EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO KYRIE HILLS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Kyrie Hills for her passionate devotion as a leader to inspire others through the performing arts.

Ms. Hills is the daughter of Harold and Patricia Hills and the second oldest of three siblings. Ms. Hills and her family are active members at Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY where Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. is their Pastor and Rev. Byron Benton is the Youth Pastor.

Ms. Hills is currently a sophomore at Clark Atlanta University where she is pursuing a degree in psychology with the aspiration to become a psychotherapist. One of her greatest passions is dance and the performing arts, where she strives to bring her community together. During the summer of 2011 Ms. Hills worked as a camp counselor at Inspired, a performing arts camp in Brooklyn, NY. That same summer she was recruited to perform in the acclaimed play ''For Christian Girls'', written and directed by Termaine Price at Berean Baptist Church.

Ms. Hills also attends Chapel on CAU campus, and is a member of the choir and sings praises. Currently Ms. Hills is the CCO Rep of CAU Dance Theater and aspires to be President of the Dance Theater next academic year. Ms. Hills has previously served as the section leader of BCD ''Royal Dame'' dance line and she is the former Vice President of the Ministry of Sacred Dance at Berean Baptist Church.

Ms. Hills has been awarded several awards and was recognized for her performing arts throughout Brooklyn. In 2009 Ms. Hills performed in Dance Africa at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, was recognized by the National Council of Negro Women, and received the Joseph A.E. Jones ''Youth of the Year Award'' for outstanding and dedicated service to the Youth Ministry at Berean Baptist Church.

Aside from her extraordinary accomplishments in the performing arts, Ms. Hills also performs community service in Atlanta with the NAACP, while also mentoring children at the Booker T Washington Middle School with a group called Lady B Fly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Ms. Kyrie Hills.

MR. WALLACE L. BOYLE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Wallace L. Boyle Jr. of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, for his faithful and dedicated service to the United States of America through turbulent times.

Wallace Boyle joined the Army Air Corps in 1940. At that time, there was no draft, so an enlistee could choose where he wanted to be stationed. Mr. Boyle selected Hawaii as his duty station, and he was sent to Wheeler Air Field. This put him about 24 miles from Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941. The Japanese flew over and attacked Wheeler Air Field on the way to the naval base. The Japanese attack on Wheeler destroyed two-thirds of the aircraft at the field.

On that morning, Wallace Boyle was in the mess hall. He was just handed a plate of pancakes when the first bomb struck. Mr. Boyle ran outside and began helping his wounded comrades. More than 2,400 American lives were lost on that day, and almost 1,300 were injured.

During World War II, Mr. Boyle served at Andover Airfield in England, in France, in Belgium, and in Germany. He was discharged from the Army in 1945.

Mr. Speaker, Wallace L. Boyle Jr., who is only months away from his 90th birthday, is a fine example of the faithful and dedicated men and women that make up our Armed Forces. His selfless actions, and those of his generation, should forever be remembered and cherished by a grateful Nation.

BILL LIVINGOOD, HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. ''Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States.''

The announcement of the President at the State of the Union is how Americans have come to know the House Sergeant at Arms, Bill Livingood.

This duty is just one of many responsibilities of the House Sergeant at Arms.

He most importantly ensures the safety of Members, staff, and visitors as the chief law enforcement officer in the House.

And sadly Mr. Livingood, the third longest serving Sergeant at Arms, is retiring.

Bill is a wonderful person and accomplished public servant.

He has served the House since 1998 through some of the most trying times in our history and previously served our country as a member of the Secret Service.

I've known Bill for over 25 years beginning when I was a Judge in Texas, and he was the head of the Secret Service field office in Houston. His agents would file cases that were sometimes heard in my court.

I am sad to see him go but he has made a mark on this institution with improvements in security and steadfast leadership that is a model for all who serve in the people's house.

Congratulations on your retirement, Bill, and thank you for your service to the House of Representatives and the United States of America.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING BRENT BAIR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man that needs no introduction in Michigan, nor the transportation and intelligent transportation network in the country.

After 34 years of public service to the Road Commission for Oakland County, Brent Bair will be retiring at the end of the year. A pillar of the community, Mr. Bair has a long and distinguished resume.

