EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STRUTHERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CENTENNIAL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Struthers Presbyterian Church for celebrating its 100th anniversary this past Sunday, November 13, 2011.

In 1804, the Struthers Presbyterian Church was formed in the log cabin home of Richard McConnell. In 1910, construction of the current Struthers Presbyterian Church began in order to accommodate a growing congregation.

Harold Milligan Sr. became a member of the church in 1922 and has watched the church grow over his lifetime. One of his fondest memories of the church was during World War II when the church held ''Bonds for Building'' dinners to support the war effort. The church continues to help the community grow and prosper. It has acted as a meeting place for many local organizations including Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and the Rotary Club. The congregation puts together welcome baskets for new city residents, they give hand-made fleece blankets to the Akron Children's Hospital, they coordinate food banks for those in need, and they organize clothing drives during the holidays.

I wish the church 100 more bountiful years of service to our community and thank the congregation for their generosity and commitment to the residents of Struthers.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF FORMER MAYOR EMORY FOLMAR

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a former Montgomery, Alabama Mayor, Emory Folmar, for his selfless dedication and commitment to our Alabama community. An elected official, decorated war veteran, successful business owner, and loving husband and father, Mayor Folmar lived a long and fruitful life filled with many accomplishments. Not only did I have the privilege to know him as the Mayor of my hometown, but also personally as an elder within Trinity Presbyterian Church, and as a close friend of my family.

Mayor Folmar was born in Troy, AL, and moved to Montgomery when he was fourteen years old. While earning a degree in business at the University of Alabama, Mayor Folmar also served as Cadet Colonel of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). Through ROTC, he received a Regular Army commission and went to Ft. Benning, GA, for parachute training and instructors' schools. Shortly after, he married Anita Pierce in 1952, his surviving wife of over 50 years.

That summer, Mayor Folmar deployed to Korea, where he later received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart for his heroic service. Additionally, at the rank of Lieutenant, he received the French Croix de Guerre, an award bestowed to individuals who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with enemy forces.

After Korea, Mayor Folmar was assigned to Ft. Campbell, KY, as an Airborne Jump Master until 1954. He then returned to Montgomery, joining his brother in construction and sales for a government-issue loan funded housing in the Cloverland neighborhood. The Folmar brothers' business eventually grew to include large commercial shopping center construction throughout the Southeast.

In 1975, Mayor Folmar entered the political arena by running for city council in 1975, where he was elected President of the Montgomery City Council and eventually became Mayor from 1977 until 1999. Among his many other political accomplishments, he ran for governor in 1982; served as campaign chairman for Ronald Reagan's finance committee in 1980; state chairman for Reagan in 1984; and chairman for Bush-Quayle in 1988 and 1992. After retiring from politics, he worked as a business consultant and was appointed Commissioner to the Alabama Beverage Control Board by Governor Bob Riley in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise today to join me in remembrance of Mayor Emory Folmar. I personally am blessed and honored to call Mayor Folmar a role model and dear friend. The citizens of Montgomery will forever remember the Mayor for many years to come and the influential legacy he left behind.

IN HONOR OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND DIRECTOR DR. JON WOODS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I along with Congressman STEVE STIVERS rise today to honor and recognize the Ohio State University Marching Band director Dr. Jon Woods upon his retirement.

As a former member of the marching band, I had the extraordinary opportunity of learning from and getting to know Dr. Woods. To this day, I am honored and blessed to call Jon a good friend. Issuing remarks about a man that has meant so much to me and every Buckeye around the world gives me great pleasure.

The Ohio State Marching Band remains one of the most well-recognized college bands in the country. Its artistry, accuracy and sound has earned the band the informal title of ''The Best Damn Band in the Land.'' Observing the band in action fills Buckeye fans with immense pride and captivates an audience in a way unlike any other live event. Most Ohio State supporters credit much of the band's success and acclaim today to the efforts of Dr. Woods. Since his arrival, Jon has upheld the band's traditions, while also employing new and innovative techniques that have helped the band sustain so many years of unrivaled superiority.

After several decades, the Ohio State Marching Band and the entire university has benefitted from the supreme expertise and visionary leadership of Dr. Woods. He has become a cornerstone of Ohio State, and, through his legendary work, has etched his name into the school's storied history. I along with Congressman STIVERS and the entirety of the Ohio State community will greatly miss his presence. His passion for our beloved school and his years of commitment to the band have left him with an enduring legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 842, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT HISON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and colleague in public service, Mayor Robert Hison of Saint Clair Shores, Michigan, as he retires after 27 years of devoted and talented service on the City Council. I have deeply enjoyed working with Mr. Hison on a number of significant issues to help serve our mutual constituents.

Mr. Hison had a lengthy and successful career at Detroit Diesel Corp, retiring in 2004 after 38 years of service. He was appointed to Saint Clair Shores City Council in 1984, was reelected several times and ran for mayor in 2004, and has served the last 7 years in that capacity.

Although the position of mayor is part-time in St. Clair Shores, Mr. Hison believed it was a full-time responsibility. He devoted himself to the work and was visible everywhere throughout the city. He made it his goal to improve the city's financial future and under Mr. Hison's leadership, the City of Saint Clair Shores has continued on a path of sound financial footing despite immense economic challenges.

The City of St. Clair Shores is fortunate to be located next to Lake St. Clair, one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in North

America and a vital resource for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreational activities. Lake St. Clair is not the largest body of water in the Great Lakes system, but no body of water is more important. During his tenure on the City Council and especially as Mayor, Mr. Hison has worked to restore Lake St. Clair and address longstanding environmental problems that threatened the health of this vital natural resource. In particular, he has worked closely with my office and the Environmental Protection Agency to begin to address the PCB contamination that was discovered in the Ten Mile Drain adjacent to the Lake in 2002.

In addition, while serving as Mayor, Mr. Hison went beyond serving his community and lent his talents to the entire Southeast Michigan area by taking on several leadership roles with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). He served as chair of both the Data Center and Finance & Budget Committees before being elected as vice chair of SEMCOG in 2007 and later chair in 2010. In 2010 he was nominated by SEMCOG for the open Region IX seat on the National Organization of Regional Councils (NARC) Board which serves Michigan and Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated public service of Robert Hison and his numerous achievements. I am so pleased to join with the entire community in paying tribute to his achievements, thanking him for years of talented service. I am confident he will continue to play an important role in the community where he is so highly thought of, in addition to enjoying a bit of retirement with his wife Nancy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN LATINO MUSEUM ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (FL–18) the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act—a companion bill that is also being introduced today in the U.S. Senate by our colleagues Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ (NJ), Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID (NV) and Senator MARCO RUBIO (FL).

The Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act we introduce today advances the work of the National Museum of the American Latino Commission—a 23-member bipartisan, congressionally authorized commission of experts that investigated the potential creation of a museum. Through an exhaustive process that involved consultations with national experts, forums in 8 cities (Chicago, Albuquerque, Austin, Miami, St. Paul, Los Angeles, New York City, and San Juan, Puerto Rico), and communication via several online platforms that engaged tens of thousands of supporters, the commission generated valuable input regarding the feasibility of an American Latino museum in Washington, DC.

Over the past 18 years the call has grown stronger and stronger to establish such a museum on our National Mall that shares the rich and full story of what it means to be an American. The effort to create the American Latino Museum dates back to 1993, when a Smithsonian Task Force on Latino Issues formally called for the creation of a national museum dedicated to sharing the story of Latinos' historic, cultural and artistic contributions to the U.S. I was proud to introduce the legislation in 2003 that created the National Museum of the American Latino Commission. Five years later, in 2008, Congress passed the bill and it was signed by President George W. Bush. Once appointed by Congress and President Barack Obama, the Commission began its work in 2009 with the support of the Department of Interior and Secretary Ken Salazar. The Commission's final 2011 report and recommendations can be viewed at http://www.americanlatinomuseum.gov.

The bill we are introducing responds to the Commission's call for the creation of a national museum in Washington, DC that illuminates the American story for the benefit of all'' by preserving, presenting and interpreting American Latino history, art, cultural expressions, and experiences. Specifically, the bill:

(1) Establishes within the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the ''Smithsonian American Latino Museum.''

(2) Designates the museum's site as the Arts and Industries Building on the National Mall, at 900 Jefferson Drive Southwest in Washington, DC.

(3) Authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to prepare a plan of action for the museum, as referred to in the May 2011 Report to Congress submitted by the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission and federal and local agencies.

(4) Authorizes the Regents to identify and evaluate viable funding models for both the construction and operation of the museum, within 18 months after the bill is enacted.

(5) Authorizes the Regents and Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement that allows for the planning, design and construction of an underground annex facility, in a manner harmonious with and to protect the open space and visual sightlines of the Mall.

Today marks a key moment in our effort to ensure that the contributions of Americans of Latino descent receive the respect and recognition earned by a patriotic community of Americans who have served this nation since its inception and now number over 50 million. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and to supporting the Smithsonian Institution in an important new chapter of its work to increase understanding of the American experience.

HONORING DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSIC DIRECTOR JAAP VAN ZWEDEN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jaap van Zweden, Dutch conductor and music director for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Van Zweden has been named 2012 conductor of the year by Musical America after joining the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as music director just 4 years ago, beginning with the 2008–09 season.

Announced at the annual Musical America Awards, conductor of the year looks to recognize artistic excellence and achievement in the arts. Mr. Van Zweden has demonstrated mastery in both of these aspects, as evident in his most impressive and diverse career over the years.

Before joining the Dallas Symphony Orchesta, Mr. Van Zweden had worked with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, among many others all across the world. Mr. Van Zweden currently also serves as chief conductor and artistic director of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestras as well as chief conductor of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestra of Belgium.

The DSO is truly privileged to have such a talented and accomplished artist to lead their musical program. As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am always looking for ways to enrich our creative capacity in Dallas and throughout the Nation. Drawing talent from outside the district is just one method for achieving this noble objective.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue to honor the individuals who contribute so much cultural value here at home. Artistic and musical inspirations such as Jaap van Zweden have a positive impact on our communities and I commemorate anyone who chooses to enrich the lives of others by using their talents toward the betterment of society.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENÉE AND ROBERT BELFER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Renée and Robert Belfer for their foresight and generosity in advancing medical research and countless other worthwhile charitable and non-profit causes. Partners in marriage and philanthropy for more than half a century, Renée and Robert Belfer are being honored this month by the internationally renowned Weill Cornell Medical College for more than two decades of leadership at the Medical College and at an affiliated institution, New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

This month, a groundbreaking ceremony is being held for the new Belfer Research Building of the internationally renowned Weill Cornell College of Medicine. Its construction was made possible by an extraordinarily generous $100 million donation by Renée and Robert Belfer. The Belfer Research Building will be a state-of-the-art 18-story facility on Manhattan's East Side that will more than double the Weill Cornell College of Medicine's existing research space and enhance its position at the cutting edge of new medical research and discoveries.

The remarkable record of support provided by Renée and Robert Belfer and their family has helped medical researchers and doctors develop enduring solutions to some of today's most pressing and prevalent health problems. In 1980, Arthur Belfer, the father of Robert Belfer, established the R.A. Rees Pritchett

Professorship of Microbiology at Weill Cornell Medical College with a gift of $1 million. In 1991, Robert and Renée Belfer and his two sisters and their husbands, Selma and Lawrence Ruben and Anita and Jack Saltz, donated $1.5 million to endow the Rochelle Belfer Professorship in Medicine at the College, and seven years later, the families contributed $4 million to endow the College's Arthur B. Belfer Professorship in Genetic Medicine and provide funding for its Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Gene Therapy Core Facility. With an $8 million gift to the College of Medicine in 2005, Robert and Renée Belfer established The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Institute of Hematology and Medical Oncology, named in honor of his parents. The Institute is advancing critical research in fields such as solid tumor biology, cancer genomics and proteomics. Renée and Robert Belfer have also devoted financial support to programs in women's health, and in 2003 donated $1 million to create the Anti-Bioterrorism Project.

Renée and Robert Belfer have truly distinguished themselves on a multitude of fronts. A graduate of Vassar College, Mrs. Belfer is devoted to education and the arts, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; as a Director of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; as an Overseer of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; an Executive Board Member of the American Friends of the Israel Museum; and a Member of the Chairman's Circle of the Central Park Conservancy, among the numerous illustrious nonprofit institutions she and her husband have supported vigorously over the years. A graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, Robert Belfer is a titan in the world of business, enjoying a long career at the Belco Petroleum Corporation, where he rose to become Chairman, and currently serving as Chairman of Belfer Management LLC, a private firm specializing in the energy, real estate and financial services sectors. He has been an extraordinary supporter of a wide variety of renowned educational and non-profit institutions, serving as a Member of the Board of Overseers and the Executive Committee of the Weill Cornell Medical College; on the Visiting Committee of Harvard University's Kennedy School; a Trustee of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute; a Member of the Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee and the Weizmann Institute of Science; and former Chair and current Member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Together, he and his wife established the Robert and Renée Belfer Family Foundation, which has unstintingly bestowed generous support on worthwhile institutions like the Weill Cornell College of Medicine. They raised children, Rachelle (Malkin), Laurence, and Elizabeth, and have five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my esteemed colleagues join me in paying tribute to Renée and Robert Belfer for their significant and enduring contributions to the civic life of our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 841 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S MARCHING BAND AND THE 75TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ''SCRIPT OHIO''

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize "The Best Damn Band in the Land!"

