EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—PAUL M. SIMEON, JR.

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

United States Marine Corps Sergeant Paul M. Simeon, Jr. is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom. He deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion in 2002. During his years as an active duty Marine, Simeon earned a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Certificate of Commendation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, and Meritorious Mast and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals.

Upon his exit from the Marine Corps, Simeon became a patrol officer for the New York City Police Department. He put his military training to good use keeping the streets of Brooklyn safe. During his tenure as an officer, Simeon was awarded the Excellent Police Duty Commendation for outstanding service.

In 2010, Simeon moved to Frisco, Texas, where he now resides. With the ultimate goal of becoming a doctor, Simeon has returned to school where he serves as president of the Collin College chapter of Student Veterans of America. He works day in and day out to ease the transition for returning warriors from military service to academic life. In the words of Sergeant Simeon, ''If one of us fails, we all fail. We leave no one behind.''

Always faithful, Simeon continues to exemplify the Marine Corps Motto by serving his peers.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to name Paul M. Simeon a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MS. JESSIE FRANKLIN WILLIAMS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND HER COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable parent and an outstanding public servant, Ms. Jessie Franklin Williams. Ms. Williams has devoted her entire life to education and service. She was born on January 4, 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Franklin in Greenville, Mississippi. She is the eldest of ten children and the widow of the late Mr. Albert Joe Williams. She is also the proud mother of four daughters: Sharon, Kyshea, Albetha and Jessica and grandmother of seven beautiful grandchildren.

Ms. Williams attended Coleman High School in Greenville, Mississippi; Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi and Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. She is a student of history and dedicated her 38-year career to teaching the subject of Social Studies in the Shaw, Mississippi School District.

She has trained with the Office of Innovative and School Improvement and completed studies through the File Management for Educators program. Her additional instruction include: The Praxis Series Validation and Standard Setting Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers, Strategies and Tools for Improving Student Learning and Achievement and Preps Subject Area Training.

She was appointed by former Governor of Mississippi and current Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, to serve on the State Health and Human Services Board. Ms. Williams has also served on the Washington County (MS) Election Commission and evaluated high schools for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). She has served as a member of the Greenville Pride Committee and served on the Board for Project Weed and Seed of Greenville, Mississippi. She also sings with the Soulful Temps Gospel Group.

Ms. Williams has lived through major periods in American History. She journeyed with America through times of both segregation and integration, becoming the first African American teacher to integrate the public schools in the Mississippi Delta. She was chosen Star Teacher and Teacher of the Year several times in her School District.

She serves as church announcer and president of the New Mt. Bethel Choir. She has served as President of the Elegant Ebonetts' Social and Civic Club, and worked with the Excellence Groups; which is a group of teachers and students dedicated to improving proficiency in the classroom.

She is passionate about education and has a consecrated love for her students. She has sponsored mock trials, mock elections, oratorical contests, and pageants all with the intent of promoting academic excellence and diversity among her students. Her motto is: ''Good habits produce good conduct, long life and prosperity.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Jessie Franklin Williams for her dedication and commitment to education and empowering America's next generation.

IN HONOR OF TEAM 4MIL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Team 4Mil as they continue their mission to inspire, invigorate, and support wounded veterans through rehabilitative cycling programs and competitions.

Team 4Mil is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity comprised of veterans from all branches of the United States military. This group of athletes has joined together to produce a cycling team which competes annually in Race Across America, RAAM, in order to generate support and promote the Wounded Warrior Project. This cycling competition is among the most strenuous acts of endurance. A three thousand mile course, which stretches from coast to coast, is travelled twenty four hours a day and takes about a week to complete, pushing even the most elite athletes to their limits. For Team 4Mil this act of endurance is a commemoration to those who have so bravely served our country.

By participating in this highly regarded competition, Team 4Mil hopes to raise funds and spread awareness of the Wounded Warrior Project, which aims to ensure that injured veterans returning from service are successfully and fully adjusted back to civilian life. The Wounded Warrior Project enables fellow veterans such as Team 4Mil to support and aid those who have sustained serious injury while serving their country.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me today in honoring Team 4Mil as they continue their journey of extraordinary determination and manifest their duty to those who have bravely served our country.

CONGRATULATING THE CARSONVILLE-PORT SANILAC FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE INAUGURAL 8-PLAYER MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize a special achievement recently accomplished by the Carsonville-Port Sanilac (C-PS) Tigers High School Football Team. C-PS capped off a remarkable and extremely memorable season by taking home to Sanilac County the first ever Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) 8-Player State Championship. After the necessary 20 high schools announced they would be fielding teams in 2011, the MHSAA was able to implement an official playoff schedule. This was more than welcomed news to CP-S since they had gone

undefeated the previous year winning an ''unofficial'' title. But with this new opportunity on the horizon, C-PS demonstrated what real team work is to reach the pinnacle of this historic season.

With Head Coach Tim Brabant entering his second season in charge, the Tigers played strong hard-nosed football focusing on the basic fundamentals and taking each play one at a time. This meant players executing their designated assignments and beating the man in front of him. This also included playing sound defense with solid tackling and an implementing offense scheme that would make an NFL playbook look elementary. The Tigers kept constant pressure on their opponents forcing them to commit untimely errors and more importantly capitalizing on those mistakes.

After making the eight hour trek to Marquette in the Upper Peninsula to face-off against their opponent, the Rapid River Rockets, in the finals at the Superior Dome, the team brushed aside any potential distractions and solely focused on winning. Despite the best efforts of Rapid River, C-PS would not to be denied. Tigers had the proper preparation and were eager to seize the day.

Jumping out front quickly in the first quarter to a 27–6 lead, the Tigers saw that margin reduced by halftime to a 39–20 score. One important note is that unlike 11-man football, a 19 point lead is anything but safe. Similar to arena football, points can come quick and they can come often. But once again, the Tigers were up to the challenge and simply closed the door on the Rockets by shutting them out in the second half. This amazing feat is rarely accomplished in 8–player football. There is an old adage in sports which I think holds true for the Tiger's season, ''Offense wins games, but defense wins championships.'' I am proud to say the Tigers capped off this outstanding season with a 59–20 win and an overall record of 12 wins and only one defeat.

The Tigers throughout the year exhibited the intangible ingredients which make up a winning football team: heart, discipline and a positive attitude. As legendary Hall of Fame Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi once said, ''A man can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, determination, the dedication and the competition drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile, it can be done.''

I applaud these young men for remaining both mentally and physically ready to compete. In addition, I want to commend the Tigers for staying energized and focused each time they stepped on to the gridiron. I understand this can be extremely difficult considering the numerous pressures and distractions high school student-athletes can encounter.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the hard work and sportsmanship displayed by all the team members. These individuals are: Danny Rickett, Justin Mackey, Sam Washe, Hayden Adams, Ryan Davis, Garrett Salsbury, Ismael Pacheco, Chase Munro, Steven Koehler, Tom Nantz, Aaron Smith, Tim Smith, Jon Childers, Chris Drescher, Levi Hurley, Tim Sherman, Nick Swift, Devin Adams and Trevor Adams along with Head Coach Tim Brabant, Defensive Coordinator Scott Steele, and Assistant Coaches Eugene Binder and Joe Rickett.

I also wish to acknowledge the administrators, teachers, cheerleaders, parents, students and fans alike for their assistance and support in making this an unforgettable season. The Tigers proved they had the talent, fortitude and resilience to rise to the challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship. Teamwork, perseverance and friendship all contributed to this title. I know the community and the entire Thumb Region takes great pride in what these young men were able to achieve.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I share that same pride. I want to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes. All the accolades, awards and trophies are rightfully deserved. Way to go Tigers!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes on December 1, 2011.

Roll 874: Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment (#2).—Exempts all rules promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security: ''yes,'' failed 173–244.

Roll 875: Cohen (TN) Amendment.—Exempts from the bill any rule that relates to food safety, workplace safety, consumer products safety, air or water quality: ''yes,'' failed 171–248.

Roll 876: Peters (MI) Amendment.—Exempts from the bill all rules that OMB determines would result in net job creation: ''yes,'' failed 179–243.

Roll 877: Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment (#5).—Requires a GAO report to determine the cost of carrying out the underlying bill and the effect it will have on federal agency rule making. In addition, the report would need to contain information on the impact of repealing the ability of an agency to waive provisions in the Regulatory Flexibility Act when responding to an emergency: ''yes,'' failed 172–250.

Roll 878: Johnson (GA) Amendment.—Creates an exception for any rule making that seeks to carry out the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act: ''yes,'' failed 170–250.

Roll 879: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 527: ''yes,'' failed 188–233.

Roll 880: Final Passage of H.R. 527—The Regulatory Flexibility Act (Rep. Smith (TX)—Judiciary): ''no,'' passed 263–159.

Roll 881: H.Res. 364—Designating room HVC 215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the ''Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room'' (Rep. Wasserman Schultz—Transportation and Infrastructure) Suspension bill: '' yes,'' passed 419–0.

DELAURO MEMORIAL TABLE UNVEILING IN NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the following remarks were delivered by our colleague, Representative ROSA L. DELAURO of Connecticut's Third Congressional District, on the occasion of the DeLauro Memorial Table Unveiling in New Haven, Connecticut, on Sunday, October 23, 2011.

Her remarks chronicle the extraordinary story of her mother and father, Luisa and Ted DeLauro, their neighborhood, their patriotism, and their service to a beloved community. It is the story of an American family, and the story of America as well. It also informs the U.S. House of Representatives why our colleague, Representative ROSA L. DELAURO, exhibits her values with such passion and excellence with her fighting spirit on behalf of her constituents, continuing the legacy of her parents' history and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to pay tribute to our colleague, her parents, and all the members of the community who chose to honor the DeLauro family with their lasting tribute to them for all they have stood for and contributed. The name 'DeLauro' is synonymous with patriotism and service across generations and it is a privilege to place these words in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which describe how one family has so enriched the America they loved and served so magnificently.

REMARKS OF THE HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

DELAURO MEMORIAL TABLE UNVEILING,

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

(As prepared for delivery)

Well, this is very special, and I do not know how to express my appreciation. I am beyond words. What a turnout.

Above all, I am appreciative that my mother Luisa is here to witness what you have built, and to hear your thoughts about my dad Teddy and her and their work. Luisa will be 98 this Christmas Eve and, as you can see, she knows when she is the center of attention.

I want to thank Mayor John DeStefano who had the inspired idea for this tribute. He met with Lynn Fusco, Jamie Cohen, Gerry Weiner, Barbara Segaloff, Robert Mele and others to bring his idea to fruition, consulting with community contacts in hopes of this being a surprise to Luisa and me. I only found about this effort well after it was under way.

