legislation. Simply put, producers must take responsibility for their product beyond the initial manufacture and sale. By establishing a national drug take back program financed by producers, this legislation will help reduce the supply of unused medications across the country and prevent the entry of pharmaceuticals into the water supply.

In addition, this legislation establishes a commission of stakeholders to investigate risks, causes, and potential solutions of pharmaceutical contaminants in the environment and waterways. Using this information, the Commission will develop a strategy that will prevent pharmaceutical contaminants from polluting our waterways and environments from cradle-to-grave.

Without a safe means of disposing our pharmaceuticals, we risk our public health, our public safety, and our environment. We cannot wait any longer for action.

REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this tenth 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.

HONORING SAMUEL MORRISON EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Morrison Evans. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has earned 65 merit badges and spent countless hours volunteering at the Cameron Food Pantry and with the American Legion. Samuel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Samuel planned and constructed landscaping around Parkview Elementary in Cameron, Missouri. Samuel also designed and painted murals inside the school gymnasium to make the room more appealing to the student population.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. HELEN W. SOGGS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Helen W. Soggs, a longtime, active member of the Greater Cleveland community.

Helen was born on March 4, 1921, as a first generation American, in Cleveland, Ohio. At the age of four, her family moved to Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood. She attended Oak Park School, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School and James Ford Rhodes High School. Following her high school graduation, in 1939, Helen enrolled in typing and shorthand classes at the Dyke School of Commerce.

On May 4, 1941, Helen married Kenneth Soggs. Because of Kenneth's job as a construction equipment operator, the young couple frequently relocated throughout the onset of World War II before returning to Old Brooklyn. During the War, in 1942, Helen became the first woman to be hired by Republic Steel; she worked as a ''scale girl'' for three years.

Following the War, Helen and Kenneth started their family and had two sons. The Soggs family would eventually settle in Seven Hills, Ohio. Kenneth and Helen became involved in family-owned furniture stores, including Parma Home Appliance and Pleasant Valley Furniture. Helen would later work for Higbee's on their furniture customer service team. She retired in 1986.

Helen was an involved member of the Greater Cleveland community. She was a parishioner of St. Columbkille Catholic Church and an active member of her ladies mission circle. She was involved with the Seven Hills Golden Agers, St. Columbkille Golden Agers, Justo Lane Club and was a longtime volunteer as an election day poll worker.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mrs. Helen W. Soggs. I offer my condolences to her sons, Loree and Jim, her eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

HONORING DAKOTA MEYER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the small community of Columbia in south central Kentucky is not unlike many of the rural areas of America that have given of their best young men and women to guarantee our freedom. As of today, however, Columbia has the distinction of being the birthplace of Dakota Meyer, only the third living recipient and the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, President Barack Obama will award Dakota Meyer the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. He will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as a member of Marine Embedded Training Team 2–8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3–7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and his family will join the President at the White House to commemorate his example of selfless service.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves with meritorious conduct involving great personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades, and the action must have involved risk of life. There must be incontestable proof of the performance of the meritorious conduct, and each recommendation for the award must be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

On September 8, 2009 an Afghan battalion was set to go to a village in the Ganjgal Valley. According to the plan, Meyer was to stay with the vehicles near the mouth of the valley and the Afghan soldiers and their U.S. advisers would walk into the village from there. But as the lead of the column approached the village more than 50 insurgents fired from positions on mountains surrounding the valley and from within the village. The troops were trapped.

Back at the vehicles, Meyer heard the firing. When requests for airstrikes and permission to drive into the valley were repeatedly denied, Meyer set himself in the turret of a Humvee and rode straight into the firefight, taking fire from all directions. He went in not once, but five times, trying to rescue his comrades and taking to foot in an effort to locate his team. During about six hours of chaotic fighting, he took out eight Taliban militants and provided cover for Afghan and U.S. servicemen to escape the ambush, according to a Marine Corps account of the events. Meyer saved the lives of 13 U.S. troops and 23 Afghan soldiers.

I join Dakota Meyer's hometown of Columbia, Kentucky in pride as they celebrate this rare distinction for their native son. Meyer joins the ranks of a small company, who in the face of adversity rise to the occasion and do what needs to be done regardless of the consequences. His heroic actions reflect the values taught and practiced in small communities throughout the heart of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 706 I was inadvertently recorded as voting ''nay.''

Please let the permanent record reflect that I support H.J. Res. 77 and my vote should be recorded as ''aye.''

I support H.J. Res. 77 because Congress should not increase the debt limit until additional substantial cuts are made to the Federal budget.

IN HONOR OF MR. JAY WILLIAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jay Williams, who has recently been appointed as the Department of Labor's Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers by President Obama.

Mr. Williams was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He attended Youngstown State University and studied finance. After graduating, he began working with banks around the Youngstown area. He continued working in the banking industry as an examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Upon leaving the financial industry, Mr. Williams became the director of Youngstown's Community Development Agency. He served as the leader of Youngstown 2010. This ongoing initiative plans for a Youngstown that is ''smaller, greener, cleaner, makes efficient use of its available resources, and capitalizes on its many cultural amenities and business advantages.''

In 2005, Mr. Williams was elected as the Mayor of Youngstown. He was the first African American elected as Youngstown's mayor and was also the first independent candidate elected since 1922. Mr. Williams was re-elected in 2009. On July 6, 2011, President Obama announced Mr. Williams as the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers; he began on August 8, 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Jay Williams as he begins his tenure as the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. I extend my congratulations and well wishes as he embarks on this new endeavor.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss an important issue that affects too many young people across this country. As many students look forward to the new school year, there are too many who fear returning because their school environment is made unsafe by bullying. Bullying is not a rite of passage and no child should be afraid to go to school. An unsafe school environment, including one made unsafe by daily bullying and harassment, leads to increased absences and decreased graduation rates.

A majority of parents, students, and educators report that bullying and harassment are issues of major concern. To combat this problem, I have introduced the Safe Schools Improvement Act which would help schools and school districts develop and improve anti-bullying and anti-harassment initiatives. Fortunately, others are also beginning to address this issue and are seeking ways to address bullying and make schools safer.

One effort to combat bullying in our schools is the ''be a STAR (Show Tolerance And Respect) program'' being led by World Wrestling Entertainment, WWE, in collaboration with the Creative Coalition, the National Education Association's Health Information Network, NEA HIN, Stomp Out Bullying, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the National School Climate Center amongst others. This program provides teachers across America with a comprehensive toolset to teach children an anti-bullying message. 'be a STAR' is providing an easily accessible teaching aid written by the NEA HIN and educator Dr. Fran Prolman that meets National Education Standards. This teaching aid is available at no cost to educators and is designed to promote positive and equitable social environments for students within and beyond the classroom setting. The alliance is also offering a ''Start Your Own Be a STAR'' Chapter toolkit encouraging students to spread the anti-bullying message in their schools and communities. The be a STAR Alliance has also been instrumental in encouraging students to seek out resources or proper intervention to help protect victims of bullying and other forms of intolerance through its 'be a STAR' pledge.

I had the opportunity to participate in anti-bullying events with WWE Superstars Rey Mysterio and Eve, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, American Idol Winner Jordan Sparks, actor Tim Daly, Dancing with the Stars' Chelsie Hightower and many more. I joined them at the Algin Sutton Community Center to discuss with children the issue of bullying and to deliver a strong anti-bullying message of tolerance and respect. The reaction from the more than 500 children and families that participated was very positive. Through its participation and leadership in the alliance, WWE has demonstrated a real commitment to raise awareness about bullying, and is working in local communities around the country and overseas to combat bullying in our schools.

The anti-bullying movement has a new champion in the 'be a STAR' Alliance, co-

founded by WWE and The Creative Coalition and I want to commend them for the great work they are doing to promote equality for all people regardless of age, race, religion and sexual orientation.

TWO MIGHTY OAK TREES: SYMBOLS OF THIS GREAT STATE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandfather, Theodore Otto Herman Hill, or ''Thunderhead'' as he was more appropriately known, was a hunter, a taxidermist and a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist. He was the frontiersman type. He could tell the type of tree by looking at the bark or observing the leaves. He predicted the weather by watching the actions of animals. He found and collected arrowheads on his land in central Texas. His love of nature was impressed on me as a child.