In my opinion, there are not many more electrifying and time-honored traditions in college sports than The Ohio State University Marching Band's presentation of "Script Ohio." Throughout the country, it would be hard to find a college football fan that has not personally witnessed or been told the tale of this truly remarkable exhibition of music in motion. This year marks the 75th anniversary since former band director Eugene Weigel developed this storied ritual, and today "Script Ohio" continues to bring immense pride to the university and Buckeyes all over the world.

To me, attending an Ohio State football game and observing the band's elegance and precision remains a breathtaking experience. Along with other lifelong supporters of the school, I consider watching "Script Ohio" a considerably moving event, one that warms the heart of any Buckeye. The flowing spelling of those four letters stands as a monument to our state and an appreciation that all Ohioans cherish. As the band takes the field, fans throughout The Horseshoe, whatever colors they wear, quickly realize the significance of the spectacle they are witnessing.

As a former member of the band I have had the honor of forming "Script Ohio" countless times. My time with the band remains one of the most memorable and thrilling experiences in my life. One of my fondest memories is personally watching the legendary Ohio State Football Coach Woody Hayes dotting the "i" before a game. Only a handful of non-band members have ever been given the opportunity to take part in such a prestigious event. Seeing Woody honored that way was a testament to his legacy and Ohio State's respect for tradition and honor.

It deeply pleases me to speak on behalf of something that continuously fills me with pride: The Ohio State University Marching Band. Congratulations on the 75th anniversary of Script Ohio. Go Bucks!

RECOGNIZING MINNIE'S FOOD PANTRY 4TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER GIVEAWAY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Minnie's Food Pantry, a 501(c)(3) agency in the Third Congressional District of Texas that provides nutritious food, free of charge, to families in underserved communities. With the community's outpouring of financial donations and food collections, Minnie's Food Pantry is one of the largest pantries in Collin County.

Founded in 2008 by Cheryl "Action" Jackson to honor her mother Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, the organization has partnered with individuals, businesses and farmers to alleviate hunger and build community relationships. This year, Minnie's Food Pantry is hosting the 4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway "From Our Table to Yours."

Just this year alone, Minnie's Food Pantry has fed over 23,000 people. This Thanksgiving, Minnie's Food Pantry will provide a complete meal for more than 1,200 local families.

I am pleased to recognize Minnie's Food Pantry, along with its Board of Directors, for its invaluable contribution to combat hunger in Collin County. It is an honor and a privilege to represent this fine organization. It is organizations like Minnie's that make North Texas a great place to call home.

To Minnie Ewing and the great folks of Minnie's Food Pantry, God bless you, best wishes for wonderful things to come, and Happy Thanksgiving!

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROBERT LEE MATHIS

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Lee Mathis, who recently passed away at the age of 77. Robert was the first African American to be elected to public office in Concord, North Carolina, and led a life of service dedicated to his community and his country.

A native of Cabarrus County, Robert Mathis joined the U.S. Navy after school where he served our nation honorably. Robert volunteered to put his life on the line in order to protect the American people and American values. He continued to live his life with this same kind of selflessness even after his military service came to an end.

Upon returning to Cabarrus County, Robert Mathis was elected to the Concord Board of Alderman, where he served for more than 15 years. Robert was the first African American to be elected to public office in Concord, making his election a landmark achievement for African Americans in my district. Even as Robert was holding local office and making history, this was still not enough. Robert was additionally a board chairman for the nonprofit Logan

Daycare Center and an active member of the First Christian Church in Concord. He wrote a book about his life that was published in 2010 titled I Made the Best of It.

Such an upstanding, dedicated local leader will be missed by his friends, family, and community. Robert is survived by his wife, four children, nineteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers go out to them in this time of deep loss; I hope the memories and principles that Robert Mathis lived his life by bring them comfort. Robert will be missed by his community and his country. I am honored to be able to recognize the life of such a selfless, upstanding individual as Robert Lee Mathis today before Congress and our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NORA CRONIN PRESENTATION ACADEMY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy in the City of Newburgh, New York as this Catholic school for low-income girls prepares to dedicate its permanent home on November 21, 2011.

I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy on this important and wonderful milestone. The Academy was organized in 2003 and officially founded in 2004 by the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary to offer a high quality educational alternative to young girls in the struggling City of Newburgh, which remains one of the most economically distressed communities in the State of New York. With strong support from the local community, the Academy was established through the vision and dedicated efforts of Sisters Nora Cronin, Joan Mary Gleason, Yliana Hernández, Ann Marie McMahon, Carol Melsopp, and Helen Marie Raynor, and Associate Jackie Martinez. The Academy was renamed in honor of Sister Nora following her passing in 2004.

Under the diligent leadership of its Principal, Sister Yliana, the Academy accepted its first class of fifth grade students in 2006–2007 and has grown steadily as the first class advanced and new classes entered the school. Originally housed in temporary locations in New Windsor and at another location in the City of Newburgh, the Academy purchased and redeveloped a long-neglected historic property at 69 Bay View Terrace in the City of Newburgh. The Dedication of the Academy's new permanent home is a testament to the commitment and leadership of the Presentation Sisters as well as the generosity and hard work of the Academy's Board of Directors and many local supporters.

As a result of this inspiring effort, dozens of underprivileged young girls in the City of Newburgh will have the opportunity to receive an incredible education in a supportive and safe environment. I congratulate and offer my gratitude to all those who make the Academy and the Dedication possible, and I wish the students and faculty of the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy the very best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM AND MEGAN WHITE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding Pennsylvanians, Jim and Megan White, who are being presented the Barry Award by the American Catholic Historical Society. The Barry Award is named after Commodore John Barry, the ''Father of the American Navy.'' John Barry was a Philadelphia Irish mariner who served as a Captain in the Navy during the Revolutionary War and subsequently received 'Commission Number One' in the Navy from President George Washington on June 4th, 1794. His military service to a young nation was instrumental in establishing the legacy of a strong Navy that we still enjoy today. The Barry Award is awarded to an American who, by their character and their contributions to church, community and professional accomplishments, has distinguished themselves. By all accounts, Jim and Megan White have exceeded these expectations, serving church and community with distinction. As a Member of Congress representing Pennsylvania, I am proud to join you in honoring them.

Jim and Megan White are an example of servant leaders who are committed to serving their local community. A devoted couple, they are loving parents to five children; whom they have taught to never back down in the face of popular opinion; and to always do what their heart and soul directs them. Megan has devoted countless hours at parish food and clothing drives and is also a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home for Children. She provides constant support for her children and husband in all their endeavors.

Jim is a member of Legatus, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Knights of Malta, Pennsylvanians for Human Life, and the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute. He is the President of J. J. White Inc., a family business founded by his great-grandfather in 1920. His business is the largest contracting employer in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

I am privileged to recognize Jim and Megan's commitment and selfless dedication to others. The White's exemplify the values that make Pennsylvania a great place to live and raise a family. I congratulate them on this honor and commend the American Catholic Historical Society for selecting Jim and Megan White for the Barry Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEIL ARMSTRONG UPON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, in 1900, Orville and Wilbur Wright left Dayton, Ohio for Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to begin testing the first manned aircraft. Little did they know in less than 70 years, another individual from Ohio would be making aviation history yet again.