In a cynical time, it is sometimes difficult to believe that someone's motives are just what they seem, trying to find a way to honor people's contribution. Mayor, your words today capture so much of our shared history and heritage—and I will not forget the many who were generous enough to support this work.

I should also thank Alderman Michael Smart. Independently, he had the idea of naming the corner of Academy and Chapel for Luisa. That too was a surprise, which only underscores this neighborhood's feelings for Luisa.

Jamie Cohen is the closest of friends, a neighbor and now head of the Valley Community Foundation. We started together working for Chris Dodd and the Dodd family and I love that he helped organize this effort, mobilize such talents and call on people's generosity. I will always remember his words today.

I am in awe of Senator Chris Dodd deciding to be here and offering such a special view. More than anyone, Chris combines humanity, loyalty, family and effectiveness to play such an historic role, captured at the University of Connecticut's Thomas Dodd Research Center. He did not say it, but Chris took some of the biggest risks on me—to run his first Senate campaign, to lead his office in

Washington and run his re-election when I was still recovering from cancer surgery. No one has such a legacy and he continues to shape our future.

I especially want to thank Joe Carbone, who came to play the same role as me as chief-of staff to the mayor and who knew my Dad and believes his generation was touched by Teddy. I can remember my dad coming home from the supply house and saying, ''Lou, the Carbones just had twin boys, Billy and Joey.'' And to this day, Joe will visit Luisa every weekend, where my mother gets so much joy in recounting the old political stories—Dick Lee, Arthur T, John Golden—and the exploits of so many neighborhood kids that she will tick off name by name, tale by tale.

I have to thank the Italian Societies who organized the reception for today's unveiling and who played such a critical role in this neighborhood and the Italian American community.

St. Andrews. Ladies and Men. Theresa Argento and Frank Gargano—and Theresa, that is a family that should be honored.

Santa Maria Maddelena—Ladies and Men—Andy Consigilio, who is always there for me; Rheta Debenedet

St. Catello. Irene Flynn

St. Trofemina—Julia Nicefaro

Santa Maria Delle Virgine—Ruby Proto

We have all been shaped by what our families brought with them from Amalfi, Scafati, Minori, and Maori. They forged a life in America centered in this neighborhood and now shape our future through at least three generations. My family's story is just a thread in that fabric of history. And this memorial is just a moment in that living history.

So many hands took such care and contributed so much to create this memorial. Darren Antolini at Fusco Corp and everyone who was part of the construction and installation; Barry Svigals at Svigals Partners; Anthony Capasso of Capasso & Sons; John DiTullio at Sign Lite; Start Community Bank; Bruce Alexander and Yale Press. I can see the love of their work in this table.

And so many people in the city government worked for this: Robert Levine, Parks Director, Christy Hass, Rosemarie Lemley, a force of nature, and Michael Abeshouse—who worked so closely with my mother for years providing support on the Board of Aldermen.

From the neighborhood: Harvey Koizim, Andy Ross, Beverly Carbonella, and so many others.

A committee of devoted friends of this community worked to produce this precious program booklet, above all Anthony Riccio, who has written so eloquently of the Italian-American contribution to this city and country and today devoted his words to capturing the lives of Teddy and Luisa and this family.

I want to thank in particular Barry Svigals, the sculptor who embraced this mission and captured my family's kitchen table on Green, Chapel and Olive Streets, where so many people sought help maneuvering through the maze of institutions not so welcoming to Italian Americans. But even more, they talked, planned and conspired on how to get the city to pay attention to this neighborhood and its needs. This table and chairs for me is timeless. It captures the humanity of an emerging community, now shared with others in this park. I thank you for that and I think so will this neighborhood.

Teddy and Luisa were devoted to me and made sure I got every possible lesson—dance, piano, French, horseback riding—How many Italian horseback riders do you know? And the very best Catholic education. I had the chance to go to St. Louis School, Lauralton Hall, Marymount College, the London School of Economics and Columbia University. And above all, that I not work in the shirt shops, the mills or factories or the primer shop at Winchester—where my mother worked as a young woman during the war. Imagine what they would have done with the education they gave me.

They gave me my values too. We are today right across from St. Michael's Church reminding us that my father was a devout Catholic and daily communicant. There and at this table, life was a living lesson about hard work and decency, thinking of others, community and the honor of working to help others.

Luisa and Ted are special because so much of what they did they did together and shared around this table, just as Stan and I get to share in each other's work. Stan is here—just back flying overnight from Italy and Venezuela where he is working to elect new leaders. I regret that Stan never knew my father because they shared such a passion for politics and campaigns, from the local to the presidential.

My father was born in Scafati and came to the United States in 1913 and walked away from school in the 7th grade when they made fun of his halting English. Where do those values and will come from? He was totally self-educated, became the city court interpreter, helped translate letters for neighbors, and assisted on Yale research projects. He was a self-taught musician who became the first clarinetist in the U.S. Army band, and surrounded us with every Italian opera that he knew by heart. My folks took me at age 9 to see Aida at the Met. He had me listen to Beethoven's Symphonies, and asked me to identify the instruments, which I could not—but he could. He took me with my cousins to see the Yankees play. Only Joe DiMaggio was a bigger passion. When Stan worked for President Clinton, and we met Joe DeMaggio in the suite, I told him on Wooster Street people asked not how the Yankees did, but how Joe did. I wanted to find a way to call my Dad.

And he was so intense and animated about what was happening to people in this neighborhood. That was true whether he was going around door-to-door collecting insurance premiums during the Depression—and paying them himself when people were broke—or when he saw what the city and state contemplated for this neighborhood. That was true when he took the position as neighborhood liaison and director of this area's redevelopment. He went door-to-door showing his faith in this community, coaxing people to invest in their properties. With a band of architects, he convinced the owners to transform Court Street from a den of drunkenness, disease and odors to become the gateway to Wooster Square.

Teddy's passion sometimes became a temper. Ask Bill Donahue, who is here today. When he disagreed with the agency at a hearing, he would give up the gavel, go sit with the residents, and back them against the city. In fact, he and Luisa stood in front of the bulldozers to prevent them from razing more houses and from putting a highway through this neighborhood. So, I urge those who enjoy the quality of life in this neighborhood to remember the immigrant activists who made this possible.

My Mom and Dad wrote to me while I was at college in London October 23, 1962 during the Cuban Missile crisis, proud that President Kennedy was calling ''Khrushchev's hand,'' but virtually in the same paragraph he wrote he was heading a ''committee to finance the bust of Dr. Harry Conte, also to have a Community Christmas tree in our park. . . . Next week we will move from this office to the corner of Olive and Court, and the present site will be demolished to make room for the new Greene St. housing. I'm sure that by July 1963 when you get back you will see many projects completed. . . . There is no need to tell you how much we miss you, and we are counting the days until your return.''

My Dad was known as the 'Mayor of Wooster Square' and he and Luisa founded and headed the Wooster Square Neighborhood Association, worked to have this neighborhood declared the first historic district in the city and Luisa started the Cherry Blossom Festival.

It was Teddy who decided politics was the right way to make a difference. He became head of the 10th ward Democratic committee when Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman defined what it meant to be a Democrat and a proud American. He ran once for the board of aldermen, giving it up to make enough money to pay for my college education. Luisa lost her first efforts to win the 8th ward, before winning and serving amazingly for 35 years—the longest serving member of the Board in this city. Our home was surrounded by books of minutes, agendas, budgets, as she took her role very seriously on the Board of Finance—holding six mayors and innumerable department heads accountable.

As was expected at the time, my grandmother had my mother leave school when she was 13—starting to work at Strauss Adler when she was legally able at age 14. Think of that. She would educate herself at night but she worked in the factories through the war. She was still working on the sewing machine for piecework wages when I was a young girl in the 1950s.

Yet in 1933 at age 20—three-quarters of a century ago—she wrote in the tenth ward's Democratic newsletter—''my motive . . . is to encourage the female members of this organization to take a more active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman's part in life was merely to serve her master in her home'' and should enter the ''here-to-fore stronghold of the male sex: politics.'' ''Come on girls, let's make ourselves heard.''—those words now immortalized in this sculpture.

Where did that come from?

She was so dogged and fearless and nothing brought out her qualities like a good fight. She worked for affordable housing, from Columbus Mall to Winslow Celantano to Farnam Courts. She was unrivaled in trying find people a job. Above all, she went to the senior centers and worked for the residents of Winslow Celantano like they were her own parents. When they lost their heat, she went around to every store on Wooster Street every day to make sure the residents had food. Long before America got it, she fought for everyone regardless of color or gender.

She was above all and continuously a woman of her times that had no end point. When this country faced the tumultuous cultural changes of the 1960s and the Vietnam war, my father was not at all comfortable with what he saw. We had some serious moments. In one of my parents' letters during the Cuban Missile Crisis, he wrote, ''Now, I'm going to preach again. This concerns the situation between us, and Cuba. In your conversations with the English, you may note they are not in favor of the blockade. Please do not get into any controversial arguments. Do not join any demonstrations in London either for or against anything. Occupy yourself with your studies, and whenever you have free time enjoy yourself.''

A decade later, Luisa DeLauro in her sixties backed Joe Duffy, the anti-war Democrat against the wishes of the machine, not to mention Joe Lieberman against Ed Marcus. She supported the primary challenge of Frank Logue against the machine

candidate and faced political wrath of Arthur Barbieri, including a primary challenge for her own seat.

My own story is not so interesting once you think about the two great influences in my own life. It was written. And I will not dwell on my work, though so much of this began at this kitchen table. My father wanted me to be a pianist and if not that, to make $10,000 a year. He asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I said a dancer—he said get a more stable profession! He did not think I would make it politics because I had too much book learning in my head and not enough experience working and living with people—understanding their lives.

But politics was in my blood and for many years I worked for a succession of civic and elected leaders—from the Community Action Institute to the city of New Haven, from Frank Logue to Chris Dodd.

When I was discovered to have ovarian cancer and beat that back with wondrous nurses and doctors at Yale New Haven Hospital, I made a decision that I too had to run for office and play a role in this tradition. Nothing was a bigger honor than to be elected to the Third Congressional seat in the tradition of Albert Cretella, Bob Giaimo, Larrry DeNardis, and Bruce Morrison. Eleven times the people of this district have sent me to Washington to battle for them—as my father and mother would have done in their day. I now believe it is no accident that today my bill to bar discrimination against the unemployed is part of President Obama's Jobs Bill, because my dad asked in his time why the workers at Candee Rubber Company who helped make it profitable in good times lost their jobs in bad times. And I believe it is no accident that I stood right behind the president when he signed his first law, The Fair Pay Act, because my mother asked the same challenging questions when she was but 20.