Being born near where Texas independence was declared, Washington-on-the-Brazos, he told me many stories of famous Texas trees. Two trees in particular stand out in my mind.

In Gonzales, Texas, stands the ''Sam Houston Oak.'' This tree was made famous 175 years ago this month during the War for Texas Independence. Before towns were settled, unusual or gigantic trees were often used as landmarks for people to gather under to worship, to hear campaign speeches or to prepare for battle.

William Barrett Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. Sam Houston and his boys regrouped with Seguin and his company of Tejanos at this mighty oak. This tree became a rendezvous place for the new Texas Volunteers to organize and to later fight dictator Santa Anna.

The ''Sam Houston Oak'' site is considered by most historians as the beginning of the ''road to San Jacinto'' taken by General Sam and his ragtag bunch of freedom fighters on April 21, 1836, in the final battle for independence along the marshy banks of the San Jacinto River. Today, a historical marker along St. Louis Street in Gonzales recognizes this historical tree.

Another tree my outdoorsman grandfather told me about was the ''Treaty Oak.'' The Treaty Oak is an immortal symbol of Texas history that holds a special place in the hearts of all Texans. It is more than 500 years old. The Treaty Oak was a place of worship for the Comanches and Tonkawa Indians. The story goes that Stephen F. Austin signed the first boundary treaty with the Indians under the Treaty Oak, which is located in downtown Austin.

The Treaty Oak has endured multiple threats throughout its life. In 1920, the land that the Treaty Oak lives on was put up for sale, and the tree was almost cut down. There was a massive outcry to save the Treaty Oak. Texans felt a loyalty to this tree and so in 1947, the city of Austin purchased the land so that the Treaty Oak could remain untouched as a historic treasure for the state of Texas forever.

Back in 1989, a criminal by the name of Paul Cullen poisoned the great tree. In some sinister deliberate effort to kill the great tree, Cullen poisoned it with enough pesticides to kill a hundred trees. And as most outlaws do, he bragged about his crime, resulting in his swift arrest and incarceration. He was charged with felony criminal mischief.

Of course, I promptly volunteered to try that case while I was still a judge in Houston. Although I didn't get to hear the case, a jury of 12 tree-loving Texans in Austin found him guilty and sentenced the culprit to nine years in prison for trying to kill the mighty oak. The nation was stunned that Texans would send a person to prison for so long for ''just'' trying to kill a tree. But this wasn't any old tree. This tree was a symbol of Texas.

Amazingly, the Treaty Oak survived the attack, and her survival has astonished cynics who predicted the tree would certainly die. While she may not stand as mighty as before, she continues now to be a new symbol of Texas perseverance, ruggedness and determination.

Two mighty oaks of Texas . . . symbols of no place but Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month, as we celebrate the members of this community and their invaluable contributions to the Greater Cleveland Area and to our country.

In 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week began; the week was expanded to a month in 1988. Every year, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, a day that is celebrated in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua as the anniversary of their independence. Mexico and Chile's independence days also fall within the month. This year's theme is ''Many Backgrounds, Many Stories . . . One American Spirit.''

Hispanic Heritage month celebrates and illuminates the significant contributions that Americans of Hispanic heritage have had on American culture. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably toward efforts to elevate the human condition. Americans of Hispanic descent have served our country in numerous ways—as elected officials, teachers, musicians, physicians, veterans, community activists, and dedicated employees in virtually every sector of the economy. Their rich and diverse culture has touched the life of every American and has been an invaluable addition to Cleveland's diverse social fabric.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage month of 2011, as we recognize the great contributions made by Hispanic Americans in my district and around the country.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DR. C.J. HUANG ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE DEAN'S MEDAL FROM THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. C.J. Huang who was awarded the Dean's Medal on Saturday, September 10, 2011, by Dean Philip Pizzo of the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Huang called the event the 'happiest day of his life' and he spoke eloquently about his philosophy and that of generations in his family of giving and the privilege of philanthropy. Dr. Huang was described in the event program as follows:

''Dr. Chang Jen Huang was born in 1916 in Liu Yang City, in Hunan Province, China. He received a Master's degree in engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is a special member of the Stanford Research Institute. Dr. Huang has established a number of graduate scholarship funds and fellowships at Stanford supporting surgical oncology, cardiovascular research, and the exchange of medical education and research between China and the United States.

Dr. Huang is a passionate supporter of Dr. Sam So, Lui Hac Minh Professor in the School of Medicine and Director of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University. Dr. Huang is the honorary founder of the Asian Liver Center, established in 1996, to address the disproportionately high prevalence of Hepatitis B and liver cancer in the Asian and Pacific Islander populations) with the ultimate goal of eradicating Hepatitis B worldwide.

A dedicated philanthropist in many areas related to education and global health, Dr. Huang has most recently given a gift to establish the C.J. Huang Building at Stanford University. When constructed, this building with be the future home of the Asian Liver Center and other medical school programs.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great philanthropist, one whose life's work has been to promote science and education. Dr. Huang's support of the Asian Liver Center will help eradicate this disease and his gifts to Stanford will ensure that future generations will enjoy a high quality of life because of his extraordinary vision and generosity.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND WITH ISRAEL

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend's shocking attack on Israel's embassy in Cairo reminded us of the ongoing challenges faced by Israel as it continues to take risk after risk in the name of establishing lasting peace in the Middle East.

Thousands of rioters knocked down a recently installed protective barrier, ransacked the embassy, burned Israeli flags, and held six

security guards hostage. These shameful acts had the potential to do great harm to the hard-won 1979 peace treaty—a treaty penned barely a generation after the Holocaust and in the wake of the blatant 1973 attacks by Egypt and Syria that opened the Yom Kippur War.

Yet even in the face of evidence that the rioters seek an end to the peace treaty, Israel remains dedicated to it. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid rich tribute to the ultimate actions of Egyptian authorities to quell the riot and rescue the embassy guards. He pledged that the ambassador and the embassy's staff will return to Cairo when security can be better guaranteed. Israelis well know that peace with Egypt is in the best interest of both nations and the entire region.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu said in his May address to Congress, Israel is "the one anchor of stability" in the Middle East. Unwavering, self-sustaining, and yet faced with threats to its sovereignty from many sides, Israel has taken every chance to secure peace over its six-plus decades of existence. The prime minister has repeatedly said that Israel is willing to make "painful compromises" to achieve a two-state solution and quell violence in Gaza and the West Bank. In response, Israel is vilified in the United Nations, mocked for its attempts to survive, and met with open calls for its elimination.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, a vanguard against the terror states of the Middle East. Our two nations share a strong, long-lasting partnership based on mutual democratic values and freedoms. We must remain united against all threats to Israel's peace, stability, and its very existence—which, as we were reminded just days ago, cannot be taken for granted.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REFORM AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2867, a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Around the world, millions of people suffer persecution merely because they practice a different religion than other people around them. No one should be made to feel that the practice of their religion is a crime or a source of shame. Such persecution violates their inalienable human right to practice the religion of their own choosing and promotes political instability. The historical record is replete with incidents of violence and conflicts that have their source in sectarian and religious differences and rivalries.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is an important advocate for the freedom of religion and helps promote the issue as an integral part of the U.S. foreign policy and national security agendas. Additionally, by providing data analysis and assessment of conditions in affected areas, USCIRF enables the U.S. to impact acts of religious repression and intolerance in countries around the world.

USCIRF helps to advance the visibility of religious freedom as a priority of U.S. foreign policy and helps to address the challenges of religious extremism, intolerance, and repression throughout the globe.

I support the USCIRF and its mission and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2867.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. JOSEPH LECZNAR, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Joseph Lecznar, Sr., a dedicated leader of Greater Cleveland's Polish community.

Joe was born to Anthony and Mary Lecznar on July 25, 1921 in the southern province of Lancut, Poland. After attending elementary and junior high school, Joe began working on his family's farm. He served in the Polish Armed Forces, 2nd Corps during World War II and was wounded in action. He fought in many battles throughout the War and was honored with many medals and commendations for his bravery. He transferred to England and was honorably discharged in 1947.