Mr. Speaker, we will gather today in the Rotunda to recognize the historic accomplishments of Neil Armstrong—along with three other extraordinary men: Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn.

I, like most Americans, remember watching television in awe that July evening as Neil Armstrong took ''one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'' onto the moon.

While the accomplishments of the Apollo program would not have been possible had it not been for those that came before it—including the Mercury and Gemini programs—we must recognize those pioneers, like Neil, who selflessly volunteered their lives for the pursuit of knowledge to go where no one had gone before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in joining me in congratulating my constituent, Neil Armstrong, as well as Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn upon receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT LUIGGE ROMANILLO UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Technical Sergeant Luigge Romanillo upon his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself ''by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.''

On May 4, 2010, Sergeant Romanillo flew a high-risk Medical Evacuation mission to extract wounded coalition forces engaged by over one-hundred insurgents near Baghram Airfield in Afghanistan. The confined landing area left the cargo door nearly five feet off the ground as hostile insurgents fired from less than 200 meters away. The aircraft received small arms damage to several control surfaces as Sergeant Romanillo and his teammate stepped off the aircraft toward the patients amid the firefight.

Under a storm of enemy bullets, Sergeant Romanillo led his team in recovering the patients. Once in the aircraft, he administered life saving treatment to his patient who had suffered a gunshot wound. The actions of Sergeant Romanillo and his team led to the successful evacuation of two wounded coalition soldiers and repatriation of two killed in action.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Sergeant Romanillo at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Sergeant Romanillo has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

HONORING JOHN FREDERICK KENSETT AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a recent event in the Capitol Visitors Center. Two paintings, ''Discovery of the Hudson River'' and ''Entrance into Monterey'' by Albert Bierstadt, have been placed in the Capitol complex after years in the Members' staircase in the House. These works are part of the Hudson River School of painting, a movement that influenced not only American art, but our culture and environment as well.

The Hudson River School was dedicated to an accurate depiction of landscapes, particularly emphasizing the untouched beauty of the land. Ultimately, these beautifully represented panoramas helped influence the environmental conservation movement and were used in 1916 to support the creation of the National Park Service.

John Frederick Kensett, a member of this first indigenous American school of painting, has ties to my district. Born in Connecticut, John Frederick Kensett worked as an engraver before traveling to Europe and the American West to study and paint. However, he is best known for the works he did upon his return to my state. The light-filled landscapes of the coast of Contentment Island became Kensett's signature.

Kensett's contributions to both art and culture are lasting. He was chosen by President Buchanan to serve on the only United States Capitol Art Commission to supervise the decorations of this very building during renovations in 1859. He also assisted with the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, which continues to be one of the most prominent cultural institutions in the United States. Inspired by the Hudson River School's founder, Thomas Cole, Kensett was commonly seen as Cole's successor as the leader to this important movement.

I encourage everyone to make time to appreciate these paintings and the legacy of the Hudson River School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, due to my responsibilities related to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, I missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted ''no.''

IN CELEBRATION OF THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES RECEIVING THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR—THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran myself in a so-called ''Forgotten War'' in American history, I know what it is like to come home and feel unrecognized. The Montford Point Marines for too long have been unsung heroes. These men fought abroad to preserve our freedom and democracy, then came home and had to fight for their civil liberties.

On the eve of 11–11–11, the United States Senate passed legislation, which the United States House of Representatives voted unanimously 422–0 to honor the Montford Point Marines with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. These truly great American men fought in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II—the first Black Marines in the Navy. After 70 years, they have finally received the honor they deserve for a legacy we must not forget to pass on to our future generations.

At the time of their military service, discrimination and violence toward Blacks in America were rampant. Black Marines were sent to untraditional boot camps; they were segregated and instead received training at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

One of these heroic men is my beloved brother, the Honorable David N. Dinkins, who is also the first African American and 106th Mayor for the City of New York. He recounted some obstacles he and his comrades faced in an interview: ''Italian and German prisoners of war, some of them were guarded by Black soldiers. They were treated better than those people who were protecting our country; soldiers and Marines.'' My brother David further stated. ''During training, Black Marines were often kicked, slapped, could not eat until the whites had finished, and were routinely passed over for promotions.''

He even heard stories of some Black Marines following orders to march into a river where they soon drowned. Despite their hardships, the Montford Point Marines proved to be a solid force within our military, just as capable as any group of white Marines. Originally organized to serve as a temporary surge in manpower, the Blacks trained at Montford Point comprised roughly 10 percent of the Marine Corps strength during the war and were to be disbanded after hostilities ended.

Montford Point Marines won praise from several white officers for their heroism during the seizure of Okinawa and at Iwo Jima. They were even sent to Nagasaki to clean up after the atomic bomb was dropped. Documented by the Montford Point Marine Association, much of that heroism occurred with the 51st Defense Battalion, which arrived at Saipan in the Mariana Islands to support the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions of V Amphibious Corps. While they were assisting the combat units, one of their own, Private First Class Leroy Seals of Brooklyn, New York, was shot and died the next day of his wounds. The Montford Point Marines picked up their rifles that day, fought back the Japanese, and even destroyed one of the Japanese machine guns from the beachhead perimeter side-by-side with the white combat units. In February 1945, a group from the 51st landed on Iwo Jima with the 5th Division, 28th Regiment. The combat regiment came ashore and it seemed that taking Iwo Jima would be a cakewalk. The Japanese, however, had planned an ambush. They (the Japanese) had placed guns on either side of Mount Suribachi and were firing at will onto the Marines on the island. The Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Company landed during the second or third wave and somehow they kept ammunition in the hands of the combat units throughout this deadly firefight. Repeatedly the Black Marines delivered the much-needed ammunition. Though the Japanese actually shot two trucks from under one of the drivers, he kept coming back. Combat Marines who thought they had seen everything cheered this young, Black Marine from their foxholes. The Montford Point Marines knew their job was to keep the combatants supplied and they did so with great valor and at great expense to their company. The Japanese soon saw this and began to make their assault on the Ammo Company as well as the combat Marines. The Montford Point Marines rose to the occasion by fighting off these attacks as they continued their supply missions. This is the courage and stamina that lead Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Fleet in the Pacific to say, ''On Iwo Jima, in the ranks of all the Marines who set foot on that Island uncommon valor was a common virtue.''

Those early Montford Point Marines were the catalyst for the great presence of African Americans in the Marine Corps. By the time that camp was closed for recruit training in 1949, over 21,000 recruits were trained and molded there. In July of 1948, President Harry S Truman issued Executive Order No. 9981, ending segregation in the military altogether. In September of the following year, Montford Point was deactivated, ending the legacy of inequality.