What motivates what I do springs from growing up in an Italian-Catholic household, with Teddy and Luisa DeLauro. This sculpture brings it full circle, with all our words captured here.

Mayor, thank you for getting this started, thank you all for joining my family today, and enjoy this neighborhood where my mother still lives and where it all began.

All the best.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—JIM REED

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

During World War II, Mr. Jim Reed of Plano, Texas was a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Marine Division. Based out of Camp Lejeune, the division deployed to the Pacific Theater of War in 1944 and engaged in the Battle of the Marshall Islands, the Battle of Saipan, and the Battle of Tinian. On August 9, 1944, while compassionately trying to convince Japanese citizens in Saipan not to jump off a suicide cliff, Reed was shot in the back of the head by a sniper. Evacuated to Guadalcanal and then Pearl Harbor with a Purple Heart pinned to his robe, Reed would not stay down for long.

In February 1945, with Tinian as a launching point, Reed and his fellow Marines stormed Iwo Jima. The mission of the 23rd Marines was to capture Motoyama Airfield No. 1 within 24 hours of landing. However, after three days they had not reached their objective and lost a third of their men. Fortunately, the 3rd Division came ashore as support and together they pushed through to the airfield.

The next objective was even tougher. In their trek toward Motoyama Airfield No. 2, the Marines fought uphill through ravines and over cliffs while the Japanese fired at them from tunnels and fortresses built into the land. After 10 days of fighting, only 15 remained of Reed's company of about 250 men. Reed had again been wounded, earning him his second Purple Heart. This ended Jim Reed's war.

A favorite speaker at Veterans Day events, Mr. Reed selflessly shares his story with all generations of Americans and serves veterans-support organizations around North Texas, including the Daughters of WWII.

It is an honor and privilege to name Jim Reed a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MS. ETHEL LEE HOWARD FOR HER COMMITMENT COUNTERING CIVIL INJUSTICES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime resident and devoted civil servant of Port Gibson, Mississippi, Ms. Ethel Lee Howard.

Ms. Howard has been an advocate of civil rights for more than 50 years. She joined the fight for civil rights in the early 1960s when the movement first came to Claiborne County, Mississippi. She began her efforts by frequenting meetings held at St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church hosted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—an organization she soon after became a member.

During the civil rights era, Ms. Howard fought vigorously for equal rights; she was among the first to send her daughter, Jessie, to a predominantly white school in Mississippi during the 1960s and when First Baptist Church of Port Gibson was fired upon with gunshots by police and other law enforcement officials, Ms. Howard's voice reigned high among all those who stood firmly to echo the sounds against injustice.

To this day, Ms. Howard still serves as a faithful member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and actively attends many of its community functions and meetings. In 2007, she was honored as Mother of the Year for the NAACP during a ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Port Gibson, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Ethel Lee Howard for her unwavering commitment to civil justice and equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 880, a vote on H.R. 527, I inadvertently and mistakenly voted "aye" on passage of the bill, when I intended to vote "nay." I have always stood by our working families to defend critical regulations that protect our environment and public safety, and believe that a "no" vote on final passage properly reflects my record and the priorities of my district.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE LYDIA Y. KIRKLAND

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Lydia Y. Kirkland. For 25 years, Judge Kirkland has served on the Philadelphia Municipal Court, and on November 4, 2011 she celebrated her retirement after decades of service to her community.

Judge Kirkland's roots run deep in Philadelphia. During the difficult days of American segregation, her grandparents and great grandparents were among the most accomplished business persons and clergy in Philadelphia. Indeed, her grandfather, Reverend Doctor James E. Kirkland pastured the Union Baptist Church, the congregation which gave the magnificent Marian Anderson to the world. Judge Kirkland's father, Rev. Joseph Kirkland was a renowned cleric and civil rights leader in his own right, having graduated Crozer Theological Seminary in my district. His classmate and friend at Crozer was The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Judge Kirkland received both her Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctorate Degrees from Howard University in Washington, DC in 1974 and 1977 respectively. In 1978 she was admitted into the Pennsylvania Bar. Judge Kirkland was an associate in the Law Office of retired City Councilwoman Augusta A. Clark from 1979–1980. She was a sole practitioner, serving the people of my district, from 1980–1985.

Judge Kirkland was elected to the Philadelphia Municipal Court in 1985. During her tenure she was elected Secretary of the Board of Judges. She distinguished herself on the bench, receiving the 2009 Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Award, presented by the Barrister's Association of Philadelphia, and the Judge Doris M. Harris Image Award, presented by the National Bar Association Women Lawyer's Division—Philadelphia Chapter and other awards. Judge Kirkland is the proud mother of two sons Joseph C. Cornell and Joel Kirkland Cornell.

Judge Kirkland's long and impressive career showcases her commitment and service to her

community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Judge Kirkland for her work and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed a vote yesterday afternoon, specifically rollcall vote 879.

If I had been present, I would have voted in support of rollcall vote 879, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 527.

RECOGNITION OF THE ST. LOUIS BALLET IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Louis Ballet located in St. Louis, Missouri.

For over ten years, Gen Horiuchi has served as the artistic director of the St. Louis Ballet. His international reputation with major choreographers throughout the world has enabled the St. Louis Ballet to bring original productions to the St. Louis region.

The St. Louis Ballet has played a vital role in community development by facilitating culture and arts in the St. Louis area. The ballet has been involved in community outreach to foster children in offering free private lessons and to Senior Assisted Living facilities in making the art of ballet and ballet performances more accessible.

Ballet truly is an artistic skill that embodies the American spirit as much as it emboldens young people to push limits and succeed in whatever they chose to do. The St. Louis Ballet School does just that as it produces many fine dancers that demonstrate high degrees of teamwork, care for others, respect, and discipline. Mr. Horiuchi's ballet is constantly transitioning and evolving, allowing for greater expression and freedom to explore and to advance. It is traits like these that Americans are hungry for in this current time in our history.

I congratulate the St. Louis Ballet's exemplary example of the leadership St. Louis and in Missouri as a whole. I am pleased to honor them in their continued endeavor to bring art and culture to the St. Louis region.

HONORING PFC. THEODORE B. RUSHING

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Florida, I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Pfc. Theodore B. Rushing. Pfc. Rushing was killed in action in Afghanistan on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2011.

Growing up in Central Florida, Rushing graduated from Altamonte Christian School. After earning his associates degree from Seminole State College, Rushing chose to enlist in the U.S. Army, with plans to follow his father's footsteps and join the Orlando Police Department. Known to his friends as Teddy, Pfc. Rushing had an adventuresome spirit and loved being outdoors. He was known for being gregarious and outgoing.

After graduating boot camp in June 2011, Rushing continued his training at the Calvary Scout School at Fort Knox in Kentucky and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, 71st Cavalry and stationed in Ft. Drum, NY. Rushing was deployed to Afghanistan in August and served in Kandahar province. On November 11, Rushing's unit was attacked and Rushing was killed in combat.

Rushing's medals and awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Pfc. Rushing is survived by his father, Rick; his mother, Ann; and his sister, Stacy. His life, service, and sacrifice are remembered by all.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—ELIZABETH McCORMICK

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Chief Warrant Officer Elizabeth McCormick served our country in the U.S. Army from 1994 to 2001. After Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, McCormick decided to forego Officer Candidate School, instead heading to the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program to increase her chances of fulfilling her dream—serving as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot.

She graduated first in her class and was soon assigned to Fort Drum, New York flying Command & Control and VIP Missions. Upon promotion to Chief Warrant Officer 2, McCormick was transferred to Katterbach Army Airfield in Germany where she served as Rear Detachment C Company Commander during peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

For her excellent service, McCormick was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Army Aviator Badge.

Though an injury incurred in Germany forced McCormick into medical retirement, she maintained her spirits and searched for new goals. She moved to Dallas, Texas where she built a business as a Longaberger Consultant. McCormick is now active in the local community, participating in several Chambers of Commerce and serving as President of the Firewheel Chapter of Women of Visionary Influence. Each year she also participates in an Armed Forces Day Barbeque where she collects boxes of dry foods and goods for overseas troops.

It is my pleasure to name Elizabeth McCormick a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARL WATLEY FOR HIS SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable man and steward of the Cary, Mississippi community, Mr. Carl Watley. Mr. Watley is a lifelong resident of Cary, Mississippi, where he has devoted much of his time to serving as a positive male influence for the children of Cary. For years he has devoted himself to serving not only as guardian but as a role model for his niece and nephew, who were left without a parent after the untimely death of his sister. Mr. Watley is also admired and adored by the children of Sharkey and Issaquena Counties, many of which see him as a father figure and role model as well.

Mr. Watley has served his region for several years by providing community activities to the children of the area with his own personal resources. During the summer months, Mr. Watley sponsors activities for more than 140 children. He is currently working to secure funds to build a community house that will provide recreational alternatives for the children of Cary, Mississippi. He has organized a number of events for the children of Cary, including community clean-ups, field days and bible study for the young men of the community. Mr. Watley is also working with community leaders of Cary to establish a park in the Maiden Addition community.

Mr. Watley is an active member of the Parents for Public School Leadership and is certified under the National Certification in Fatherhood Leadership. He is a member of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church where he serves as the Youth Leader, a musician and a deacon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in expressing my sincere gratitude to Mr. Carl Watley of Cary, Mississippi for being a champion of children and a pillar of the community.

THE EMPTY CHAIR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Thanksgiving, millions of Americans will sit down to a decorated table filled with turkey and all the

trimmings such as mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. They will tell stories, laugh and enjoy conversation with their loved ones. But there are other homes around the nation where the dining room table will be accompanied by an empty chair. In that chair once sat a husband, father, brother, sister, son or daughter. It sat a graduate, a friend and a United States warrior. It is now an empty reminder of a courageous American hero who gave his or her life for this country. Today we say a prayer for those families with the empty seat at the table, and we thank them for their sacrifice to this country. At Thanksgiving, Americans must be thankful for the heroes—and the families that they leave behind—that volunteer to fight 365 days of the year all across the world so that the rest of us can be free.

Thanksgiving is about more than a turkey and sitting around a dinner table. It is about giving thanks to God for all of the blessings we enjoy, including our troops and our freedom.