Following the War, Joe immigrated to Toronto, Canada and later Cleveland, Ohio to join his siblings. He attended the Westside Technical Center to study to become a tool and die maker. He worked for the Chrysler Corporation for 30 years, where he was awarded with a citation and plaque for excellence.

Joe was an active member of his community; in particular the Greater Cleveland Polish community. He was a member of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America, Alliance of Poles, Polish National Alliance, Polish Legion of American veterans, Association of Polish Women, Polish American Congress, Parma Polish American League, Foundations and Center of the 2nd Polish Corps and the Chopin Singing Society.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Joseph Lecznar, Sr. I offer my condolences to his wife, Irene; four children, Joseph, Barbara, Daniel and Nancy; and nine grandchildren, Joseph III, Julie, Jessica, Nicholas, Lindsey, LeAnn, MacKenzie, Morgan and Macy.

HONORING CHRISTIAN CHURCH HOMES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of Christian Church Homes of Northern California (CCH). Since its debut in 1961, CCH has provided quality, affordable housing in creating caring communities for low-income seniors, as well as assisting its residents with accessing critical services to maintain their well-being.

It was the vision of church members in 1959 that led to the start of a committee that explored innovative ways to take action to the issue of fewer housing choices for seniors in northern California. In 1961, the committee moved forward to incorporate, and three years later, they received their first U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) loan and began construction on Garfield Park Village in Santa Cruz, CA.

Today, CCH serves more than 6,000 residents in over 60 properties in six States—California, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas. CCH employs around 450 experienced people and works with 350 dedicated volunteers to keep and maintain a high quality of life for its residents through community events, activities, and services such as fresh produce markets, "feel good bingo," computer labs, wellness clinics, exercise rooms, and education workshops.

CCH takes pride in its Service Coordination Program that provides resident assessments and referrals to services that match the needs of the residents. Through the guidance of service coordinators, residents can access the resources available in the greater community, which ultimately can allow for extended ability to remain in their CCH community.

Moreover, CCH has been leading the "Aging in Place" movement that blends health and human service provisions into affordable senior housing. These features allow for our senior citizens to live comfortably and become better acquainted with their community, while maintaining dignity and independence.

As a private non-profit corporation, CCH has benefitted from leveraging public and private resources for affordable housing development. By accessing all available funding on the Federal, State, local, and private levels, it allows CCH to provide additional services and benefits to its residents. In addition, a majority of its communities are funded through HUD, and many communities offer Project-based Section 8 or other subsidy programs which allow residents to pay 30 percent of their income in rent.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations on this important milestone. I want to thank all of the many people who have contributed to the continued success of Christian Church Homes of Northern California. I wish you the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on September 12, 2011, which included roll call votes 699, 700 and 701.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 699, H.R. 2076, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 700, H.R. 2633, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011.

Finally, if I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 701, H.R. 1059, to protect the safety of judges by extending

the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEVERETT JOHNSON HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Leverett Johnson Historical Marker being dedicated in Westlake, Ohio's Evergreen Cemetery on September 15, 2011.

Leverett Johnson became the City of Westlake's first settler in 1811 at the age of sixteen. On August 15, 1814, he married Abigail Cahoon, marking the first marriage in the City of Westlake. Leverett and Abigail raised nine children together in a cabin that he built.

Leverett was an active and dedicated member of his community. He served as the township trustee and treasurer for Westlake from 1815 through 1847. Additionally, he was Westlake's Justice of the Peace from 1822 through 1833. He continued his political career and served as the Cuyahoga County Commissioner in 1829 and was elected to serve in the Ohio State legislature five times between 1837 and 1856.

In 1820, Leverett generously donated a piece of his land to the City of Westlake for the purpose of creating a cemetery, the Evergreen Cemetery. The Cemetery now serves as the final resting place for many of Westlake's early settlers, including the Johnson family. It is one of Westlake's most historic locations. Now, 200 years later, the Ohio Historical Society is honoring the City of Westlake's founder, Leverett Johnson, and his legacy, with an Ohio Historical Marker.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the dedication of the Leverett Johnson Historical Marker.

COMMENDING TEXAS CITY, TEXAS ON ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Texas City, Texas on its one hundred year anniversary. Located alongside Galveston Bay, this city has made significant contributions to both the Houston and Texas economies. Congratulations to Texas City for a wonderful century of contributions to the Great State of Texas!

September 16th, 1911 marks the founding of Texas City. This city has grown from a sleepy town of 3,500 people in 1925, to a vibrant city of more than 45,000 people today.

Texas City plays a critical role in our state's economy with its contributions to the shipping and petrochemical industries. The Texas City Industrial Complex is a leading center of the petrochemical industry.

The history and economic efforts of Texas City bring pride to our state. Congratulations to Texas City for one hundred years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 700 and 701. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" and "yes" for these measures.

Bill	Rollcall No.	Vote
H.R. 2633—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended	700	Yes
H.R. 1059—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass	701	Yes

HONORING ALFRED L. PELOQUIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sympathy to commemorate the life of a tremendous journalist and friend Alfred L. Peloquin.

Mr. Peloquin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943, where he was a 1st lieutenant and later promoted to captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. After a stint in Europe during WWII he became a reporter at The Bay City Times in 1946. He was later named city editor of The Times in 1959. In the 1970s he was named metro editor of The Saginaw News until 1981 when he was named editor of the Flint Journal, a job he held until his retirement in 1989.

During his time in journalism, Alfred Peloquin remained deeply involved in each community, serving as chairman of Bay City's Planning Commission, Commodore of the Bay City Yacht Club, a member of the Bay City Ski Club, Bay City Industrial Development Committee, the Bay City Community Concerts Association and Chairman of the United Fund Campaign. In Flint, he helped establish the former Alliance for Greater Flint and the community-wide World of Difference anti-prejudice program. He also created a high school workshop for minority journalists.

Shortly after his retirement, he joined the Flint AARP chapter and held a variety of posts with the local and Michigan AARP. Mr. Peloquin was active in AARP from April 1990 until December 2005 and his positions include Chairman of the AARP Michigan State Legislative Committee and member of AARP's Executive Leadership Council. In the 90s, he was also vice chairman of the Bay City Planning Commission, director for Jennison Hardware Co., a member of the Steering Committee for the Bay County Civic Arena and a member of the Community Round Table on Care for the Patient with Dementia. He sponsored numerous seminars and public forums addressing civic responsibility and good government and he continued to share his wisdom and knowledge to aspiring journalists throughout his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to the Peloquin family and my gratitude for having met Alfred. I am a better person for knowing him and our community is better because of his tireless and dedicated work.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S MODERN INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Twenty years ago Ukraine succeeded from the Soviet Union and on August 24, 1991 asserted its independence. For the first time since 1921, Ukraine was once again free. The Western world and in particular the United States welcomed Ukraine's sovereignty and its pursuit of democratic ideals.

Ukraine as a new nation has achieved much in the short time. Ukrainians enjoy the ability to share with the world their language, culture, history, and heritage without fear of persecution. During the Orange Revolution of 2004 the world saw Ukrainians united to uphold the sacred belief that in a democracy the will of the people must be fulfilled.

As we look back, we must remember that the path to democracy faces difficulties. Ukraine still struggles with its past, both inside and outside its borders. Legacies of the Soviet Union can still be seen in Ukrainian politics today. Political opponents have been intimidated and journalists harassed. Ukraine struggles to maintain civil liberties and the national identity of Ukraine has been endangered. Russia continually attempts to subjugate Ukraine by threatening Ukrainian territorial integrity, attempting to create Ukrainian reliance on Russian energy, and threatens Ukraine's pro-European ambitions. There are many challenges in democratization, but with the will of the Ukrainian people and the support of the world they can be realized.

On this twenty-year anniversary of independence I would like to offer my best wishes to all Ukrainians around the world who join us in celebrating this great milestone. It is important that we all reaffirm our strong commitment to Ukraine's independence as well as our tireless efforts to help democracy live strong in Ukraine.

IN RECOGNITION OF COGSWELL HALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cogswell Hall, a permanent housing residence for low income adults facing critical life challenges.