Twenty years following World War II, during August 1965, a group of enterprising Marine veterans and active duty Marines from Philadelphia organized a reunion. The purpose was to renew old friendships and share experiences of former comrades who received recruit training at Montford Point Camp, Camp Lejeune, and New River, North Carolina. This group, chaired by then Master Gunnery Sergeant, Brooks E. Gray, USMC, held a meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and formulated and developed plans for a National Reunion. The response was overwhelming and 400 Marines from all over the country convened at the Adelphia Hotel in Philadelphia. In 1966, the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. received its Charter and founder Brooks E. Gray became the Association's first National President.

Next year, the Marine Corps will officially begin teaching all their servicemen and servicewomen about the Montford Point Marines. There is a museum dedicated to their service located at Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The Montford Point Marines Association continues to work tirelessly to preserve their stories, which serve as a reminder of the struggles behind us and the challenges ahead. In order to truly appreciate their legacy, we must continue sharing this story.

Sunday, November 6, the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association honored the 69th Anniversary of the original Montford Point Marines and the 44th Anniversary of the New York Chapter at the elegant Antun's Caterers in Queens, New York. The New York Chapter also acknowledged the 236th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps and honored their National Convention Award recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join my colleagues and a very grateful nation as we congratulate my dear friend James Maillard, President of the New York Metropolitan Chapter and the Montford Point Marine Association as we finally pay tribute to our courageous first Black Marines.

HONORING CAPTAIN HUNG D. NGUYEN UPON RECEIPT OF THE AIR MEDAL WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Captain Hung D. Nguyen upon his award of the Air Medal with Valor.

The Air Medal was established by Executive Order in 1942 to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself by "meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight."

On August 9, 2009, Captain Hung D. Nguyen was copilot on one of the ships sent to recover five Afghan soldiers seriously wounded in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Through intense small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire, Captain Nguyen was able to load four of the five wounded soldiers on his aircraft.

Captain Nguyen's calm demeanor and leadership while providing time critical navigation and communications, identifying the landing zone, and directing the pilot to perform evasive maneuvers saved sixteen lives and two aircraft.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Captain Hung D. Nguyen at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Captain Hung D. Nguyen has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

IN MEMORY OF ROLLIN POST

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. ESHOO and I rise in the memory of Rollin Post, a distinguished journalist, beloved husband, and proud father and grandfather, great American, and dear friend.

Rollin was a radio reporter and then television journalist in California for more than four decades, spending most of his career in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was, quite simply, the best at his craft. He died on October 3 at the age of 81 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

We also rise today to mourn the death of Rollin's wife, Diane Opley Post. After 57 years of a remarkable marriage, Diane survived her husband's death by only a month. She died peacefully at their residence in Corte Madera, California on November 6 at the age of 82. Diane, and her engagement in many important civic activities, will be fondly remembered.

We will miss Diane and Rollin for their friendship. And we offer our sympathy to their three children and five grandchildren and we thank them for having shared their parents with us for so many wonderful years.

Rollin was born in New York City in 1930 and received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1952. He started as a radio reporter for the CBS affiliate in Los Angeles in 1954, switched to television in 1957, and moved to the Bay Area in 1961 where he spent more than 40 years working for three television stations—KPIX, the CBS affiliate, KQED, a public television station, and KRON, the NBC affiliate.

Rollin represented the best of political journalism. His deep understanding and knowledge of the issues and the California electorate were unparalleled. His analysis of state and national events truly informed his viewers. When "gotcha" journalism became the norm in his industry, Rollin stayed true to his beliefs about what it took to be a really good journalist.

Rollin informed himself before his interviews, asked his questions, and then asked them again if he didn't feel they had been properly answered. He was very tough but he was fair. He respected his viewers by holding politicians to high standards. Rollin was a man of high integrity, and his love of journalism and politics showed in every broadcast.

Our country is poorer today in the absence of his excellent reporting.

We ask our colleagues to join us in remembering Rollin Post and in honoring him for his efforts as a journalist to keep our country informed, its politicians honest, and the journalistic profession serious.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 840, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL TYLER SOUTHERN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Tyler J. Southern of the United States Marine Corps. Cpl. Southern is a real American hero who nearly died on the battlefield, losing both of his legs, one of his arms as well as part of the other arm, and a hand. On November 20, 2011, Corporal Southern is tandem jumping with Team X.T.R.E.M.E. and Jeremy Soles into FedEx Stadium to kickoff the game between the Washington Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys. I ask that this poem by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Cpl. Southern's honor.

LOOK ABOVE

Look!
Look above!
As it's there you will find America's Greatest of all loves!
Look above!
At our sons and daughters, who so go off to war . . .
Armed but with only their most magnificent hearts and souls, to all of our Freedoms to so insure!
So very fine and so very pure . . . with such courage, and such might . . . And such faith so evermore!
Look above, at such Strength In Honor . . . All at the ones who America so loves!
As it's there you will find, the true sum of the meaning of the word love!
Such selfless sacrifice . . . such brilliant of all lights, coming down to you now from above!
The ones who bring such tears to the angels eyes, so high above!
The ones who go off to war, and come back home without arms and legs no more!
And who now so lie, all in such soft cold quiet graves . . .
Who with their Mothers and Fathers tears, our freedom's are so paved!
Teaching us all so how to behave!
So look above, and it's there you will find and so see the meaning of the word patriotism this day!
Coming down to us all in this way . . .
And take comfort, all in that we have such men as Tyler Southern on this very day!
Marines, whose fine hearts shall never wave!
Who so gave up his strong arm and fine legs!
Ooo Rah . . . JAR HEAD! 'Oh what your most magnificent life has so said!
And take comfort, all in his most magnificent shades of green!
All because of The Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard,
And The United States Marines! We All Now So Live In Peace!
And as you lay your head's down to sleep, all in your hearts and souls so ever keep . . .
A warm spot for all of these . . . Heroes so very deep!
And for all of those families who now so weep!
And look above and thank them all, all in your hearts of love to keep!
Men Tyler who are First To Fight, whose fine heart ignite!
And take comfort in knowing of, America's Greatest of All Loves!
Now Look, Look Above!

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE G. DONA, MAJOR MARY O. JENNINGS HEGAR, SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT STEVE R. BURT, AND TECHNICAL SERGEANT TIEJIE A. JONES UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones upon their award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On July 29, 2009, Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones evacuated three United States soldiers injured when their convoy was attacked near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Colonel Dona and Major Hegar were injured when a bullet pierced their aircraft's window, injuring Major Hegar's arm and Colonel Dona's leg. Despite the heavy fire, the pararescue team departed the aircraft to assist with the medical evacuation. However, the aircraft was forced out of the landing zone. After several minutes airborne, Major Hegar and Colonel Dona voluntarily risked their lives to return and rescue their patients and pararescuemen from the ambush.