Where did Thanksgiving come from? In 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Fleeing religious persecution, they vowed to make a better life for all in North America. The Pilgrims, unaccustomed to the Massachusetts winter, would not have survived their first winter without the help of the Indians, who brought them food, saving them from starvation. During the following year, the Pilgrims' conditions improved in Massachusetts, leading to a productive harvest season. To celebrate and give thanks to God for the harvest, the Pilgrims invited the Indians who had helped them the previous winter, and held a three-day feast. This feast was the birth of what is today known as Thanksgiving.

A common misconception about Thanksgiving is that it was annually celebrated following 1621. Actually, for the next 150 years, the American colonists would only celebrate Thanksgiving when there was cause to do so. In 1789, President George Washington declared a National Day of Thanksgiving for the American colonists. In his Presidential Proclamation, Washington stated: ''It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God . . . to be grateful for His benefits, and to (request) his protection and favor. I, President Washington, recommend to the people of the United States, a day of public thanksgiving and prayer . . . to show the many favors of the Almighty and especially the opportunity for this form of government.''

President Washington's belief in a National Day of Thanksgiving was not widely agreed upon or accepted throughout the colonies. For the next 70 years, a day of Thanksgiving was not routinely held. During the early 1800s, however, a female magazine editor named Sarah Josepha Hale began a 40-year campaign to institute a National Day of Thanksgiving. In November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, agreeing with Sarah Hale, proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving for the last Thursday in November. Thus began the tradition of Thanksgiving Day. But, it was not until 1941, under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, that Thanksgiving was declared an official national holiday by Congress.

No matter what Thanksgiving traditions have been enacted since Thanksgiving Day was first declared in 1863, and officially recognized a national holiday in 1941, Thanksgiving has always been about giving thanks to God for what we have and thinking of others who may not have what we do. This Thanksgiving Day, I invite this great nation to not lose sight of the true meaning of Thanksgiving and to do as the Pilgrims did before us: Offer a prayer of thanks to God for all of the gifts that he has bestowed.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 1, I was unable to vote due to a conflicting obligation in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 872, ''nay'';
On rollcall No. 873, ''aye'';
On rollcall No. 874, ''no'';
On rollcall No. 875, ''no'';
On rollcall No. 876, ''no'';
On rollcall No. 877, ''no'';
On rollcall No. 878, ''no'';
On rollcall No. 879, ''no'';
On rollcall No. 880, ''aye''; and
On rollcall No. 881, ''yea.''

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3010 AND H.R. 527

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 3010 and H.R. 527, bills that would create unnecessary requirements and hurdles to federal rulemaking. These bills seriously hinder the ability of federal agencies to protect our public health, including the safety of our food, our drinking water, the toys our children play with, and the quality of the air we breathe. These bills would create excessive delays for important rules that help provide workplace safety, consumer protection, support for small businesses, and veterans' assistance. Both these bills would add a cost to the taxpayers—H.R. 3010 would impose enormous costs by requiring a cost-benefit analysis of even the most minor of rules and CB0 estimates H.R. 527 would cost $80 million just in the next few years. By expanding judicial review H.R. 3010 will favor well funded special interests, a blatant attempt to impede an agency's factfinding process. Such processes will create greater and extended amounts of uncertainty, making it harder for businesses small and large to plan for the future. I urge my colleagues to vote No on these overreaching and onerous bills.

HONORING TONY STEWART

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate one of Columbus, Indiana's most famous sons, the 2011 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion, Tony Stewart. Indiana has long been known as the world's capital of auto racing and Hoosiers are proud of our home-grown NASCAR champ.

In a season finale that went down to the last lap, Tony drove what he called the greatest race of his life. His victory at Homestead-Miami Speedway clinched the season championship and cemented his status as one of stock car racing's all-time greats.

Tony's racing career began like many other aspiring young racers—behind the wheel of a go-kart. In 1983, at the age of twelve, Tony won his first championship. By 1989, he had moved from go-karts to open-wheel machines and captured the National Midget championship in 1994. The next year, he won the United States Auto Club's Triple Crown. In 1996, Tony demonstrated his prowess for racing at the Brickyard by capturing Rookie of the Year honors at the Indianapolis 500 and followed up with an IndyCar championship a year later.

After becoming a full-time NASCAR driver in 1999, Tony won three races en route to becoming NASCAR's Rookie of the Year. Three seasons later, he won his first NASCAR championship. In 2005, Tony won the Brickyard 400 before a hometown crowd and went on later in the season to take his second title.

The 2011 season will long be remembered for Tony's historic run in the Chase for the Sprint Cup. As a testament to the tenacity and poise of the entire Stewart-Hass Racing team, Tony brought the number fourteen to victory lane in five of the ten races that make up the Chase.

Mr. Speaker, Hoosier race fans like myself have come to know Tony Stewart as a tremendous competitor. Whether he is racing the short tracks and dirt ovals all across Indiana, or at our famous Brickyard, Tony Stewart is a true champion.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—PETER W. MALIK

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Colonel Peter W. Malik of McKinney, Texas serves in the United States Army Reserve as Commander of the 90th Sustainment Brigade in Little Rock, Arkansas. Malik has deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He also provided critical logistical support for a rescue mission of American hostages in Colombia while assigned to U.S. Army South.

During his 2005 tour of duty in Afghanistan, a volunteer assignment, Malik ran several

medical capability exercises which supported the local population by providing medical care. He also volunteered to assist as a Security Force ''Officer in Charge'' in the clearing of several Improvised Explosive Devices. His actions enabled the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division to execute their missions.

As ever, Malik put his fellow soldiers' safety first during an enemy attack on base. After a rocket hit the camp, Malik immediately began evacuating other Coalition Force members into a hardened shelter to protect them from additional strikes. Disregarding his own safety, Malik continued evacuation procedures as a second rocket landed nearby. Malik's efforts undoubtedly saved lives.

When stateside, Malik serves as an officer with the Dallas Police Department. He joined the force in 1989 and in the words of his superiors, ''He has continually demonstrated the same professionalism and dedication to duty that exemplify his military career.'' Colonel Malik has also been an invaluable volunteer for numerous local organizations. These include Dallas Military Ball, Assist the Officer Foundation, Texas Special Olympics, and Fisher House.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to name Peter W. Malik a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MS. DOROTHY MAE JORDAN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dorothy Mae Jordan. Ms. Jordan is the loving mother of five children. She has devoted much of her life to improving the lives of others and is a true friend to her community.

Ms. Jordan is the epitome of selflessness. At the age of 50, she commits herself to the needs of others with little to no accolades. She silently sacrifices her time and resources to being a reliable, caring, and passionate friend for those in need. Ms. Jordan is a beacon of hope and inspiration to those she encounters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Dorothy Jordan for her steadfast devotion in serving and giving back to her community.

AMERICANS NEED A HEALTHCARE RULING ACT—INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Supreme Court's recent decision to hear arguments on the fate of President Obama's Affordable Care Act sets the stage for an important ruling next summer that I believe will bring much-needed regulatory certainty to our economy.

However an obscure tax provision enacted into law by Congress in 1867 could delay a final ruling on the constitutionality of health care reform until 2015.

The court agreed to consider four key questions concerning the constitutionality of the health care law including whether Congress had the authority to require individuals to buy health insurance by 2014 or pay a tax penalty.

Legal scholars differ over whether the health care law adds a ''tax'' for those who lack insurance or instead imposes a ''penalty'' that must be paid to the Internal Revenue Service.

Yet under a law known as the Anti-Injunction Act of 1867, judges are barred from deciding on tax cases until the tax has been paid. Therefore if the justices find themselves closely divided on the issue the court could invoke the Anti-Injunction Act and put off a decision until 2015, when the first taxpayer pays a penalty for not having insurance.

Waiting for a decision on the constitutionality of the health care law until 2015 could be disastrous for U.S. businesses and our economy by continuing to deny regulatory certainty in this area.

That is why today I am introducing the Americans Need a Healthcare Ruling Act. This legislation would waive the Anti-Injunction Act as it applies to the Affordable Care Act. Passage of this bill will help ensure a decision on the issue next year.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement officers who have been honored by the Horse Shoe Curve Benevolent Association for their service to their communities and continued willingness to put their lives on the line to protect public safety.

Virginia State Police Trooper Pamela M. Neff serves the citizens of Clarke, Frederick, and Warren counties. Trooper Neff has done an outstanding job of removing intoxicated drivers from the road during her tenure with the force and has receive much notoriety for her efforts. Trooper Neff has also provided invaluable guidance and instruction to newer troopers and has consistently made sound decisions with regard to violations enforcement. Furthermore, her excellent investigative skills and her knowledge of the laws of Virginia enhance her ability to effectively communicate with the community.

Virginia State Police Trooper Daniel J. Scott serves the citizens of Frederick County. Trooper Scott has served the Virginia Department of State Police as a trooper, breach alcohol operator and field training officer. Trooper Scott provides critical guidance to less seasoned troopers. In addition, his investigative skills have also been recognized by his fellow officers. Trooper Scott's service to the community is a true testament to his dedication to this important work.

Correctional Officer Franklin D. Garris Jr. serves as a housing unit security officer with the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center. Officer Garris is responsible for more than 50 inmates on a regular basis. Over the past several years, Officer Garris has demonstrated himself to be among the most disciplined and conscientious officers on the staff and has been serving as a field training officer. Officer Garris has performed superbly and is recognized by his peers as an exceptional officer whose dedication is unmatched.

Officer Stephen Hossack serves the Mount Weather Police Department. Officer Hossack is a knowledgeable and professional police officer, displaying a strong dedication to the mission. Officer Hossak's contributions to the department's explosive K–9 program have enabled its teams to improve critical training. Officer Hossack is well informed and has the knowledge and skill to handle this complex work.

Edgar Allen Sibert serves as a lieutenant in the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Sibert also serves as the north end team leader of the Northeast Regional Drug and Gang Task Force, where he supervises undercover investigators assigned from Winchester, Frederick, and Clarke counties. A majority of Lt. ''Big Al'' Sibert's career has involved working with drug investigations. Lt. Sibert has shown outstanding dedication to the citizens he serves. These qualities make him an outstanding officer.

Detective Lisa Hyde serves the Winchester Police Department. Detective Hyde has been instrumental in the development, implementation and successful completion of the Winchester Police Department's Timbrook Youth Reporting Center. Detective Hyde has designed and implemented the standard operating procedures for the programs. Detective Hyde has an undeniable love for the community's youth and this is reflected in her ability to carry out such a long and painstaking process as the development of the Timbrook Youth Reporting Center. In addition to maintaining this program, Detective Hyde also manages a criminal case load as a Winchester Police Department Detective and serves as a team leader on the Winchester Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team.