Founded by Mrs. Benjamin Cogswell in 1889, Cogswell Hall evolved from her earlier advocacy work as leader of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). In 1878 Mrs. Cogswell formed the Missionary Committee of the Open Door to provide young

women temporary shelter, training, employment services, and spiritual guidance. However, she soon realized that these women needed a permanent residence and the Home of Friendless Girls was established.

The Training Home for Girls continued to operate. After several moves, it settled at its current location on Franklin Boulevard in 1914. In 1952, the Training Home for Girls was renamed Cogswell Hall in honor of its founder. Cogswell Hall has also adapted its mission several times, expanding its clientele from adolescent girls to women of all ages with limited incomes and disabilities.

Today, Cogswell Home's mission is to "provide safe, affordable housing and supportive services to adults of limited income facing critical life challenges who may otherwise be homeless." They serve as a permanent home for adult men and women facing life struggles ranging from developmental and physical disabilities to mental illness and addiction to abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cogswell Hall, as they continue to serve as a safe haven for Greater Cleveland's disadvantaged.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN GORDON ROSS NAKAGAWA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero. Captain Gordon Ross Nakagawa was a career naval officer who completed his life journey with incredible dignity and grace on August 23, 2011. He was just 77 years old. Gordon's golden spirit was admired by many and will be deeply missed. I count myself privileged to have known him and know that his memory will be with us for generations to come.

Gordon was born on June 13, 1935 in Auburn, California. In 1941, Gordon, his parents Bunny and Harriet, and two brothers were sent to an internment camp at Tule Lake, California, and later to a farm labor camp in Caldwell, Idaho. In 1945, they returned to California where Gordon attended elementary school in Lincoln. There he first set eyes on his wife Jeanne. He graduated from UC Berkeley, where he served as the NROTC Midshipmen Battalion Commander.

On February 7, 1958, Gordon received his commission as an ensign in the United States Navy. He was designated a Naval Aviator in August 1959, earning the coveted Naval Aviation "Wings of Gold." After receiving a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in 1966, he was selected to fly Navy jets. He flew 185 combat missions in an A–6 Intruder. In December 1972, during Operation Linebacker II, his aircraft was struck down by enemy fire in North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese held Gordon as a prisoner of war at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" until his release on March 28, 1973.

Gordon's service in the Navy continued until September 1989. During his career, he helped develop tactics to protect carrier groups, taught at the United States Naval Academy, and coordinated all major design competitions for U.S. Naval Aviation. He ended his active duty career as Chair of Tactical Analysis at NPS. Gordon was awarded two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, two Meritorious Service Medals, Distinguished Marksman (Rifle) Medal, Distinguished Pistol Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, and various other campaign, service, and individual awards.

Active duty retirement did not end Gordon's public service career. He continued to educate our service members at NPS and served on the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board for over 8 years. He was an active member in numerous organizations including the Military Officers Association of America, Naval Postgraduate School Foundation, the Marina Foundation, the Veterans Transition Center, and the Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery. His commitment to his community was honored by being named the 2004 Monterey County Veteran of the Year, and sharing the 2006 Marina Citizen of the Year with his wife.

Gordon's life is a great American story. He was a hero who defended our nation with valor, an esteemed educator who shared his knowledge with generations of students, and he was a strong leader in the community who led by example. Above all, he was a devoted husband to Jeanne; a loving father to Gregory, Kathleen, and Steven; and a caring grandfather to Ryan, Graham, and Tait.

Mr. Speaker, I speak on behalf of the whole House when I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Captain Gordon Ross Nakagawa, and extend to them the gratitude of the nation.

COMMEMORATION OF THE SERVICE OF JUKE VAN OSS

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Juke Van Oss's 60 years of broadcasting on WHTC 1450 in Holland, Michigan. On Aug. 9, Juke celebrated 60 years of service to the station and his community.

Juke's work in radio began during World War II in the Philippines and Korea. No doubt, his service transmitting codes and protecting radio equipment helped coordinate American troops against the great foes of National Socialism and Fascism. For any American, this service should be more than sufficient to earn the gratitude of others, but Juke further endeared himself to the people of West Michigan with his work during peacetime.

After the war, Juke attained his amateur license and became a radio engineer for WHTC at the age of 27. Juke recognized that radio is a medium like no other. Nothing else commands such great respect for the spoken word, and Juke soon learned to inspire that respect in listeners throughout the community. One morning, the scheduled announcer failed to arrive on time so Juke took a seat at the microphone. An instant favorite of listeners, Van Oss began hosting his own morning show, and for the past 45 years he has hosted "Talk of the Town." Juke became a local celebrity in the Holland area as thousands of families invited him into their homes, and men and women enjoyed his company during their daily commutes. Juke used radio to knit together and tighten a community. He helped make national issues local, and local people neighborly.

Mr. Van Oss is not only a radio personality, but a community servant. He served as a member of the Saugatuck Schools Board of Education and Village Council, including three years as Mayor, as well as President of the Chamber of Commerce and a seat on the Region 8 Criminal Justice Planning Council. I fervently wish for every community in our Nation their own Juke. Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this Sept. 16, 2011, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the achievements of Mr. Van Oss and wishes him the best in his future years in broadcasting.

TRIBUTE TO KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Nephrology Nurses Association as well as all those involved in the annual Kidney Disease Awareness Week, which took place this year from August 8th through August 12th.

There are over four hundred thousand Americans who have irreversible kidney failure, and the only treatment for this disease is dialysis or kidney transplantation. However, transplants are limited due to the shortage of donors, and the majority of patients who suffer from this forgotten ailment must undergo regular dialysis treatments.

The leading causes of end-stage kidney disease (ESRD), a disease that 24,000 New Yorkers suffer from, are Hypertension and Diabetes. An additional 15,000 people in my state suffer from these two ailments and are at risk of ESRD. Despite these staggering numbers, debilitating kidney diseases are typically forgotten.

Our area Nephrology Nurses play a fundamental role in providing our sick with dialysis and related treatments in my community and across the entire country. I applaud them for their efforts to contribute to the overall health of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the American Nephrology Nurses Association for their work to treat these diseases and urge every American to observe Kidney Disease Awareness Week this August.

CONGRATULATING STREET SOCCER USA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH ANNUAL STREET SOCCER USA CUP

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Street Soccer USA—a leader in sports-based youth development for the least-

served in our country—on the occasion of its 4th Annual Street Soccer USA Cup that was held here in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Street Soccer USA is an effective and innovative organization which builds trust through sports to better leverage existing social services in communities across the U.S., enhancing their outcomes and tying the greater community to the issues of homelessness and poverty in a new way. Building on the basic sports platform, Street Soccer USA creates a positive community around people who are homeless, dramatically transforming their lives.

SSUSA uses team sports to deliver job and life skills training and other specialized services, ultimately connecting participants directly to jobs, education, and housing. It has a broad coalition of implementing parties in 18 cities across the United States, including the Foundation for Change in Montgomery County in my district. The program's systemic approach is designed to build trust, self-esteem, discipline, and basic financial literacy. Mentoring and goal setting practices are designed to transform lives and address barriers like drug addiction and mental instability head on.

In 2010, SSUSA launched a research initiative with four universities to examine the impact of sport based programming on marginalized populations and looking both at the impact of its 265 day a year programming and its single day events.

Since its creation in 2007, SSUSA has a history of success including 410 players placed in jobs and housing through 18 programs across the country. 92 percent of participants show a new motivation for life, and 75 percent pursue further education, address substance abuse issues, reconnect with family, or address mental health issues.

This June, members of the Montgomery County program joined over 200 athletes overcoming homelessness from 18 cities across the United States to compete alongside an estimated 500 youth, adult, and corporate team players as part of the nation's premier sport for social change event in D.C. The Cup attracted national media attention and participation from professional athletes, and involved grassroots outreach throughout the Spring and Summer. I am proud that the Montgomery County team took home a second place finish to the Street Soccer Minneapolis team during a hard-fought battle that ended in overtime penalty kicks.

Top achievers on and off the field were selected to represent the United States men's and women's teams at the 56 Nation Homeless World Cup in Paris, France in August.