While still under attack, Sergeant Jones assisted with loading the casualties and Sergeant Burt aided the pilots during takeoff to keep the aircraft functional. Due to fuel loss from the number one engine, the crew had to land less than two miles away. Sergeant Burt administered first aid and assisted in the transfer of patients to another aircraft. Their bravery saved three patients and ensured the survival of the crew.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from November 1 until November 15, as I was attending to family matters surrounding the birth of my son.

A TRIBUTE TO JOLENE KOESTER, PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary leadership and service of Dr. Jolene Koester. Dr. Koester began her appointment as the fourth president of California State University, Northridge on July 1, 2000, one of the largest campuses in the 23-campus California State University system. In May 2011, she announced her plans to step down as president at the end of December 2011 and subsequently retire from The California State University.

California State University, Northridge is a vibrant, diverse university community of more than 36,000 students served by 4,000 faculty and staff. The University plays an indispensable role in the San Fernando Valley as an intellectual, cultural and economic driver.

Under her leadership, the University has improved graduation rates, received record levels of fundraising, and become known for its culture of collaboration. Dr. Koester's vision and determination led to the development of the Valley Performing Arts Center at California State University, Northridge—the first world-class concert hall for nearly 2 million residents of the San Fernando Valley. During her tenure, she has increased the overall stature of Cal State Northridge, resulting in improved visibility and relationships in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles.

Known nationally for her leadership in the area of higher education, Dr. Koester is a member and past chair of the Board of Directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Dr. Koester serves the greater Los Angeles community on the boards of directors for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Economic Alliance, and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. She also is a board member of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and the Los Angeles Jobs and Economy Committee. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her leadership in the Los Angeles region.

Prior to her appointment at Cal State Northridge, Dr. Koester served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at California State University, Sacramento. Before her service as provost, she held other executive positions in the academic affairs division at Sacramento State, and was a faculty member there, as a professor of communication studies, since 1980. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts from the University of Minnesota in 1970, a Master's of Arts in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1971, and a Ph.D. in speech communication from Minnesota in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Koester for her commitment to furthering the excellence of California State University, Northridge. She is an extraordinary leader whose legacy will succeed her for decades to come.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today for the first time our national debt has surpassed $15 trillion dollars. Currently, our national debt is $15,033,607,255,920.32.

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 $4,395,181,509,626.52 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT LARRY I. HIYAKUMOTO AND STAFF SERGEANT JOSHUA M. WEBSTER UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster upon their award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On June 27, 2010, Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster participated in eight non-stop Casualty Evacuation missions near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. They rescued and treated wounded personnel for nearly seven straight hours.

On one mission, Sergeant Webster was hoisted down from the helicopter while Sergeant Hiyakumoto manned the aircraft's machine gun. While braving enemy fire, Sergeant Webster pulled a wounded soldier to safety. Sergeant Hiyakumoto then began to treat the soldier for multiple broken bones and traumatic head injuries. Sergeant Hiyakumoto and Sergeant Webster ultimately saved thirteen United States soldiers and coalition forces.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 839, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ENCOURAGE AMERICANS TO LISTEN TO OUR COMBAT VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have recently introduced a resolution that encourages every American to spend Veterans Day as a national day of listening to the experiences and stories of our nation's combat veterans, H. Res. 456.

With more than 1.7 million veterans who have served tours of duty in the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, a whole new generation of heroes has returned home from war and started the transition from military life to civilian life. These veterans have joined the ranks of the nearly 22 million military veterans in the United States.

These honorable men and women who have served in our armed forces have experienced unique and sometimes incomprehensible things while serving our country and as they have returned home. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude—and we can express our appreciation by asking about and listening to their experiences.

My resolution, H. Res. 456, calls upon all Americans to observe Veterans Day by offering to listen with respect and without judgment to the stories of combat veterans from all conflicts. Veterans often feel less isolated and suffer less when they are offered the chance to have ordinary, civilian citizens simply listen to them recount their experiences serving their country.

I invite my colleagues to join with me and encourage all citizens to honor the service of our nation's veterans this Veterans Day by listening to them share the stories of their military service.

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP (IWG) GUIDELINES

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the draft guidelines by the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Food Marketed to Children. These guidelines would state that food must meet certain nutritional standards to be marketed to children. Quite frankly, these guidelines are so draconian that the advertising of nearly all foods to children and adolescents would be banned. This ban would include thousands of healthy products that could no longer be marketed to children, including most soups, cereals, yogurt, bread, and cheese—all foods determined beneficial for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). It is shocking that the Federal Government would be working to limit the advertising of foods like low fat and fat free dairy products which play a vital role in the diets of children and adolescents.

While I have strong concerns about nutritional products that would be affected by the IWG's marketing guidelines, it is important to note how far reaching these guidelines are. The IWG defined marketing to include packaging, point of sale displays, text messages, sponsorships, philanthropic activity, and even the shape of food. These guidelines would limit the ability of companies to sponsor a sporting event or to partner in a charitable activity because it could be seen as marketing to children. Does the Federal Government really want to be telling a company that they can't be involved in their communities in these ways? This will be harmful to the communities while doing little to benefit children's nutritional health.

The IWG guidelines are just another example of excessive government red tape. I urge the IWG to withdraw this proposal.

HONORING MAJOR THOMAS W. KEEGAN UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Major Thomas W. Keegan upon his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On June 29, 2009, Major Keegan led a two-ship formation near Bastion Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan on an urgent medical evacuation into the hostile Helmand Province. The ship formation, call sign Pedro35 flight, had four missions that day, the first and second of which were to a point of injury where a British vehicle had overturned into a canal. While on approach to the site, Major Keegan noted friendly armored personnel carriers firing outbound from his three o'clock position. In response, Major Keegan broke his aircraft through multiple gun patterns directly between the enemy compound and origin of fire and the defenseless aircraft on the ground conducting evacuation operations.

Major Keegan's heroism and willingness to highlight himself, aircraft, and crew to draw enemy fire away from the patients and vulnerable aircraft allowed the flight to successful extract a wounded British soldier. Major Keegan's actions directly contributed to the widespread acclaim of the Pedro operation, giving much needed peace of mind to troops conducting ground combat operations.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Major Keegan at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Major Keegan has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

RECOGNIZING DPU AND AUSIB FOR HOSTING HISTORIC INDO-U.S. EDUCATION CONCLAVE 2011

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. P.D. Patil and the DPU University of which he is Chancellor for his visionary leadership in partnering with Mr. Sanjay Puri of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), and with the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF), to host the Indo-U.S. Education Conclave 2011, a first-of-its-kind global educational event to be held in Pune, India from December 5–7, 2011.

This event brings together prominent thinkers from the fields of education, politics and business for purposes of promoting the highest standards of education, value systems and governance. The Summit aims to build partnerships between Indian and American universities in line with the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative (OSI) launched last year.