Deputy Allen Mason serves the Clarke County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Mason began working for the sheriff's office in communications and has advanced to the rank of deputy. Deputy Mason has also worked as a school resource officer. Recently, Deputy Mason responded to a call regarding an elderly lady wandering around a rural area of the county. He was able to find and return the lady to the safety of her family who expressed deep appreciation for Deputy Mason's kindness and professionalism.

Corporal Tim Bristol serves the Berryville Police Department. Corporal Bristol has taken an active leadership role within the department and constantly looks for ways to improve and motivate members of the department. Corporal Bristol has been involved in the reorganization of the department's field training program and worked tirelessly to make sure those coming into the department are professionally mentored and equipped with the tools and resources necessary.

Deputy Steve Alger serves the Winchester Sheriff's Office. In August 2010 Deputy Alger was assisting mall security apprehend several subjects who had repeatedly stolen comforters and home furnishings when a fight began. The subject was able to climb into a vehicle and when Deputy Alger continued his pursuit, he

was struck by the van driven by the suspects. Although his injuries were minor, this incident demonstrated that Deputy Alger was determined to prevent the escape of these criminals, who were apprehended the next day. Deputy Alger goes above and beyond what is required of his job duties.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize these officers for their courage, strength and service to their local communities.

HONORING THOMAS MAHONEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Springfield Township's 1st Ward Commissioner Thomas Mahoney who will be retiring at the conclusion of this year. His political career began on October 10, 1989, when he was appointed to that very position. For almost 25 years Thomas has been an outstanding leader in the community, as well as an advocate for the improvement of Springfield Township for the benefit of all. First elected Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners in 1994, Thomas has honorably served as President for 11 of the past 15 years. From raising a family to being involved with the Youth Club and the Athletic Association his commitment to Springfield Township has never wavered. Thank you for all of your hard work and best of luck in the future.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—ALLEN GOEHRING, JR.

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

United States Army Staff Sergeant Allen Goehring, Jr. has honorably served our country since 1986. During his distinguished military career, Goehring spent time with a number of Army units including the 302nd Military Police Company and Detachment 1 of the United States Pacific Command.

Most recently, Goehring deployed to Iraq as a Criminal Investigations Division Special Agent with the 1149th Military Police Detachment of the Texas Army National Guard. Back in 2002, he also deployed to Afghanistan with the 345th Psychological Operations Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

When home, Goehring works for the Richardson Police Department. He started in 1997 as a patrol officer, Field Training Officer, and member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. During that time he obtained the highest certification available to an officer—Master Peace Officer. He now serves in the Investigations Division as a Crimes Against Persons and Sector Crimes Detective. During his time with the Police Department he has received forty-two citizen and Departmental commendations. He also has been selected for assignment to the Joint Terrorism Taskforce in the Dallas area.

For his heroic military efforts, Goehring was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and National Defense Service Medal, to name a few.

It is my pleasure to name Allen Goehring a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MS. SHARON UPSHAW FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sharon Upshaw. Ms. Upshaw is the parent of four and grandparent of two. She has worked as a Vista volunteer, foster grandparent coordinator, and Vice President of the Parent-Teacher Organization in the Quitman County School District.

Ms. Upshaw has devoted much of her life to community service and youth engagement. She is currently working with the Carl Brown Learning Center of the Quitman County Development Organization as the Parent Advocacy Coordinator which ensures that parents and students, alike receive the necessary support and resources for education.

She has been instrumental in obtaining after-school assistance for students suffering from learning and behavioral concerns and has worked to form coalitions between parents and school personnel to increase parental involvement in student academic welfare. She has also worked to improve the communication hurdles between both the school officials and parents.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Upshaw is not only a parent and grandparent but she represents a tower of strength and is advocate of education in her community. So Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Sharon Upshaw of Quitman County, Mississippi for her unwavering commitment to academia and her dedication to improving the lives of children in the Mississippi Delta.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICK CASE AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICK CASE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Rick Case and in acknowledgement of his 50th anniversary as the owner and founder of the Rick Case Automotive Group, located in Northern Ohio, South Florida and Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Case began his work with automobiles while in high school by selling cars from his parents' yard. The business has grown from a local Ohio dealership to 16 dealerships in three different states. Rick Case founded the Rick Case Automotive Group in 1962 in Northeast Ohio and expanded to South Florida and Atlanta in 1986. Today, the Rick Case Automotive Group employs more than 900 people.

Rick Case Automotive Group has been honored with many awards over the years. It was presented with the Honda President's Award in 2009 and in 2011, the Rick Case Automotive Group was the recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Mr. and Mrs. Case have also received the title of "Business Leaders of the Year" from the Florida Sun Sentinel and "Humanitarians of the Year" by Nova Southeast University.

Beyond running a successful business, Mr. and Mrs. Case founded the Rick Case Bikes for Kids program to provide bicycles for the less fortunate children in their community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Rick Case and the Rick Case Automotive Group's 50th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 2, 2011, I attended the funeral of Pfc Adam E. Dobereiner in Rock Island, Illinois. Pfc Dobereiner died on November 18, 2011 in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan while serving his country. Our nation owes Pfc Dobereiner and his family a debt of gratitude for their sacrifice. We must always remember the service of heroes both past and present.

Had I been present in Washington DC on December 2, 2011, my votes would have been as follows:

For Roll No. 882, which would clarify that an agency shall take into account whether a problem disproportionately impacts certain vulnerable subpopulations, and whether such an impact would be mitigated by new agency action—H.R. 3010 stresses smart, efficient and economical rule making. We should always be looking to maintain levels of service at the lowest cost possible. Under this bill, federal agencies already take public health or general welfare considerations into account. Therefore, I would have voted "no".

For Roll No. 883, which would clarify that the agency would retain the discretion to determine whether to provide advanced notice, not later than 90 days, of a proposed rule prior it being published in the Federal Register. For the sake of transparency, the underlying bill makes advance notice of these rules mandatory; therefore, I would have voted "No".

For Roll No. 884, which would clarify that regulations to protect public health and safety would not be blocked or repealed by H.R. 3010—Again; the underlying bill provides for the consideration of public health and general welfare. Therefore, I would have voted "No".

For Roll No. 885, which would exempt from the Act actions by the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission under the Atomic Energy Act—All federal regulations must be examined for their effect on health, public welfare, the economy and jobs. The NRC should not be carved out of this review. Therefore, I would have voted "No".

For Roll No. 886, which would exempt all rules promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security—All federal regulations must be examined for their effect on health, public welfare, the economy and jobs. The DHS should not be carved out of this review. Therefore, I would have voted "No".

For Roll No. 887, which Would have recommitted the bill so that it would "not apply to new regulations or the revision of existing regulations that reduce costs or increase coverage for pharmaceuticals and other health services for seniors, or efforts by the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Veterans Administration, and Defense to negotiate lower prescription drug prices"—Because the whole point and intent of the underlying bill is to lower costs, including the costs of prescription drugs, I would have voted "No." When it comes to vital health services for our seniors, it is vital that we keep the promise of both Medicare and Social Security. I have voted to do exactly that since coming to Congress eleven months ago. We also must continue to work to preserve these programs for our children and their children.

For Roll No. 888, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011, which would reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, I would have voted "Yes".

We must ensure that the regulations put forth by the federal government—more specifically the 4,000 final rules that federal agencies issue each year—are truly needed and necessary for the public welfare. This includes public health and our economy. I truly believe that our economic recovery is being held back because of overregulation and uncertainty coming from the government. My number one priority as a representative is fostering job creation to strengthen our economy so that American families can pursue their version of the American Dream. H.R. 3010 promotes increased public participation when it comes to considering regulations, stresses that lower cost regulations should be pursued, and provides more certainty to our businesses which represent the key to growing jobs in America.

It is an honor to serve the people of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE JOHN HENRY LAND

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I come to the House Floor today to pay tribute to one of Columbus, Georgia's most renowned and respected public figures, the late Judge John Henry Land. Judge Land, who served on the Superior Court bench in the six-county Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit for nearly 25 years, died on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at the age of 93 years old. His funeral will be on Monday, December 5, 2011 at the Striffer-Hamby Mortuary's Macon Road Chapel, followed by a committal service in Park-Hill Cemetery.

His many years of dedicated public service and steadfast commitment to mentoring young lawyers, District Attorneys, and Judges are just two of the many reasons as to why Judge Land was such an influential and respected pillar in Georgia legal circles.

A Columbus native, Judge Land was born on June 1, 1918, the son of Aaron Brewster and Mattie Miller Land. He is a graduate of Columbus High School and the University of Georgia. As a student at the University of Georgia, he epitomized the true meaning of a young and inspiring legal scholar by finishing a five-year law degree program in four years.

Following his exemplary collegiate career, Judge Land was engaged in the private practice of law before being drafted into the Army in 1941, eventually rising to the rank of Major before being honorably discharged after World War II.

After the war, Judge Land resumed his legal career and was subsequently elected to public office. He served in the Georgia State Senate from 1949 to 1950 and in 1955 he was appointed by Governor Marvin Griffin to serve as District Attorney.

Following his service as State Senator and District Attorney, Judge Land was elected in 1964 to the Muscogee County Superior Court, a position in which he served until his retirement in 1988. As a Superior Court judge, he was lauded and respected for his high legal acumen, disciplined adherence to the rule of law and his stern, no-nonsense judicial temperament.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Land possessed the intellect, courage, and fortitude necessary to grow as a lawyer and jurist and become one of our state's most renowned judges and preeminent judicial scholars. And, I will always respect him for his many outstanding professional achievements, substantive contributions to our community and his sage advice and counsel to me as I entered the Georgia political arena. But what I will remember most about Judge Land is his strength of character, his integrity, and his fidelity.

My wife Vivian and I would like to extend our prayers and condolences to Judge Land's wife, Mary, and his four surviving children, John H. Land III, Martha Christensen, Jeffrey Land, and Jere Land.

Though he will be greatly missed by his loving family and his many diverse friends of long standing, we can all be grateful that we had the opportunity to know, love, and have our lives touched by this exceptional human being!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the life of a great American and Georgia public figure of giant proportions—the late Judge John Henry Land of Muscogee County, Georgia.