Two members of the Montgomery County program, Salvador "Chamba" Matos and Alvaro Gonzales, were among the 16 chosen from 8 different cities to represent our country in Paris. Both have returned safely and are now employed, housed, and using their free time to help others who are in the situation where they once found themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of this year's participating Street Soccer USA Cup teams and the players chosen for the national teams. They are among a distinguished group of individuals dedicated to improving their lives.

I also want to recognize SSUSA's entire staff of employees and volunteers, who work so hard to strengthen their organization and help so many, and extend to them my best wishes for many successful years ahead. They are demonstrating that ending homelessness is a team sport.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY'S 1ST ANNUAL STAND DOWN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the First Annual Orange County Stand Down to be held in Santa Ana, California on September 17–18, 2011. Nationally, it is estimated that one-third of the homeless population in the United States are veterans of the United States Armed Forces, many of whom face a constant battle with the effects of their time in service to our nation. There are approximately 5,000 veterans residing within the borders of Orange County that currently experience some form of homelessness during the year.

This event will create a "one-stop" environment for these homeless veterans and their families to receive basic social services such as veterans benefit assistance, mental health and substance abuse counseling, along with housing and employment placement assistance. The first Orange County Stand Down expects to serve approximately 400–500 of the county's homeless veterans and their families, many of whom have served their country valiantly in theaters of combat ranging from World War II to the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Attendees of the Stand Down will be able to receive hot showers, new clothing, hot meals and a chance to bond with their fellow veterans.

Veterans First, a community-based organization in my district that serves homeless veterans along with other community groups and government entities such as the United States Veterans Administration (VA), State of California Employment Development Department (EDD) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the County of Orange, the American Legion, Elks Lodge, American GI Forum, the American Red Cross, and Furnishing Hope, have come together to serve a group of brave individuals who have fought for the freedoms we value and cherish.

I would like to recognize the First Annual Orange County Stand Down and commend its mission to restore honor to our homeless veterans and assist them in rebuilding their lives.

As ranking woman on the Armed Services Committee, I would like to extend best wishes of success to the First Annual Orange County Stand Down in the hopes that it will become a sustainable annual event to assist our homeless veterans until all of our heroes are no longer on the streets.

HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION WEEK, SEPTEMBER 19–25, 2011

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role that Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) play in educating our nation's students. And I congratulate those institutions for their efforts as HSIs across the country celebrate National HSIs Week next week, September 19–25, 2011.

Hispanic Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping them attain their full potential through higher education. National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week recognizes the contributions of these exemplary institutions at the forefront of service to our nation's youngest and largest ethnic population. It is significant that we pay tribute to them for their commitment to secure academic access, equity, excellence and success for every American.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions provide hope and opportunity to America's diverse communities of learners, reflecting the belief that every American should have access to a college education. While HSIs constitute less than 5 percent of America's institutions of higher education, they enroll 50 percent of all Hispanic Americans enrolled in colleges and universities.

This year also marks the 25th Anniversary or Silver Anniversary of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), an association working to improve the capacity of HSIs to help students succeed across our nation.

In honoring the many contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), we recognize the critical role that HSIs play in providing quality educational opportunities to Hispanics and to all other students who attend these institutions.

Congratulations to HACU and to the nations' Hispanic Serving Institutions, and thank you for your service to our communities and your contributions to higher education.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2011. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums. If federal employees elect to purchase the short-term insurance provided for in my bill and they become injured or ill because of a non-work related injury or illness, federal employees will be able to collect disability insurance benefits, for up to one year, to replace a portion of their lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance to federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. And, while federal employees may have limited available sick or annual leave days, these are often insufficient to cover the costs of an employee's living expenses if he or she has to be out of work for an extended period

of time. Moreover, although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify if they have not worked for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private sector counterparts, who have access to disability insurance at group rates. The bill will not allow participating employers to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. And, because of the federal government's purchasing power, the bill will provide all of these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if the employees seek such insurance as an individual.

According to the Social Security Administration, studies indicate that a 20-year-old worker has a 30 percent chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by conditions or illnesses such as cancer or back injuries, according to the Council for Disability Awareness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

LANDAU ENGENE MURPHY, JR. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT WINNER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, America has voted. The Nation voted for a winning combination of humility, hard work, life-long dream, and finely tuned talent. Today, I join with my friends in Logan County and all throughout West Virginia in congratulating Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., this year's winner of NBC Television's "America Got Talent."

Landau's journey is a true American success story. Coming from humble beginnings, he worked hard, never lost faith in his Lord, and always remained determined to pursue his dream.

I believe what Landau accomplished last night should stand as an example to every young person throughout this great Nation. He has shown them that they should always set their goals high and work until they get there, and indeed, if you should take some blows, just let the record show, you did it your way.

I send my very best to Landau, his lovely wife, Jennifer, and their family as they begin this new and exciting journey in their lives. I know that Landau remains as humble today as he was when he first took the stage at the Logan County Arts and Crafts Fair's annual talent show some years ago.

I would like to commend the Logan County Chamber of Commerce, the Hatfield and McCoy Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and Diana Barnette and all the fine folks at Fountainplace Cinema 8 in Logan for their support of our hometown hero. As we always have in West Virginia, we stand behind and support our own, and the work these organizations and individuals have done is phenomenal. Undoubtedly, their efforts were instrumental in Landau's victory.

Mr. Murphy accepted his victory with the hugs and "high fives" of his competitors, the hallmark of good sportsmanship. Throughout the weeks of competition he often spoke of his respect and compassion for, and friendship with, his opponents—a timely lesson for us all.

I hope my colleagues will congratulate all those whose talent carried them to the final weeks of a long competition. And, I thank America for recognizing a true talent in this fine son of West Virginia. Thankfully, we will be hearing a lot more from Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY YATES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary L. Yates for providing two decades of leadership in health philanthropy through his work at the California Wellness Foundation.

After three years at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Mr. Yates joined the Foundation as a senior program officer in 1992, was named the Interim President in 1994 and President and CEO in 1995.

Mr. Yates received his B.A. in Government from American University and his Masters in Counseling Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado. He also served in the United States Army from 1968–1970. He is a licensed marriage, family, child therapist and a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Southern California Medical School where he trains doctors, psychologists, and social workers on how to work with adolescents. In brief, he is dedicated to improving health outcomes for those most in need.

Since joining the TCWF, Mr. Yates has worked tirelessly to create, lead and support initiatives to improve health and decrease violence throughout the state of California. In 1992, he led TCWF's first proactive grantmaking program, a 10-year, $60 million Violence Prevention Initiative. His approach to grantmaking has ensured that funds reach the right people, places, and causes, such as environmental health, violence protection, teen pregnancy prevention and women's health.

Mr. Yates' commitment to philanthropy can only be described as inexhaustible and inspirational. He also serves as a member of the board of Independent Sector and is co-chair of Voices for Philanthropy, a project of the Philanthropy Roundtable. He has previously served as the treasurer of Hispanics in Philanthropy, vice-chair of the boards of the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector, and chair of the boards of Grantmakers in Health, the Foundation Consortium, and Southern California Grantmakers.

During his time at TCWF, Mr. Yates has received many prestigious awards and honors, and this fall he will be recognized by the Center for Community Health and Well-Being, the California Primary Care Association and the National Hispanic Health Foundation.

It has been a personal privilege to work with him on a myriad of issues over the years, especially women's health.

Mr. Yates and his wife Ann are the proud parents of five sons.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor Gary L. Yates for his tireless dedication to the people of California upon the occasion of his retirement on September 14, 2011, after 19 years as a leading health philanthropist.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDWARD A. SHELDON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Dr. Edward A. Sheldon, founder of Oswego State University in New York, as we celebrate the college's 150th anniversary.

A native of Perry Center, New York, Dr. Sheldon spent decades devoting his life to the New York education system by organizing and spearheading an educational system accessible to all children. Throughout the years, he served as a teacher, superintendent, and secretary of the board of education in Oswego, NY. In 1861 he founded the Oswego Primary Teachers' Training School, known today as Oswego State University. Serving as President until 1897, he worked to transform the subject matter and methods of formal education and to extend educational opportunities to all children.