Serving as the Managing Director of the Road Commission for Oakland County, his department is responsible for the largest county road system in Michigan, second in size to the state highway system, and currently operates the second largest system of adaptive traffic signals in the nation. He is widely respected as a leading expert on road funding in Michigan and has been an advocate on behalf of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and ITS funding. He is a founding member and past president of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan as well as an active member in and former chairman of the national ITS association, ITS America.

As the Chairman of the Intelligent Transportation Systems' Caucus in the House of Representatives, I have long looked to Brent for advice and guidance on good governance and ITS policy. Early on I recognized the benefits to including technological advances in our cars, highways and infrastructure. Through educational programs and ongoing efforts by Brent and ITS Michigan, Congress has recognized that in this economic climate of doing more with less, ITS solutions are an important step towards fiscal responsibility and more importantly, smart solutions.

A tireless advocate for his community, Brent Bair will be missed. I wish him and his family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE FRANK A. SEDITA, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to have the House pause in its deliberations this morning to honor New York State Supreme Court Justice Frank A. Sedita, Jr., whose three decade judicial career will end this year. The Judge, best known to friends and family as ''Chickie,'' is among the most

lovable and well-respected legal figures in the Western New York community.

A lifelong Buffalonian, Judge Sedita is the scion of one of the most famous and well-respected 20th century Buffalo political families. While the Judge's father was one of Buffalo's most well-liked 20th century political figures and someone looked back upon nostalgically as one of Buffalo's most favorite mayors; Judge Sedita's career as an attorney and a jurist has been tremendously substantial, as have been the Judge's contributions as a public servant to the hometown region he loves so much.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Judge Sedita was graduated summa cum laude from the Canisius College of Buffalo, and in 1960 earned his J.D. at the University at Buffalo Law School. During extensive legal practice in the office of the City of Buffalo's Corporation Counsel, Judge Sedita developed substantial expertise in the area of education law, serving for many years as the counsel to the city's Board of Education.

Judge Sedita's career on the bench began in the mid-1970s, upon his election as an Associate Judge of the Buffalo City Court. Following successful service as a Judge of the Erie County Family Court, he was elected as Chief Judge of the Buffalo City Court, administering the city's court system within the very building named for his late father. During this period, Judge Sedita assumed responsibility for the city's Housing Court, raising that court's profile and restoring its work to its rightful level of prominence. His work in that court was probably among the most impactful judicial work performed in Western New York during that period, and resulted in Judge Sedita's selection as a Buffalo News "Citizen of the Year."

For the better part of the past two decades, Judge Sedita has served with tremendous distinction as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, continuing to bring honor to not only his own career but also to his storied family name. Notwithstanding his retirement, all residents in Erie County are fortunate that the Sedita family's tradition of effective public service will continue—hopefully for many years to come. In 2012, the judge's son—Frank A. Sedita III, will complete his first term as Erie County's District Attorney. Frank Sedita III has proven a tenacious and effective prosecutor throughout his legal career, and he too, like his father the judge, continues to be a credit to his family, and to the community that he serves with such effectiveness.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask that the whole House join with those of us in Western New York who wish good luck and Godspeed to New York State Supreme Court Justice Frank A. Sedita, Jr., upon the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

HONORING THE SEVENTH CYCLE BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Thailand in celebrating the seventh cycle birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5th. During his reign of over 65 years, Thailand continues to be the United States' long-term military ally, trade and economic partner, and friend in southeast Asia.

King Bhumibol holds a special relationship with our country beginning with his birth in Cambridge, Massachusetts while his father was attending Harvard University. As part of his continuing efforts to strengthen the ties between the United States and Thailand, the King visited America in 1960 and 1967. Under King Bhumibol's stewardship, Thailand has become a model of democracy and economic development in the region. Thailand's role as a regional democratic leader is a critical factor in the development of a stable Bangkok-Washington relationship.

I had the distinct honor and privilege of visiting King Bhumibol on my past visits. His continued efforts to provide guidance to improve the lives of his people were evident. Fittingly, he was awarded the United Nations Development Programme's first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my best and warmest wishes on his 84th birthday and for a long life of good health. I am pleased to join our Thai friends in recognizing this special day.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This campaign draws attention to the impact of violence against women around the world.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign of activism. It lasts for 16 days and starts on November 25, which is the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and ends on December 10, International Human Rights Day. The campaign highlights the links between violence against women and human rights, and stresses that this type of violence is a violation of human rights.