HONORING JOHN J. DINTINO

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collingdale Borough Councilman John J. Dintino. After 37 years of honorable service, he will retire on December 5, 2011. Having served continuously since joining the Borough Council on January 5, 1975, John's service has left immeasurable contributions on the community. For many years he was the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and is the current Chairman of the Highway and Sanitation Committee. Through hard work and tremendous commitment, John has helped make the Borough of Collingdale a great place to work, live, and raise a family.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—SCOTT BRADLEY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

United States Army Sergeant First Class (ret.) Scott Bradley served our country from 1984–2007. During his distinguished military career, Bradley spent one year in Seoul, Korea as part of the Customs Inspection Team and participated in multiple deployments to Central America to assist with aid efforts after devastating natural disasters swept the region.

In June of 2004, Bradley was transferred to the 228th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in San Antonio. When his unit deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Bradley's task was to secure and detain all insurgents coming through the hospital. He also ran general security for the facility.

For these and other heroic efforts, Bradley has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, and two Army Achievement Medals. He also received the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, two Overseas Service Ribbons, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

After leaving the Army Reserve in 2007, Bradley was elected to the City Council in Murphy, Texas. In his role on the Council, Bradley is an active community leader and public servant.

It is my pleasure to name Scott Bradley a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN JACKSON FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor entrepreneur and faithful exponent of his community, Mr. John Jackson. Mr. Jackson has owned and operated his own farm in Leake County, Mississippi for the past twenty years.

Mr. Jackson comes from a long line of entrepreneurs and community servicemen. He is the son of a blacksmith and grandson and son-in-law of farmers. Even after years of witnessing his family undergo oppression, Mr. Jackson still rose to become one of Leake County's leading servicemen.

He served as president of the Thomastown Attendance Center Booster Club for four years; trustee on the Leake Memorial Hospital Board for two years; and is an active member of the Leake County Voters League. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. John Jackson for his dedication to serving the Leake County community.

HONORING DR. EDWARD WAITE MILLER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor my friend, Dr. Edward Waite Miller, who passed away October 27, 2012, at the age of 92. He was a prominent surgeon and writer in Marin County, California, as well as a loving family man.

Born in Oyster Bay, New York, in 1919, Dr. Miller studied at Union College in Schenectady and at Cornell Medical School with an internship at Boston City Hospital. He then served at the US Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi and in the South Pacific during WWII. He was awarded the American Theatre, Asiatic-Pacific, and Victory Medals. Reactivated in 1953, his service varied from making training films in the California desert to witnessing nuclear testing at the Bikini Atoll. He then received the Korean Service, United Nations, and National Defense Medals.

Dr. Miller also had a distinguished medical career. While working as a research fellow at the Cleveland Clinic with Dr. Willem Kolff in the 1950s, he published some seminal studies on the angiography of the heart that led to research in the new practice of coronary bypass surgery. He later worked as a surgeon in Marin General Hospital in Greenbrae, CA, and Children's Hospital in San Francisco, CA, and as a physician at Novato Community Hospital in Novato, CA.

In retirement Dr. Miller became well known in the community and around the world for his writing in the Coastal Post newspaper, a Marin County publication that gave him free rein to speak out on issues he was passionate about. From advocacy for peace and human rights to his sometimes controversial pro-Palestinian stance, he penned opinion pieces that reflected his deeply held beliefs and his great knowledge of world events.

I had many conversations with Ed Miller about these issues, and, although I sometimes didn't agree with him, I always enjoyed our time together and appreciated his commitment and his compassion. He loved discussing everything from politics to poetry (which he quoted from memory) with friends and family.

A long-time resident of the Lucas Valley area, Dr. Miller enjoyed landscaping his yard, and he was a board member and President of the Lucas Valley Homeowners' Association.

Dr. Miller is survived by his wife Fusae Ito Miller; his children and stepchildren, Trudy Vriethoff, Susan Ray, Lori Callahan, Jeffrey Miller, Grace Bransford, and Robert Fleming and their spouses; and 5 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I always looked forward to seeing Ed Miller and will miss our lively discussions. Please join me in offering condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING MARY LEE SPENCER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 93 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer was born on August 28, 1918 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer is celebrating her 93rd Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia on August 28, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 93rd birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 28, 2011 as Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of August, 2011.

TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 3463, a bill terminating the Election Assistance Commission and the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. I voted "no".

I also opposed the House-passed legislation in January to eliminate the Presidential Election Campaign Fund (H.R. 359), as well as the previously unsuccessful attempt in June to pass a bill eliminating the Election Assistance Commission (H.R. 672). H.R. 3463 combined these previously considered bills to pay for the cost of the two bills the House considered yesterday and today (H.R. 527 and H.R. 3010). I also voted against those bills because they reduce the ability of federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to implement regulations to protect public health, workers, and the environment.

The Election Assistance Commission was established in 2002 as part of the Help America Vote Act. That legislation was enacted because of the widespread irregularities and controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential elections. The commission's immediate role was to oversee payments to states to help them replace punch card and lever voting systems and to develop statewide voter databases. The commission also operates a federal voting system testing and certification program and maintains an election administration information clearinghouse. State and local governments rely on the services provided by the Commission. One year before another presidential election, now is not the time to eliminate the Commission.

The Presidential Campaign Fund was created to establish a system and spending limits for publicly financed presidential elections, providing opportunities for greater competition and transparency. The law that created the Fund in 1972 clearly needs some updating, but it should not be repealed.

THE DAVIS FAMILY GOES THE EXTRA MILE IN HONORING OUR NATION'S WOUNDED HEROES

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Dano Davis, the rest of the Davis Family, and the staff and volunteers of the D-Dot Ranch in Jacksonville, Florida. For the past five years, the D-Dot Ranch has semi-annually hosted four wounded military returnees from Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts, for a three-day respite at the D-Dot Ranch.

This respite has included food and lodging in their spectacular bunk house lodge and a one of a kind special Florida outdoor experience. Participants have included heroes who have lost eyes, arms and legs, as well as other physical and mental impairments.

These respite visits have helped many highly-deserving individuals to realize they can still enjoy the great outdoors in spite of their impairment challenges. Personnel at Walter Reed, Bethesda and other military healthcare facilities have reported significant therapeutic benefit for these participants.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues join me in saying thank you to the Davis Family and the staff at the D-Dot Ranch for a job well done. America owes our wounded heroes a debt of gratitude that we can

repay and this is one way that we can show our appreciation and admiration for their service.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—ROBERT ''BOB'' KINNE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Robert "Bob" Kinne retired as a United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel in 1973 after 21 years of honorable service. A distinguished fighter pilot of exceptional skill, Kinne flew numerous combat missions over Vietnam.

During one run in 1966, he was involved in a midair collision over Hanoi. When several surface to air missiles were launched at Kinne and his wingman, the wingman lost sight of Kinne's F–4 and collided with him at 8,000 feet. The plane was heavily damaged, but Kinne was able to recover after falling to about 2,000 feet. Against all odds, he made it back to Da Nang Air Base safely. For these and other missions Kinne has received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Air Medals, a Bronze Star, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

Upon his retirement in 1973, Kinne joined the business jet community working his way up to head of aviation for the Associates First Capital Corporation. He flew around the world many times, and enjoyed transporting dignitaries including President George H.W. Bush.

Kinne now resides in McKinney, Texas. A member of the Red River Valley Fighter Association, National Air and Space Society, and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Kinne contributes to our community by sharing his love of aircraft and flying with the next generation. He also assists numerous Boy Scouts with their badges, Eagle Scout projects, and those with plans for future military service.

It is my pleasure to name Bob Kinne a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. EDDIE CHARLES BROWN, JR. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND WORLD CITIZEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eddie Charles Brown Jr., a consummate organizer, community activist and civil rights advocate. Mr. Eddie Brown Jr. began working in the areas of human and civil rights in the 1960s. Often working on behalf of others, Mr. Brown devoted his life to making a difference in society.

A native of Louisiana, Eddie Brown Jr. was born on August 19, 1941, in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Thelma Warren and Eddie Charles Brown, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Valinda, and three sons.

Mr. Brown's historical efforts to fight segregation and all forms of oppression as well as to empower Black people started in 1960 as a student at Louisiana's Southern University. He and 16 other classmates confronted the University and staged a sit-in to protest the prevalent racial segregation that existed in Louisiana. After he and the others were arrested, expelled and banned from enrolling in any university in Louisiana, Eddie Brown's life would be defined by his fight for justice, equality and human dignity on behalf of politically and socio-economically oppressed communities.

The expulsion from Southern University led Mr. Brown to Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1961, where he landed on the front line of the Civil Rights Movement. At Howard University, Mr. Brown became a leader and organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He fought to win constitutional rights for Blacks and all disenfranchised people.

Mr. Brown never held a job that was not directly concerned with human advancement. Highly regarded in white political and philanthropic circles for a selfless incorruptibility, he helped bridge the gap between both communities and was able to direct very significant financial resources into poor black communities.

As a staffer at the Citizen's Crusade Against Poverty in Washington, D.C., in 1965, Mr. Brown developed information networks among community-based organizations to support anti-poverty legislation. In 1967, he organized efforts to improve the political and economic conditions of Blacks in the Mississippi Delta as the Executive Director and founder of the Mississippi Action for Community Education (MACE) and The Delta Foundation in Greenville, Mississippi. At MACE, he developed community-based enterprises producing Fine Vines blue jeans and establishing catfish farms in the Delta. In 1974, Mr. Brown raised funds and helped organize the Sixth Pan African Congress held at the University of Tanzania with delegates representing 52 independent states and/or liberation movements in Africa, the Caribbean, and other people of African descent.

As Executive Director of the New Orleans Area Development Project in 1976, he organized advocacy groups to work for reform by organizing communities to fight police brutality and creating parent-teacher committees for education reform. Mr. Brown went on to serve as President and CEO of the Southern Agriculture Corporation in the 1980s where he worked to organize and gain capital funding for small Black southern farmers. In the 1990s as Executive Director of the Voter Education Project in Atlanta, he continued his tireless efforts to register Blacks and poor people to vote and to fight legislation restricting poor and disenfranchised people of all color from voting.