Through his lifetime, Dr. Sheldon garnered national attention creating the Oswego method of object training. His time spent working to enhance the quality of education in Upstate New York provided a strong foundation for countless students and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Dr. Edward A. Sheldon and congratulate Oswego State University on their 150th year.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.J. Res. 77. This resolution is another pointless political gesture put forward by Republicans in their efforts to fight our President tooth and nail, regardless of the impact on American families and our economy.

This resolution has already failed in the Senate; it is going nowhere. It is beyond irresponsible to spend time catering to far-right Tea Party Members with doomed procedural technicalities while American families face a jobs crisis.

Early this year, we were seeing hundreds of thousands of jobs created each month and real economic recovery was taking root. Since then, Republicans have manufactured one crisis after another. Whether it is threatening to shut down the government, default on our debt, or cripple the FAA with furloughs, Republicans have shown an unbelievable willingness to harm our economy so they can score points with their Tea Party base.

Washington gave our country a pointless, dangerous debt limit showdown in July, and our nation's employers responded by creating zero new jobs in August. We need to move past this divisive, debt limit gamesmanship and take action to get our economy moving by passing the American Jobs Act now.

HONORING MAYOR JOHN HAMM III

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated community service of Madison, Illinois Mayor John Hamm III as he is recognized for his lifetime of community service by the Southwestern Illinois Chamber of Commerce of Madison County.

As the Executive Director of the Madison County Housing Authority, John has taken the Authority to a new level of activity, constructing hundreds of new residential units and communities in southwestern Madison County. He has overseen the redevelopment of numerous homes and properties and created new housing opportunities for the people of our area. He has helped break ground and redevelop new housing facilities for seniors and low to moderate income families, giving many families a place to call home.

Mayor Hamm has been a consistent, active participant in community service for Southwestern Illinois serving as a municipal representative on the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and East West Gateway Council of Governments.

Both he and his wife, Carol, have been longstanding community supporters of Madison's schools and are active with sports groups, booster clubs and many service organizations within the community.

In his longstanding roles, first as a City Council Member in 1987 and then as Mayor of the City of Madison beginning in 1997, Mayor Hamm has been a champion for his local community. He has undertaken aggressive steps to rid the community of over 100 derelict properties and has worked tirelessly to bring in new businesses, such as Abengoa Bio Energy, Mattingly Lumber and Gateway International Raceway. He has been successful in securing both state and federal grants and funding for a new fire station, parks and walking trails and was instrumental in securing the Chain of Rocks Bridge as a tourist destination.

As a Commissioner of the Tri City Regional Port District since 1997, Mayor Hamm has been an active leader in developing the Port District, working with my office to help in the transfer of the former U.S. Army Charles Melvin Price Support Center to the Port in 2000. During the last several years, over $325 million in both public and private investment has been made at the Port with an annual economic impact of over $200 million to the regional economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mayor John Hamm in recognition of his years of service as a community leader and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO DOLORES REID BARKER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ms. Dolores Reid Barker, a charismatic Brooklynite who carries the energy to inspire and motivate others.

Ms. Dolores Reid Barker is a native of Colon, Panama but was raised in the Costa Rican province of La Lola by her maternal grandparents. Ms. Barker received her primary and secondary education in Costa Rica before migrating to the United States to pursue her quest and rich interest in attaining advanced degrees. With dedicated and focused attention, Ms. Barker obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Brooklyn College, a Masters Degree in Special Education from Long Island University, and a second Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Through her academic achievements, Ms. Barker developed a relentless focus on the student-teacher relationship as a prerequisite for sustained student success. It was this emphasis that drove Ms. Barker to assume the first of several positions in the academic environment as a bilingual teacher, eventually becoming staff developer/resource specialist and assistant principal. It is of most importance to Ms. Barker that she clearly communicates her vision of high achievement and teacher accountability in order to build a positive rapport with the parents of children. Ms. Barker currently holds the position of principal of one of New York City's elementary schools, PS 95 Queens, where she raised the schools' evaluation from mediocrity to high achievement.

Within her community Ms. Barker is very active with her Seventh Day Adventist church and several organizations. The organizations Ms. Barker works with include the Concerned Women of Brooklyn Inc., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Phi Delta Kappa, The Interfaith Medical Auxiliary and Assistant Coordinator of the New York State Geography Bee.

She has also been the recipient of many awards for her ardent advocacy for teaching, learning, and leadership. The latest two were the Certificate of Excellence which was presented to her by the Community District Education Council, and Educator of the Week which was featured on Univision, Channel 41 New York.

A piece of inspiration that motivates Ms. Barker is found in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Dolores Reid Barker for her contribution to the education of Brooklyn students and the community.

COMMEMORATING THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary this month of the National Reconnaissance Office. The National Reconnaissance Office was secretly created in 1961 in response to the Soviet launch of Sputnik with the purpose of overseeing "all satellite and overflight reconnaissance projects whether overt or covert." This information was Declassified to the public in 1992. Today the NRO is in charge of designing, building, launching, and maintaining the United States of America's intelligence satellites. When the United States needs eyes and ears in critical places where no human can reach—be it over the most rugged terrain or the most hostile territory—we turn to the National Reconnaissance Office.

We are proud to applaud the National Reconnaissance Office for recently completing one of the most aggressive launch campaigns since its inception by launching six complex satellite systems in only seven months. With fewer people and less infrastructure than in years past, this great accomplishment is a testament to the diligent National Reconnaissance Office program teams and the essential collaborative launch efforts with the United States Air Force and the talented workforce they draw from across the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community. Whether creating the latest innovations in satellite technology, contracting with the most cost-efficient industrial supplier, conducting rigorous launch schedules, or providing the highest-quality products to our customers, these successful launches prove the National Reconnaissance Office's never-ending commitment to protect our Nation and its citizens.

As one of the 16 Intelligence Community agencies, the National Reconnaissance Office is a hybrid organization consisting of some 3,000 personnel that is jointly staffed by members of the Armed Services, the Central Intelligence Agency and Department of Defense civilians. Headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia, the National Reconnaissance Office launches from Cape Canaveral, FL and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, while maintaining ground station operations in Virginia, Colorado, New Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Australia. This unique composition and placement of the National Reconnaissance Office workforce allows for launching and operating the most technically-capable systems to continued operations of legacy satellites in order for the United States to remain the premier space reconnaissance organization in the world.

Together with other Defense Department satellites, National Reconnaissance Office systems play a crucial role in providing: global communications, precision navigation, early warning of missile launches and potential military aggression, signals intelligence, and near real-time imagery to United States forces in support of the war on terrorism and other contingency operations. Additionally, National Reconnaissance Office satellites have played an ever increasing role in supporting civil customers, assess crop production, map habitats of endangered species, track oil spills, and study wetlands.

Through continued vigilance from above, the National Reconnaissance Office provides America's policymakers, intelligence analysts, warfighters and homeland security specialists the critical information they need to keep America safe, secure, and free. For these many achievements, I join my colleagues in congratulating the men and women who support the National Reconnaissance Office on 50 years of outstanding service to our nation and may they continue on this path to reach even greater milestones in space reconnaissance for years to come.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Constitution Day, happening this Saturday, September 17, 2011, celebrating the 224th anniversary of our Founding Fathers' signing of the Constitution. Constitution Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past success of our founders in the form of the Constitution, the two centuries of progress since, and the future promise of the United States under the guidance of the document given to us in 1787.

Constitution Day reminds us to review the whole document and what it means to our country, and shows that support for the Constitution requires more than chanting slogans at a political rally. Calling yourself a ''strict constitutionalist'' means nothing if you don't bother to read the entire Constitution and fight for everything it includes, not just the portions that fit neatly with your personal political philosophy.

As an Iowan, and a student of the Constitution for more than 30 years, I take pride in repeating our state's motto: ''Our Liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.'' Constitution Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the document that prizes our personal liberties and preserves our rights in a system of laws that recognize the individual spirit of every American, and has made our Nation a shining beacon in the world. The development of the Constitution has recognized the rights of all men and women, and created a system of equality that has helped our Nation move past prejudice and discrimination in some of our darkest hours.

Constitution Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the system of justice for all by creating an impartial judiciary and a system of law that recognizes the rights of every citizen to file a grievance against their government or fellow man. It lets us reflect on the goals of a responsive executive, a representative legislature, and a responsible judiciary working on behalf of all citizens to preserve their rights, respect their liberties, and allow for progress. It reminds us to all work harder to support the progress of the United States.