Given the importance of this first Indo-U.S. Education Conclave, I want to publicly commend Dr. Patil who I had the privilege of hosting in Washington, D.C. I am well aware of what Dr. Patil has done for the rising generation and, in tribute of his work and mission, I have honored him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I share his vision of education.

Education isn't just about collecting and distributing knowledge. Education is about the development of character and the acquisition of truth. Education is about offering one's best to the world and I thank Dr. Patil for offering his best to us.

I also commend Mr. Puri for his work. As President Obama has stated, the U.S.-India partnership is "one of the defining relationships of the 21st century," and having worked with Mr. Puri for more than a decade, I can assure my colleagues that the U.S.-India relationship is stronger because of his advocacy for and on behalf of India and Indian Americans. His passion for education and his relationships with key Members in the House and Senate will ensure the success of the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative.

Once more, I thank DPU, AUSIB, and the SLLF for expanding cultural, economic, educational and political ties between the two largest democracies in the world. These organizations deserve our support for expanding the presence of American universities across India, a country that sends more students to the USA than any other country in the world.

IN SALUTE OF THE 369TH VETERANS' ASSOCIATION HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS—A CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION IN CELEBRATION OF VETERANS DAY 11–11–11

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of the Korean War, known today as the ''Forgotten War'', I am honored with great American pride and democracy to salute all my fellow comrades, buddies and all of the officers and members of The 369th Veterans' Association on this very special day as we celebrate Veterans Day 11–11–11.

First organized in 1916 as the 15th New York National Guard Infantry Regiment and manned by black enlisted soldiers with both black and white officers, the U.S. Army's 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the ''Harlem Hellfighters,'' was the best-known African American unit of World War I. Federalized in 1917, it prepared for service in Europe and arrived in Brest in December. The next month, the regiment became part of the 93rd Division (Provisional) and continued its training, now under French instructors. In March, the regiment finally received its Federal designation and was reorganized and reequipped according to the French model. That summer, the 369th was integrated into the French 161st Division and began combat operations.

Dubbing themselves ''Men of Bronze,'' the soldiers of the 369th were lucky in many ways compared to other African Americans in 1918 France. They enjoyed a continuity of leadership, commanded throughout the war by one of their original organizers and proponents, Colonel William Hayward. Unlike many white officers serving in the black regiments, Colonel Hayward respected his troops, dedicated himself to their well-being, and leveraged his political connections to secure support from New Yorkers.

Spending over six months in combat, perhaps the longest of any American unit in the war, the 369th suffered approximately fifteen hundred casualties but received only nine hundred replacements. Unit histories claimed they were the first unit to cross the Rhine; they performed well at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood, earning the epithet ''Hell Fighters'' from their enemies. Whereas African American valor usually went unrecognized, well over one hundred members of the regiment received American and/or French medals, including the first two Americans—Corporal Henry Johnson and Private Needham Roberts—to be awarded the coveted French Croix de Guerre.

The most celebrated man in the 369th was Pvt. Henry Lincoln Johnson, a former Albany, New York, rail station porter, who earned the nickname ''Black Death'' for his actions in combat in France. In May 1918, Johnson and Pvt. Needham. Roberts fought off a 24-man German patrol, though both were severely wounded. After, they expended their ammunition, Roberts used his rifle as a club and Johnson battled with a bolo knife. Johnson was the first American to receive the Croix de Guerre awarded by the French government. By the end of the war, 171 members of the 369th were awarded the Legion of Honor. During the war the 369th's regimental band (under the direction of James Reese Europe) became famous throughout Europe. It introduced the until-then unknown music called jazz to British, French and other audiences, and started an international demand for it.

At the end of the war, the 369th returned to New York City, and in February 1919, paraded through the city. Thousands lined the streets to see them: the parade began on Fifth Avenue at 61st Street, proceeded uptown past ranks of white bystanders, turned west on 110th Street, and then swung on to Lenox Avenue, and marched into Harlem, where black New Yorkers packed the sidewalks to see them. The parade became a marker of African American service to the nation, a frequent point of reference for those campaigning for civil rights. In the 1920s and 1930s, the 369th was a regular presence on Harlem's streets, each year marching through the neighborhood from their Armory to catch a train to their annual summer camp, and then back through the neighborhood on their return two weeks later

In World War II, the formation was organized as the 369th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment, and served in Hawaii and along the West Coast. The Harlem Hellfighters have served in every major conflict since its inception, including Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan. The unit survives today under the command of Colonel Reginald Sanders as the 369th Sustainment Brigade Battalion of the New York Army National Guard.

As a veteran myself in a so-called ''Forgotten War'' in American history, I know what it is like to come home and feel unrecognized. On the eve of 11–11–11, the United States Senate passed legislation, which the United States House of Representatives voted unanimously 422–0 to honor the Montford Point Marines with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. These truly great American men fought in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II—the first Black Marines in the Navy. After 70 years, they have finally received the honor they deserve for a legacy we must not forget to pass on to our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join my colleagues and a very grateful nation in very special congressional salute to my dear friend General Nathaniel James, Retired, National President and all of the officers and members of The 369th Veterans' Association, Inc. as we celebrate our Veterans Day 11–11–11.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 838, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RHYS W. HUNT, 2ND LIEUTENANT ANDREW S. HEDIN, AND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JASON R. RED UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Lieutenant Colonel Rhys W. Hunt, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew S. Hedin, and Chief Master Sergeant Jason R. Red upon their award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself ''by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.''

On August 9, 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Rhys W. Hunt, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew S. Hedin, and Chief Master Sergeant Jason R. Red participated in a heroic mission near Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Colonel Hunt flew the lead aircraft, PEDRO 15, in an effort to save five critically wounded American soldiers from an ongoing firefight. A Navy SEAL Team, call sign JAGUAR 09, was taking heavy fire by a larger force of Taliban fighters. The team, including their five wounded, was holed-up in a walled compound and needed immediate evacuation.

Despite the potential of enemy fire, Lieutenant Hedin supervised the loading of four of the wounded before the aircraft cabin ran out of space. Colonel Hunt directed his wingman to begin an approach to load the final patient, but as PEDRO 15 began its climb out of the zone, it came under fire so intense that both Lieutenant Hedin and Colonel Hunt felt the concussion from the blast. Lieutenant Hedin engaged an enemy squad, temporarily suppressing the threat. Chief Red took tactical lead of the aircraft, calling a break in the opposite direction. Putting himself in grave danger, Chief Red then directed the gunnery pattern by positioning himself almost completely out of the aircraft in order to maintain visual contact with the enemy. This allowed Colonel Hunt and Lieutenant Hedin to protect their vulnerable wingman by attacking the enemy squad from multiple directions. The crew's immense bravery and superb airmanship saved the lives of 16 people and two aircraft.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Rhys W. Hunt, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew S. Hedin, and Chief Master Sergeant Jason R. Red at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed by these men deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. They have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, due to my responsibilities related to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, I missed the vote on the rule of H. Res. 463, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING THE RUN: MOVING NATURAL MEDICINE FORWARD

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of a 3,250 mile race across the United States organized to promote natural health care options. Called The Run, this is the first-ever endurance event organized to raise awareness about naturopathic medicine. The race will conclude tomorrow, Thursday, November 17, at the University of Bridgeport.