From the 1990s through 2006, Mr. Brown shifted his focus to nations outside the United States. As a senior consultant to the National Democratic Institute, Mr. Brown designed and implemented civic and voter education programs to prepare for national elections in Ethiopia, Namibia, Zambia, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. As an international election observer for The Jimmy Carter Center, Eddie worked in Ghana, Zambia and The Dominican Republic. As a human rights activist in corporate board rooms, Eddie served on the World Council of Churches and Emergency Fund for Southern Africa raising funds for humanitarian relief; at the Center for National Security Studies monitoring American defense policies and budgets; and with the American Friends Service Committee, United States Department of Agriculture Citizens Advisory Committee Equal Opportunity and Atlanta Council for International Cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Eddie Charles Brown Jr., a global citizen and activist who found his lifework in the work that he loved.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3463, THE TERMINATE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND ACT, H.R. 3010, THE REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT AND H.R. 527, THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the current House rule provides for consideration of three separate pieces of legislation: H.R. 3463, the Terminate Election Assistance Commission and Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act, H.R. 3010, the Regulatory Accountability Act and H.R. 527, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. I oppose all three ill-conceived bills, because they weaken our democracy by giving powerful special interest influence at the expense of the public. We should be focusing on legislation to create jobs today and these bills do nothing to create jobs or improve the sluggish economy.

The first bill, H.R. 3463, eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, which was established as part of landmark political reforms following the Watergate scandal. The fund is critical in ensuring that wealthy donors and corporations are not able to monopolize the political process. Critics of the Presidential Election Campaign Fund contend that it is outdated and fails to provide enough money for candidates to run modern campaigns. I recognize that the fund needs to be modernized, but strongly oppose its elimination. Instead, I introduced H.R. 414, the Presidential Funding Act, with Rep. David Price to reform the presidential public financing system and again make it an attractive and viable option for candidates. Our bill would bring available funds into line with the high cost of campaigns, enhance the role of small donors, adjust the program to today's front-loaded primary calendar, and end the public financing of party conventions. Presidential campaigns should not be limited to candidates who can raise the most

money from corporations and the super wealthy.

H.R. 3463 also eliminates the important Election Assistance Commission, which was created in the wake of the 2000 presidential election to help states update their voting systems. The commission provides voting system testing and certification programs to ensure that every qualified citizen's vote is counted. Since the commission was created, it has greatly improved the accessibility and reliability of voting machines. The commission works to provide states with financial and informational resources to upgrade their voting and registration systems, train their poll workers, and improve access to voting machines for more than 37 million voters with disabilities. The Republican bill to turn back the clock on fair elections is opposed by a wide-range of public interest groups dedicated to protecting voting rights—including the League of Women Voters, Democracy 21, Common Cause, Americans for Campaign Reform, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, People for the American Way, Public Campaign, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Public Citizen, and U.S. PIRG. Congress should assist the commission with additional resources; it should not eliminate it.

The Republican leadership combined H.R. 3463 in a rule to pay for two other flawed bills, the misnamed Regulatory Accountability Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. In contrast to their nice-sounding titles, these bills create unnecessary delays and additional red tape in federal rulemaking. These delays could be detrimental to public health and safety.

It is important to recognize that President Obama has implemented reforms to the rulemaking process. In January 2010, the President signed an Executive Order that required agencies to determine if the benefits of proposed rules are justified considering their cost to society. He also directed agencies to consider input from affected public and private stakeholders and experts when developing rules and regulations. President Obama required an interagency review of repetitive rules and regulation between agencies that may prevent innovation in the private sector. In response to concerns from small business owners, President Obama requested departments and agencies to decrease unjustified economic burdens on small businesses through increased flexibility. This increased flexibility can include postponing compliance deadlines for small businesses, establishing different requirements for small firms and large firms, and providing partial or total exemptions for small businesses. I believe that the steps taken by the Obama Administration address many of the problems these bills seek to fix without creating additional layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and legal uncertainty.

In 1980, Congress passed the Regulatory Flexibility Act to require that federal agencies consider the potential economic impact of federal regulations on small businesses. The current law has worked well, but the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act creates excessive requirements in federal rulemaking by subjecting 50 additional federal agencies to conduct small business peer review panels and additional costly analyses. The bill would create major delays in important rules. These delays could adversely impact rules that would protect families from fraudulent practices in the mortgage industry or safeguard children from toxic toys among other things.

The so-called Regulatory Accountability Act adds more than 60 new requirements in the federal rulemaking process. These new requirements would prevent government agencies from addressing public health, consumer protections, environmental standards, workplace safety and financial malfeasance and many other important actions. The new requirements contained in these bills could prevent federal agencies from fulfilling their core missions under the law. If federal requirements are overly burdensome, Congress already has the oversight responsibility to address the problem. I stand ready to work with all my colleagues to eliminate any outdated unnecessary regulations that are not cost-effective.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARLEM DOUBLE DUTCH CLASSIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Harlem Double Dutch Classic, which competition takes place every year at the world famous Apollo Theater. I also would like to recognize the National Double Dutch League and my good friend Mr. David A. Walker who passed away in 2008, and the rise of director Ms. Lauren Walker, Mr. Walker's daughter.

David A. Walker, the founder of the National Double Dutch League made Double Dutch into the game it is today. Together with Ulysses Williams, whom he met while working for the New York City Police Community Affairs division, were able to make the game into a competitive team sport that quickly gained momentum as a World Class Sport. By 1974 Double Dutch had gained enough popularity to have the first tournament of fifth through eighth graders, in which almost 600 students participated.

Double Dutch has since become a citywide, national and international sport. Community centers and school throughout the national have thousands of students compete to be champions of this wonderful sport. For 18 years, Walker served the American Double Dutch League as president, and later went on to form the International Double Dutch Federation, the National Double Dutch League, which we are honoring today, and the Dynamic Diplomats of Double Dutch team. Walker managed to create an approach to the sport that has spread throughout the world as the default method to compete. Double Dutch has risen and fallen in popularity over the years, but Walker was able to help the game stand the test of time and rise once again in its full glory.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to educate themselves on this important sport that has changed the lives of young girls and boys throughout the nation and the world. We must honor the man that has helped put our children's energies into safe pass times such as this, and David A. Walker was that man. I know that his daughter will carry on his legacy and keep this incredible sport alive and thriving.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—RICHARD D. OLIVER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Specialist Richard D. Oliver served our country in the United States Army from 1980 to 1983. During his distinguished military career, Oliver trained to perform decontamination of field units in the event of a combat nuclear exchange. He served with the 2nd Armored Division, 1st and 2nd Infantry. Later, he was stationed in Korea as a Demilitarized Zone Guard.

Having served with great distinction, Oliver was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Drivers Badge.

After leaving the Army, Oliver served as a volunteer firefighter for the City of Sachse, Texas for 10 years. He now serves Sachse as a Police Officer. The recipient of four Life Saving Awards, Oliver most recently put his skill and strength to work when he rescued a woman who was trapped in her burning vehicle.

He is the current Vice President and State Trustee of the Fraternal Order of Police, also representing that organization at the local Chamber of Commerce. With the support of his fellow officers, he is the driving force behind the annual Christmas food and toy drive for needy families. Oliver also assists families who need assistance with home repairs and maintenance through the Sachse Shares project. Last year, Oliver was honored by his hometown as outstanding citizen of the year when he was presented with the Spirit of Sachse Award.

It is my pleasure to name Richard D. Oliver a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was $4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is $15,088,441,787,407.62. We've added $10,287,036,612,113.34 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is $10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 3012, The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act.

I congratulate my colleague from Utah and my colleague, the esteemed chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, for moving this bill through the committee process and bringing it to the floor. I am pleased to be a cosponsor.

This bill will eliminate per-country limits on employment-based immigration, which limit the total employment-based immigration from any one country to just seven percent of the overall number of visas allowed.

While there may have been a rationale for per-country limits in the past, currently they have created a bottleneck for those seeking to legally emigrate from high population countries. These high population countries also happen to be countries from which a large percentage of high-skilled workers come.

Simply put, H.R. 3012 will reform our employment-based immigration such that our economy will have better access to the best and the brightest in the world.

The value of foreign-born, high-skilled talent simply cannot be overstated.

For example, researchers at Duke University and University of California—Berkeley found that, from 1995 to 2005, more than a quarter of engineering and technology companies started in the U.S. had at least one foreign-born founder and in 2006 these companies employed 450,000 workers and produced $52 billion in sales.

Facilitating U.S. industry having access to the best and the brightest from around the world is crucial to ensuring that we stay on the leading edge of global innovation.

Given the economic realities we face, these reforms could not come at a better time and this legislation has received support from CompeteAmerica, the Information Technology Industry Council, TechAmerica, and Immigration Voice.

This bill is the right policy at the right time and it is my hope that it moves through the legislative process and ultimately lands on the President's desk expeditiously.

In addition, Congress can and should continue to look for fixes to our current approach to legal immigration that will benefit our economy.

For example, there is a growing consensus that steps should be taken to ensure that we are able to retain foreign-born graduates with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math, as opposed to losing them to countries with which we compete.

I look forward to working with the Chairman and my colleagues on commonsense reforms that can help the U.S. retain its competitive edge and remain at the forefront of the global marketplace.

RECOGNITION OF MAJOR ALISON HAMILTON

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Alison Hamilton, United States Army, on the occasion of her departure from the Army House Liaison Office to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with her as she has served as a part of the U.S. Army Office of Legislative Affairs, and prior to that, when she served as a Congressional Fellow in my office.

In 1999, while still a West Point cadet, Major Hamilton was awarded the Soldier's Medal—the Army's highest peacetime award for bravery—"for heroism above and beyond the call of duty" following the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 7, 1998 when she risked her life to rescue others.

Following her graduation from West Point, Major Hamilton was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army. During her 13-year career, she has served as platoon leader for companies of Military Police in Germany and Kosovo and as the Battalion S-1 for the 709th Military Police Battalion. For 19 months, she commanded the 212th Military Police Detachment stationed in Fort Belvoir, VA before deploying to Arifjan, Kuwait to serve as the theatre operations officer in the only strategically deployable Field Army headquarters in the U.S. Army. Upon redeployment, Major Hamilton went on to share her field experience with cadets at the Valley Forge Military College where she served as the Battalion S-3 and Assistant Professor of Military Science.

In 2010, she joined my personal office as a Congressional Fellow tasked with assisting me in my work on the House Armed Services Committee and quickly became an integral and important part of our team, demonstrating the same level of leadership, maturity, dedication, insight and intelligence that have been the hallmarks of her career. Alie took initiative to help me pursue several legislative initiatives and served as a valuable resource to me and my staff. Her warm personality and even temperament mixed with her thorough attention to details and intelligence made her a reliable and trusted member of our team. Even after her yearlong commitment was completed, she remains a regular visitor to my office but we miss her daily presence.

Following her fellowship, Major Hamilton was assigned to the Army House Liaison Office as a Legislative Liaison where she continued her dedicated service to the Congress and to the Army. Throughout her assignment to the House of Representatives, Major Hamilton has been a superb representative of Army values.