Since 1991, over 3,700 organizations in approximately 164 countries have participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Violence against women remains a serious problem both domestically and throughout the world. It has been estimated that nearly a billion women globally will be beaten, raped, mutilated or otherwise abused during their lifetimes. That is 1 in 3 women. Those statistics are extremely frightening for both men and women and are simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the call to end violence against women and girls around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO KEITH HICKS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Keith Hicks for his leadership throughout his community and focus on education and professionalism.

Mr. Hicks was born the youngest of five children, to his parents John Henry and Marie Antoinette in South Jamaica, Queens. As a child Mr. Hicks learned to cultivate a strong sense of leadership that would transcend into his future career.

In his early career, Mr. Hicks joined the Private Industry Council, an organization committed to youth development. As a program monitor, he completed his BA degree at John Jay College. He would also serve as instructor before moving to the Fortune Society, focusing his efforts on developing both the educational and professional lives of former prisoners. His career focus of providing resources to assisting the economically disadvantaged and at risk youth would continue with stops at the Hope Program where he served as Learning Center Director and the WAY Program where he served as Assistant Director, and Director.

Mr. Hicks' continued leadership role would extend to the YMCA, when he served as Director of the Cross Island branch in Queens. At the YMCA, Mr. Hicks ascended to serve as the Assistant Executive of the Northern Brooklyn branch and now as the executive Director of the Greenpoint Brooklyn branch, where he continues to serve. In this capacity, Mr. Hicks manages a budget in the millions, over 100 professional staff members, and offers services to thousands.

While serving at the YMCA, Mr. Hicks had the opportunity to pursue his Masters Degree from Queens College, further providing a great example to those he has influenced over the years. Mr. Hicks' accomplishments at the YMCA and throughout his career are extensive, but professionally he remains most proud of the role he has been able to play in the lives of our youth.

Mr. Hicks is the proud father of a daughter Tyler Marie Hicks who is presently a senior at Townsend Harris School and will enter college next year. Mr. Hicks' favorite scripture serves as a guiding force in his life, Hebrews 12:1: "wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us".

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Keith Hicks.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RUBY HARTLEY BARTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the special life of Ruby Hartley Barton of Talladega, Alabama.

Mrs. Barton was born on December 15, 1911 in Georgia to James and Victoria Hartley. Mrs. Barton's father died while she was a baby, and her mother raised her and her six brothers and sisters. Mrs. Barton grew up in a fanning and textile family.

She was married to the late B.W. Barton for over 50 years and was blessed with two sons,

Charles D. Barton and Larry H. Barton and one daughter, Edith Barton Bishop. Mrs. Barton now has three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Mrs. Barton worked at Bemis Mills for close to 40 years and has spent her life serving God and volunteering in her church as a Sunday School teacher, choir director and pianist.

On December 15th, her friends and family will celebrate her birthday in her room at Talladega Health Care in Talladega. Today I would like to wish Mrs. Ruby Hartley Barton a very Happy 100th Birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote No. 875, on December 1, 2011.

On rollcall vote No. 875 I would have voted ''yes.''

MERGER OF TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATIONS UNION AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the January 1, 2012 merger of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW).

These two great unions, with railroad roots, are on pace to become one strong voice for hundreds of thousands of middle-class working men and women across our great nation.

It was in 1888 that 19 Machinists meeting in a locomotive pit in Atlanta, Georgia formed what is now the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, commonly known as the ''Fighting Machinists''.

Today's TCU is one union made of many. At its core is the Union founded in 1899, which became the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. Then in 1919 the name expanded, becoming the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees. To further reflect the diversity of the union's membership, the delegates at the 1987 Convention voted to become the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU).

TCU, joining the ranks of the Machinists, makes its membership and the labor movement that much stronger. Both of these unions are constantly fighting for the dignity, welfare and prosperity of their members. Workers are the foundation of our nation; they drive our economy and our country forward. TCU and the IAM understand the values of hard work, faith, family and community—they are the keys of success. These four pillars are what make TCU and IAM stronger.

This merger not only unites two unions but two dedicated union presidents as well. The determination of these two men to fight for the rights for fair wages and working conditions for everyone has its roots in Tom Buffenbarger, who started out as a journeyman tool and die maker at GE's jet engine plant in Evendale, Ohio. In 1997 he was the youngest IAM President in its history. And Bob Scardelletti, a lifelong railroader, started out as a yard clerk in Cleveland with the New York Central Railroad in 1967; in 1971 took on his first union position and by 1991 was elected president and has been re-elected by acclamation four times.