I ask all my colleagues and constituents to join me in recognizing Constitution Day and reflecting on the lasting work of the Founding Fathers.

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES AND ELIZABETH SESSIONS OF PACE, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Charles and Elizabeth Sessions on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Charles and Elizabeth Sessions were married on September 15, 1961 by Reverend Bo Lowery at Pace Assembly of God. Charles and Elizabeth are deeply rooted in Northwest Florida and are lifetime residents of Pace, Florida. As active members in the local community, they were entrepreneurs and owned several businesses in the area. Charles won the first Pace Pioneer Award from the Pace Chamber of Commerce and served on the first planning board for Santa Rosa County, all with Elizabeth by his side.

Charles and Elizabeth are parents to three children, Greg and twins Kim and Ken; and have two grandchildren, Chloe and Brandon. Now retired, Charles and Elizabeth enjoy spending their time with their family, traveling, and their favorite pastime—fishing on Lake Kissimmee or on the river in Camden, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Sessions on their 50th wedding anniversary. They are truly an outstanding family from the First District of Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish their entire family all the best.

A TRIBUTE TO DECORAH HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Decorah High School in Decorah, Iowa. The United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced today that Decorah High School has made the list of the Nation's 2011 Blue Ribbon Schools.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. In the words of Secretary Duncan, ''National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow.''

Decorah High School is among the state's highest performing schools. Decorah High School students scored in the top ten percent in Iowa with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improving their performance on state assessments or nationally normed tests. Additionally, the students at Decorah High School averaged a full three points higher on their ACT scores than the national average.

Decorah High School's principal Kim Sheppard and one additional teacher will be invited to Washington, DC for the awards ceremony, to take place on November 14th and 15th. At this ceremony, Decorah High School will receive a Blue Ribbon Schools plaque and a flag to signify its elite educational status.

I consider it a great honor to represent Decorah High School Principal Kim Sheppard, the teachers, students, school board members and administrators of the Decorah Community School District in the United States Congress. I wish Decorah High School continued academic excellence as they provide a positive impact on future leaders of our state and country.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DAKOTA MEYER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Dakota Meyer, U.S. Marine Corps, who has virtuously served the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Today, Sgt. Meyer will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest medal for bravery, for his courageous actions while serving as a member of the Marine Embedded Training Team 2–8, Regional Corps Advisory Command in Kunar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Sept. 8, 2009, Meyer's actions saved the lives of 13 U.S. troops and 23 Afghan soldiers.

Taliban insurgents were dug into the high ground and hidden inside a village, pouring down deadly fire at Afghan forces and their American advisers. Armed militants swarmed the low ground to try to finish off the troops.

Meyer's team was pinned down near the village. Defying orders to stay put, Meyer set himself in the turret of a Humvee and rode straight into the firefight, taking fire from all directions. He went in not once, but five times, trying to rescue his comrades.

During about six hours of chaotic fighting, he killed eight Taliban militants and provided cover for Afghan and U.S. servicemen to escape the ambush.

We owe our freedom to exceptional soldiers, like Sgt. Meyer, whose bravery and heroism, and the bravery of those who he fought alongside of, will forever be remembered and appreciated.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Sergeant Dakota Meyer for his steadfast commitment to the U.S. Marine Corps, his fellow soldiers, his nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. RALPH D. REID

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Ralph D. Reid, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for Sprint Nextel. In Ralph's role, he has responsibility for Community Affairs, Employee Engagement and Volunteerism, CSR strategy and operations, and Corporate Diversity and Inclusion. He also directs Sprint's philanthropic activities as President of the Sprint Foundation and works diligently for the residents of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Reid is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri and the nation.

Ralph graduated from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama with a Bachelor of

Science in Business Administration and Accounting. He received his Law Degree from the University of Missouri—Kansas City. Ralph is currently President—Board of Directors of the Kansas City Downtown Minority Development Corporation, and the Vice President—Board of Directors of the Kansas City United Community Action Agency. He has served on multiple boards, including the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Salvation Army, the Greater Kansas City Urban League, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Repertory Theater, Oakwood College, Park University, and the Shawnee Mission Medical Center. He serves with me as a Trustee of the National World War I Museum Board. Mr. Reid was recognized by Savoy Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential African Americans in Corporate America for 2010.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Reid's contributions to the State of Missouri and induct Mr. Ralph Reid into the Missouri Walk of Fame at its annual reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Ralph D. Reid and commending him on his induction into the Missouri Walk of Fame. Further, the entire State of Missouri is better because of his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri and the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. He is a true role model, not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire nation. May his success serve as a stepping stone for Kansas Citians in general and African Americans in particular who are eager to become as successful in their chosen profession and community activism.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) in Canaan, CT. BD is an example of an innovative corporation who provides hard working Americans with high quality manufacturing jobs. Starting with only 8 associates in 1961 in a 25,000 square foot facility, BD's footprint in Canaan has expanded 8 times and now employs over 350 people, making it the largest employer in the community.

BD has been a world leader in medical technologies throughout the company's history. In 1925, BD patented the Yale Luer-Lok syringe, which provides a simple and secure way to lock a needle onto a syringe. To this day, the Luer-Lok connector is still the standard for syringes in the United States.

Continuing to revolutionize the medical industry, BD created the world's first disposable plastic syringe, the BD Plastipak, which was exclusively manufactured at the Canaan facility. The Canaan manufacturing facility in 2002 became the first site to manufacture BD's newest syringe, the BD Integra, which is spring engineered to eliminate accidental needle-sticks and provide great dosing accuracy. The facility is the largest manufacturer of disposable syringes in the world, producing approximately two billion syringes annually.

Further, BD has been a great example of corporate social responsibility in Connecticut. The company served as the corporate sponsor for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in order to raise money in Northwest Connecticut for diabetes research. BD has donated generously to The United Way, and also mentors students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. In 2007, BD was named to Ethisphere Magazine's inaugural list of most ethical companies, and has since placed on the list every year.

In reflection of the 50th anniversary of BD in Canaan, CT, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring a company that has truly transformed the medical technology industry.

HONORING YOUTH WHO REPRESENT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the outstanding youth who represent Junior Achievement of South Florida, and their effort to foster an understanding of the United States Constitution in our community.

Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization that provides thousands of students across the world with a series of business, economics, free-enterprise, and life-skills programs. In South Florida, the young people of Junior Achievement are truly shining through their work to bring the Spirit of Freedom Experience to the Junior Achievement World Huizenga Center at Broward College. Envisioned by President Ronald Reagan, the Spirit of Freedom Experience aims to boost reverence for the founding principles of our nation by presenting bronze plaque replicas of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights to communities across America. The efforts of these Floridians will culminate during this year's Constitution Week as five plaques, representing our nation's founding documents, will be unveiled to the South Florida community.

Among those present to recognize the work of Junior Achievement and to commemorate the unveiling of these historical documents is Captain Scott F. O'Grady, an American whose career in the military epitomizes the spirit of public service. In a story of great perseverance, Captain O'Grady survived in hostile territory for six days after his aircraft was struck down by a Soviet missile during a NATO mission in Bosnia. All those present for the Spirit of Freedom experience will undoubtedly be inspired by Captain O'Grady's courage and commitment to country.

Junior Achievement's efforts to prepare young people to succeed as individuals and as citizens are truly commendable. It is an honor to recognize a group of young Americans who have already accomplished so much on behalf of our community by bringing the Spirit of Freedom Experience to South Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen delay earlier this week, I was unable to vote on the following bills: H.R. 2076, H.R. 2633, and H.R. 1059 that were rollcall vote numbers 699–701. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 699, H.R. 2076, Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011, "yea"; rollcall No. 700, H.R. 2633, Appeal Time Clarification Act, "yea"; rollcall No. 701, H.R. 1059, To protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes, "yea."

TRIBUTE TO USA NATIONAL TEAM AT THE 2011 RUGBY WORLD CUP

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States national rugby team, the Eagles, on their victory over Russia in the wee hours of this morning during the 2011 Rugby World Cup competition in New Zealand. Although rugby may not be as popular in the United States as many of our other sports, the Rugby World Cup is now established as the third biggest sporting event in the world behind the Olympic Games and FIFA World Cup for soccer.