It is my great honor to congratulate Major Alison Hamilton on her service to the Army and our Nation and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of this soldier, citizen, and friend. We wish her a safe and successful deployment and a speedy return home.

HONORING OLD MISSION SANTA BARBARA ON ITS 225TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Old Mission Santa Barbara in Santa Barbara, California. This is a momentous occasion. Founded by Father Fermon Lasuon on the Feast of St. Barbara on Dec. 4, 1786, the Old Mission Santa Barbara has been administered by the Franciscan Order since its founding, making it the oldest continually operating church in California.

The Old Mission is an exceptional example of both neo-classical architectural design with Mexican, Spanish and native Indian influence, and a rare, lasting example of Chumash sculpture and craftsmanship. Throughout the Santa Barbara Mission's 225 year history, it has served as the signature building of the Santa Barbara community.

In past years, the Old Mission has alternatively served as a mission, a boarding school, a bishopric, a theological seminary, a museum, a private residence, a retreat center, and a parish church. After the devastating earthquake of 1925, which destroyed much of the towers of the mission, the community rallied in support of the Old Mission by collecting pennies and holding benefit concerts all to fund the Mission's restoration.

Old Mission Santa Barbara, a National Historic Landmark, and known as the "Queen of the Missions," continues to serve our community by hosting the Old Mission Arts and Crafts shows, I Madonnari Festival, the world famous Old Spanish Days Fiesta, the blessings of the animals, and the Christmas nativity crèche, as well as other historic celebrations and community gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Old Mission Santa Barbara and the central role it continues to play as a cultural and historic landmark in the city of Santa Barbara.

COMMEMORATING WORLD STROKE DAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Stroke Day, which was observed on October 29th. Although I was unable to commemorate this day when it occurred, it's never too late to raise awareness about this devastating disease.

On average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds in America, and it's the fourth leading cause of death in our country. A stroke is essentially a "brain attack" that occurs when

blood flow is interrupted to the brain, either by a blood clot or the breaking of a blood vessel.

I urge my colleagues and constituents to learn about the risks and warning signs associated with stroke, and to join me in honoring the seven million stroke survivors, their caregivers and families in recognition of this World Stroke Day.

HONORING RYAN HOSFORD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Hosford. Ryan 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan 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, Ryan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—GEORGE ''ROBBIE'' ROBINSON

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Captain George ''Robbie'' Robinson spent a 20-year career serving our nation in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from the NROTC program at Princeton University, Robinson received a four-year Marshall Scholarship from the United Kingdom where he obtained a Ph.D. in civil engineering. He put the degree to good use with the Navy Civil Engineer Corps from 1961–1981.

During these years, Robinson was responsible for the planning, construction, and maintenance of 51 U.S. Naval bases in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He also received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for his leadership of a Seabee Company in Vietnam which supported the U.S. Marines. Robinson later assumed command of a Seabee Battalion of over 1,200 men, the only such battalion to be commended by the U.S. Congress.

In 1974, Robinson became the third Naval Officer ever to be named a White House Fellow. Upon his retirement, he was honored with the Legion of Merit.

Robinson went on to have a distinguished career as a corporate executive, manager, planner and engineer. He has maintained an active presence in the community by participating in a wide range of civic, professional and religious organizations. Among his many achievements in the community are leadership positions within the American Cancer Society, Plano Economic Development Foundation, Plano Junior League, Plano Symphony Orchestra, and University of Texas at Dallas. For his extraordinary leadership, Robinson's hometown of Plano, Texas has honored him as Citizen of the Year.

It is my pleasure to name Robbie Robinson a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN A. PESTOVIC, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. John A. Pestovic, Sr., who is being honored by the Polish Legion of American Veterans at the 52nd Annual Veteran and Women of the Year Recognition Banquet.

Mr. Pestovic was born on November 28, 1940 in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Lawn Elementary and Tremont Elementary Schools. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1958, Mr. Pestovic joined the Army. Mr. Pestovic joined the 86th Engineer Battalion at Fort Dix New Jersey once he was a properly trained electrician. In 1959, he was deployed to Seoul, Korea with the Area Engineers of Headquarters Detachment Seoul. Mr. Pestovic spent a year abroad and then returned to Missouri to lead a group of electricians handling fire ranges. February 12, 1962 marked the end of Mr. Pestovic's service; he left service with the rank of Specialist E–5.

From the early sixties until his retirement in May of 2000, Mr. Pestovic worked with AT&T and Ohio Bell. Since 1982, Mr. Pestovic has been an active member of Post # 30 of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Since 1963, Mr. Pestovic has been married to Marene Skufca. They are the proud parents of two sons, Edward and John Jr. John Jr. served America, like his father, in the U.S. Navy and now works at the Pentagon. Edward is an architect in Texas.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. John A. Pestovic as he is being honored at the Polish Legion of American Veterans' 52nd Annual Veteran and Women of the Year Recognition Banquet.

TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 3463, which would strip funding from the public financing of presidential campaigns and the Election Assistance Commission. I wholeheartedly believe that we should be looking closely at faults in our electoral system, but this bill is a step in the entirely wrong direction.

Make no mistake—our election system is in crisis. Money has a corrupting influence at every level in the process. Candidates must constantly raise more and more money to remain competitive, and large corporations such as insurance, oil or other special interest groups are able to exert a substantial influence. It is increasingly hard for middle class or low income individuals to have their voices heard.

This bill would only worsen the problem. Matching funds are intended to give small donors a more effective voice by doubling the impact of dollars given by those who can only afford to contribute small amounts of money. It gives presidential candidates a substantial reason to focus on small donations, instead of merely courting big donors. Eliminating matching funds will all but guarantee that candidates focus even more on donors who are able to contribute large amounts of money each cycle.

Instead we should be looking at how to make money play less of a role in the system—not more. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1404, the Fair Elections Now Act. This bill would shift a candidate's focus to receiving a large number of small donations from constituents in their states or districts. This would level the playing field and give small donors—working families, seniors, and others—as much influence as the 1% and mega corporations. If H.R. 1404 were passed, it would go a long way towards righting what is so wrong about our process today.

Rather than considering H.R. 3463 today, we should be discussing how to stop the avalanche of state laws that will have the effect of suppressing voter turnout—laws promoted under the guise of eliminating voter fraud—a virtually non-existent problem. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, recent changes to voting requirements could result in disenfranchising more than five million legitimate, eligible voters this cycle. That number is more than the margin of victory in two of the last three presidential elections.

The various initiatives proposed—whether they are photo identification requirements, the reduction or elimination of same-day, early or absentee voting opportunities, or placing onerous hurdles on voter registration—all disproportionately impact vulnerable voting populations that we should actively be encouraging to vote. Instead, over and over we see state legislatures doing whatever they can to stop these groups from turning out at the polls.

It is our duty as members of Congress to investigate those practices and ensure that

American citizens are encouraged and able to participate in the electoral process. What agency is similarly tasked with making sure that Americans are given every opportunity to exercise this right? The Election Assistance Commission. I believe its role is fundamental. Disbanding the entire agency is the worst possible solution, given recent changes in voting requirements across the country. Rather, the Commission must be given the tools necessary to ensure that disadvantaged, low-participation and other groups are not disenfranchised by recent changes in state law.

It is by addressing these two key issues—the role of money and how to boost voter participation, that we will meaningfully address some of the most serious problems with the electoral system today. I would encourage my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this resolution, and instead pursue positive election reform.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM FOWLER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's best known naturalists, accomplished conservationists, and recognizable television personalities, Jim Fowler. This weekend, the city of Albany, Georgia is proclaiming Saturday, December 3, 2011 as ''Jim Fowler Day'' and presenting him with a key to the city. The ceremony honoring Mr. Fowler will take place during Albany, Georgia's Celebration of Lights Christmas Parade. I am pleased to say that Mr. Fowler, a native of Albany, will be serving as the Grand Marshall of this year's Celebration of Lights Christmas Parade.

Jim Fowler's five decade long career as one of America's leading wildlife experts began at Earlham College in Indiana, Pennsylvania where he graduated with degrees in zoology and geology. Following his studies at Earlham College, Mr. Fowler conducted the first studies of the world's largest eagle, the Harpy, in the Amazon Rainforest and later tracked the movement of the Andean Condor bird in Peru.

Following his academic pursuits, Mr. Fowler served with Marlin Perkins as co-host and later became host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom television show and also hosted Mutual of Omaha's Spirit of Adventure. These acclaimed educational television programs received many awards including four Emmys and an endorsement by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for family viewing. He has been a frequent guest on many network news and talk shows and served as the wildlife correspondent for NBC's Today Show. Mr. Fowler was also prominently featured in a news piece that the Animal Planet network did on the Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom in 2007.

Jim Fowler serves as president of the Fowler Center for Wildlife Education in New York and serves as the honorary president of the Explorers Club. In 1994, he received the prestigious Explorers Club Medal, the club's highest honor. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa from Earlham College and in 2003 he was awarded the Lindbergh Award which recognizes individuals for significant contributions toward the balance of technology and nature.

As a world renowned zoologist and leading wildlife expert, Mr. Fowler has dedicated his professional career to educating audiences on the importance of preserving and protecting some of earth's most precious habitats. He has inspired generations of Americans to pursue the altruistic goals of improving our global ecosystem and maintaining the existence of the world's wildlife communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mr. Jim Fowler for his many career achievements, outstanding service, and public distinction and most importantly for his unwavering support for the preservation of our world's natural habitats.

HONORING LUCAS YOUTSEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lucas Youtsey. Lucas 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lucas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Lucas 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, Lucas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—LENI MARK WILLIAMS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Sergeant Leni Mark Williams served our country from 1942 to 1972 as part of three foreign wars: World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. At the early age of sixteen, Williams enlisted in the Merchant Marines where he served until 1945. He then joined the U.S. Army as an Interpreter. In the aftermath of World War II, Williams contributed to the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency's Operation Paperclip which recruited scientists from Europe.

After thirteen years of active service, Williams temporarily left the military to return to school. He soon reentered the Army as a Medic. During the Korean War, he trained as a Parachutist with a Ranger Company and took part in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. In 1968, Williams was wounded in Vietnam. After 33 months of hospitalization, he was medically discharged.

For his exceptionally heroic efforts, Williams has received the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Valor Device and two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, and Parachute Badge.

Mr. Williams continues to serve his community as an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Lone Star Post 2150 in McKinney, Texas. He plays an active role in area Memorial Day services and other patriotic events, always downplaying his own accomplishments in order to salute his fellow veterans.

It is my pleasure to name Leni Mark Williams a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.