Through a four month, ninety city journey, The Run: Moving Natural Medicine Forward has endeavored to promote the causes of natural medicine, including the benefits of sustainable, quality holistic health care and the importance of healthy lifestyle management and health maintenance. By running an average of 30 miles per day, Dr. Dennis Godby and his family have helped bring attention to the urgent need to transform our nation's health.

I wish the best of luck to Dr. Godby, his family and team, and the students and faculty at the University of Bridgeport's School of Naturopathic Medicine as they work to improve the health of our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCORPORATION TRANSPARENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act. The bill would require the states to obtain information about the true ownership of the corporation, when incorporation papers are filed with the state.

As some have put it, this bill is a "no-brainer." And it is fairly straightforward: it would require that the person creating the corporation state the "beneficial owner" of the corporation and provide some form of identification.

Although this is as straightforward as it sounds, the implications for law enforcement are broad reaching. Criminal organizations are infamous for using shell corporations, both foreign and domestic to open bank accounts, launder money, perpetrate fraud, and finance terrorism. And it isn't difficult for them to do. Virtually no states require people applying to create corporations to provide the identity of the corporate owner. In fact, 48 of 50 states, except for Alabama and Alaska, allow for the unfettered creation of an anonymous corporate entity. As a result, just about anyone can easily manipulate the system to fund criminal activity.

Here is an example from an investigation in New York by the Manhattan District Attorney. The office announced investigations involving the movement of funds through banks in New York by entities controlled by the Iranian Military. In at least two cases, domestic shell companies were opened in two different states to further secret Iranian interests. Through a New York shell company, individuals working on behalf of the government of Iran were able to move funds to secret accounts held in offshore jurisdictions. Shockingly, the offshore government was able to give the Manhattan DA more information about the ownership of the New York entity than the state of New York could.

Although the DA does not contend that requiring a declaration of beneficial ownership would have stopped this activity, it would have at least been a piece of evidence to go on. And if the declaration of beneficial ownership had been required but falsified, it would have been an extra tool for law enforcement to shut down the entity and prosecute the perpetrators.

The bill I am introducing today will provide the kind of transparency that law enforcement needs to investigate financial crimes. However, it is narrowly drafted so that it is not overly burdensome on either states or incorporating entities. In fact, most corporations would be exempt from the bill's requirements including companies that are already regulated by federal banking regulators and companies that are over 20 employees and $10 million in revenue.

This bill is meant to capture beneficial ownership information from companies that are able to escape regulation and oversight through other federal entities.

Senator LEVIN has already introduced a similar bill in the Senate, and President Obama was the lead sponsor when he was a U.S. Senator.

In a recent CNN editorial, Global Witness stated, "Setting a standard for collecting information about the true owner of a company would level the playing field between the states while preventing terrorists, drug traffickers and kleptocrats from hiding behind corporate secrecy."

The bill is supported by numerous law enforcement associations, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition, the United States Marshals Service Association, and the Association of Former ATF Agents.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING MAJOR MATHEW C. WENTHE AND TECHNICAL SERGEANT JOSEPH R. KENNEY UPON RECEIPT OF THE AIR MEDAL WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney upon their award of the Air Medal with Valor.

The Air Medal was established by Executive Order in 1942 to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself by "meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight."

On June 29, 2009, Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney conducted multiple urgent medical evacuation missions into the Babaki area of the Helmand Province in Afghanistan. During their flights to the site where a British vehicle was overturned into a canal, their aircraft maneuvered through small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades.

Without regard for their own personal safety, Major Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Kenney reengaged the enemy compound from where they had just been attacked. They exhibited bravery by putting themselves in danger to draw enemy fire to protect another aircraft on the ground.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR JAMES MAY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Professor James May for being named the 2011 Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This distinguished recognition is the only national award for excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

May is a professor of English as a Second Language at Valencia Community College's East Campus, and is highly regarded for his innovative and zealous approach to education. He is dedicated to providing his students with the tools they need to succeed in his courses, creatively incorporating mobile devices and online tools such as Google docs and

YouTube into classroom instruction. In an effort to share his concepts with other educators, May authors a website where he provides tips on how teachers can effectively connect with their students.

This is not May's first award or recognition. He was also honored by the Florida Association of Community Colleges and named their 2010 Professor of the Year.

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate Professor James May for his hard work, determination, and leadership. His enthusiasm and investment in Florida's students is most deserving of the 2011 Professor of the Year Award.

DUTCH AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize Dutch American Heritage Day, a day that honors the strong friendship between our two countries and the many contributions of Americans of Dutch descent.

It was the Netherlands who first officially recognized the flag of the newly formed United States of America on this day in 1776, and later, The Hague would become the first American Embassy in the world.

Today, the United States and the Netherlands share a very robust economic relationship. The Netherlands is the third-largest investor in the U.S. Between exports and this investment, our partnership helps to generate over 700,000 jobs in the U.S. In 2010, the Netherlands ranked seventh among all the trading partners the U.S. exports goods to.

The Netherlands has been a strong ally as well. Dutch troops fought beside Americans in occupied territory during World War II and in conflicts since, as well as serving together in peacekeeping missions across the world.

The contributions of many great Dutch-Americans have helped shape U.S. history, including three presidents, Martin Van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as numerous cultural figures, including Thomas Edison, Humphrey Bogart, Walter Cronkite, and, more recently, General David Petraeus.

While a destination for many immigrant settlers, the Dutch have left an influential mark on the Second District of Michigan, both economically and culturally. From cities and villages with Dutch namesakes like Borculo, Drenthe, Holland, and Zeeland, to traditions like the Tulip Festival and Sinterklaas parade, Dutch settlers have shared their heritage proudly with their neighbors.

Today we celebrate not only a common heritage, but also a friendship that has helped shape America since its birth.

We are thankful for the contribution of Dutch-Americans not only in West Michigan, but throughout the United States, and look forward to a strong partnership for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 837 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 30

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans' Affairs mental health care, focusing on addressing wait times and access to care.

SR–418

DECEMBER 1

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine deficit reduction and job creation, focusing on regulatory reform in Indian country.

SD–628

DECEMBER 6

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Express Scripts/Medco merger.

SD–226

DECEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Homeland Security to examine homegrown terrorism, focusing on the threat to military communities inside the United States.

HVC–210

DECEMBER 8

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges to address domestic and global water supply issues.

SD–366