The Eagles played their first match against Ireland on September 11 and lost to the much higher ranked team 22–10, after starting the day with a church service to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 attacks on the United States. I know this event held particular meaning for the members of the team from the Mid-Atlantic (MARFU) and Northeastern Rugby Union (NRU). Today's 13–6 win over Russia marks an important victory for the Eagles in their pool play at the tournament. I wish them the best of luck in their upcoming matches against Australia on September 23 and Italy just four days later.

My best wishes go to the host nation of New Zealand as they organize this event on the world stage for the second time in its 24 year history. At the inaugural Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in 1987 it is estimated 600,000 fans attended matches with 300 million people tuning in on television from 17 countries. The last World Cup in 2007, held in France, Scotland and Wales, saw 2.25 million fans filling the parks and 4 billion watching televised coverage from 200 nations. This year the numbers are expected to be even higher as the sport is growing in many countries, like ours, where it is the largest growing team sport on college and high school campuses across the nation. I wish New Zealand the best of luck and commend them for welcoming the millions of visitors to their shores for this spirited competition despite the devastating earthquakes suffered in Christchurch earlier this year.

I applaud the Eagle's victory today and commend each of these young men from across the country for the hard work and dedication they have committed representing our country at their sport's highest level.

Mr. Speaker I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the members of the U.S. national rugby team and wishing them continued success at the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

2011 Rugby World Cup USA Squad: Inaki Basauri; Chris Biller; Todd Clever; Patrick Danahy; Paul Emerick; Tai Enosa; Eric Fry; JJ Gagiano; Colin Hawley; Nic Johnson; Scott LaValla; Mike MacDonald; Nese Malifa; Matekitonga Moeakiola; Brian McClenahan; Takudzwa Ngwenya; James Paterson; Mike Petri; Shawn Pittman; Blaine Scully; Junior Sifa; Hayden Smith; Louis Stanfill; Andrew Suniula; Roland Suniula; Kevin Swiryn; Phillip Thiel; Tim Usasz; John van der Giessen; Chris Wyles.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,683,910,471,705.99.

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 $4,045,484,725,412.19 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO NASA DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dryden Flight Research Center as it commemorates 30 years of space shuttle operations. Located at Edwards Air Force Base in California, Dryden is NASA's primary center for atmospheric flight research and operations and has been a vital component of the Space Shuttle Program.

Located in the western Mojave Desert, Edwards Air Force Base has been the site of 54 shuttle mission landings since 1981. Additionally, as a result of the important work done by the Dryden professionals, the skies over Dryden have been the site of major advancements in the design, capability, and safety of many state-of-the-art civilian and military aircraft.

Tirelessly committed to its mission of advancing technology and science through flight, Dryden's projects have been critical in carrying out NASA's missions of space exploration, space operations, scientific discovery, and aeronautical research and development. Some of these critical projects include managing the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) program, serving as the primary alternate landing site for the space shuttle, and providing orbital support for the International Space Station.

The Dryden Flight Research Center has served a vital role by leading in aeronautics and space technology. Having enjoyed the experience of watching space shuttle landings firsthand, I am honored to recognize Dryden on its 30 years of operations now and for all its contributions to the Space Shuttle Program.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. OLLIE W. GATES

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Ollie W. Gates, a businessman, humanitarian, community developer, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. Mr. Gates is President of Gates Bar-B-Q, and is recognized as one of the purveyors of the best barbecue in the Nation, if not the world. His sauces and seasonings are shipped around the world and his famous greeting, "Hi, May I Help You?" is also known world-wide. Some Presidents of the United States have either stopped at his local establishments or had his barbecue products shipped to the White House. This week, Mr. Gates is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri and the Nation.

After receiving a football scholarship from Maryland State College (now the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore) and excelling there for two years, Mr. Gates moved closer to home to help in the family business, graduating from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Upon completion of his studies, he joined the U. S. Army. He was a 1st Lieutenant at the conclusion of active duty service, and thereafter served in the Army Reserves in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Gates' list of achievements read like a Who's Who in business, volunteerism, and philanthropy. He served on the Kansas City Board of Parks and Recreation for 18 years, many of those as President. He was the spearhead of the Black Veterans Memorial in Kansas City to honor a group of soldiers never-before-memorialized in Kansas City and he is in the process of renovating a building to honor his friend Buck O'Neil, a manager with the Kansas City Monarchs baseball team in the Negro Leagues, and a coach with the Chicago Cubs in the Major Leagues. He has served on numerous civic boards including the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission, Bruce R. Watkins Foundation Inc., US Bank Corporation, Negro Leagues Museum, Spirit of Freedom Foundation Inc., City of Fountains, and the Enshriners to name a few. Mr. Gates has also been recognized for many civic honors such as Restaurateur of the Year Award by the Greater Kansas City Restaurant Association, Citizen of the Year Award by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, Outstanding Leadership Award by the NAACP, Executive of the Year Award by the Corporate Report of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Hall of Fame Award and Distinguished Alumni Award both from Lincoln University. Mr. Gates has received many more accolades too numerous to mention.

Ollie Gates has been recognized in the form of music by Professor Bobby Watson, director of the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory of Music in the jazz ensemble work, The Gates BBQ Suite. This is a seven-part rendition which has been put on CD. There is also a CD recorded by Kansas City rapper, Tech N9ne entitled The Gates Mixed Plate. Mr. Gates was this year's "hero" to elementary students at the Gladstone Elementary School in Kansas City. The kids sang a song to him entitled "Hi, May I Help You!" which was a spin-off of the saying that employees of Gates Bar-B-Q say to everyone who comes into their restaurants to order food.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to induct Mr. Ollie W. Gates into the Missouri Walk of Fame at its annual reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Ollie W. Gates and applaud his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri and the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. He is a true role model, not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community nationally. We are certain that his success as an entrepreneur and his use of his considerable gifts in rebuilding 12th Street, east of Troost, and the entire area around 47th Street from the Paseo to Troost Avenue will serve as a stepping stone or road map for many other African-Americans eager to become as successful in their own undertakings as Ollie W. Gates has exemplified.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF STANLEY N. COHEN, M.D. ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE DEAN'S MEDAL AT THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanley N. Cohen, M.D., who was awarded the Dean's Medal on Saturday, September 10, 2011, by Dean Philip Pizzo of the Stanford University School of Medicine. He noted in his comments at the event that it was a particular honor to be honored by his colleagues and by Stanford. Dr. Cohen was described in the event program as follows:

Stanley N. Cohen, M.D., is a magna cum laude graduate of Rutgers University. He received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1960. Following subsequent training at the National Institutes of Health, he joined the Stanford faculty in 1968.

Dr. Cohen is the Kwoh-Ting Li Professor in the School of Medicine, Professor and former Chair of Genetics, and Professor of Medicine at Stanford. He and his colleague, Herbert W.

Boyer, Ph.D., of the University of California, San Francisco, revolutionized the fields of biology and chemistry by inventing genetic engineering. Their discovery of a methodology for propagating DNA, the hereditary material of all living things, in foreign hosts has provided the cornerstone for virtually all modern biological and medical science, and a foundation for the current revolution in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Dr. Cohen has received numerous honors, including the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology, the Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research, the Wolf Prize in Medicine, the Research Award of the Helmut Horten Foundation, the Prix de L'Institut de la Vie, the Lemelson-MIT Prize, the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, and the Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine. He has been elected to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a past chair of its genetics section, a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Cohen has also received ScD honoris causa degrees from Rutgers University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly great American, one whose life's work has enhanced the lives of others and will continue to do so for generations. Together with other brilliant scientists, he continues to build on his discoveries. He adds great luster to Stanford University and to American science, and I'm extraordinarily proud to honor him and his work in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded vote for rollcall 706. During this time, I was on a conference call with FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez. We were discussing the closure of the Sherman Minton Bridge, which has severely impacted transportation and commerce in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted ''no'' for this measure.

Bill	Rollcall No.	Vote
H.J. Res. 77—On Passage	706	No