TCU and IAM were fundamental in building the American middle-class, and have a vital role today in preserving the American dream for working families. Their unions were unified by a common purpose: to do the very best they can—every single day—for the members they serve. The TCU/IAM merger now creates a powerful force representing close to a million active and retired Americans. Their combined strength will provide leadership throughout the labor movement; particularly, the transportation industry. TCU/IAM is now one of the largest rail unions in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this historic merger for the betterment of the hard-working middle-class men and women of our country.

HONORING THE SCOTLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON ITS 2011 NORTH CAROLINA 4–A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Scotland High School football team in honor of the school's first-ever North Carolina 4-A State Football Championship. The Fighting Scots rallied for 35 points in the second half on their way to a 42-16 victory over a talented and determined Porter Ridge High School team, Saturday, Dec. 3.

Scotland finished the 2011 season with a perfect 15-0 record, the first undefeated season in school history. I congratulate Scotland head coach Chip Williams, who in his fourth year leading the program, posted an undefeated record, won the Southeastern 4-A Conference title and brought home a State Championship to Scotland County, the county's first football state championship since 1944, when Laurinburg High School captured the Class-A state title.

Game Most Valuable Player honors were awarded to Scotland quarterback Kwashaun Quick, who threw for 172 yards and two touchdowns in the second half. Running back Tony McRae, who received offensive MVP honors, rushed for 75 yards and two scores. Defensive MVP honors were awarded to nose tackle Kris Tyndall. Scotland's superb defense forced four Porter Ridge turnovers and allowed just 161 yards of offense.

I recognize the Scotland County community and congratulate them on the success of their team and the support they have given these young men throughout the year. In the days following his team's victory, Coach Williams has cited the community's support as a driving force behind this year's team. It is always great to see a community get behind a program that supports and encourages young people and teaches them the value of perseverance and teamwork. Before Congress and our great nation, I am proud to recognize Coach Williams, his dedicated coaching staff and players, and the Scotland County community as a whole for their championship season. Thank you.

FIGHTING MALARIA: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, which I chair, held a hearing on malaria, one of the most serious health issues facing the developing world, and particularly Africa, today.

For the last century, America has been a leader in the fight against malaria. While the United States and several other countries have been able to eliminate malaria, this deadly disease still presents a serious challenge to other parts of our world.

The World Health Organization estimates that 781,000 people died from malaria in 2009 and that 225 million people suffered from infection. Malaria is the fifth leading cause of death from infectious diseases worldwide. It inflicts a particularly severe toll on the people of sub-Saharan Africa, where ninety percent of deaths are caused by malaria. Moreover, approximately 85 percent of malaria deaths occur in children under 5 years of age. Every 45 seconds, a mother and father in Africa lose their child to malaria.

There is also a far-reaching impact on the wealth and development of countries with endemic malaria. Africa may lose up to $12 billion in productivity due to malaria each year due to the disease, while the disease in turn consumes about 40 percent of Africa's public health expenditures. These numbers and statistics are staggering, but they have a greater impact when one has been to Africa and met the individuals who must live with the disease.

Anyone who spends any meaningful amount of time in Africa and mingles with the African people will soon notice the prevalence of malaria. When you ask someone whether he or she has ever had malaria, they likely will respond not with a yes but with the time that has passed since they last suffered from it.

More astounding than the sad reality that malaria is killing or harming so many millions of people is the reality that malaria is preventable and treatable. The world has the tools to prevent and treat malaria. No one in the twenty-first century should have to suffer from it, let alone die from it.

When I last visited Uganda, I visited several homes, including a home in the remote region of Bushenyi. The three-room dwelling of white-washed walls and dirt floors was practically empty, and this made the insecticide-treated mosquito net over the floor mats all the more striking. These nets may seem like insignificant items when listed on paper, but they are noticeably visible in the modest homes of those families who rely on them for protection from this ravaging disease.

What began for the United States as an effort to protect our troops abroad and citizens here at home has become for us a larger global health objective.

In the last decade we have seen a renewed commitment by the United States, international organizations, and private foundations to eliminate all malaria deaths. The effort received a notable boost in 2007 when Bill and Melinda Gates renewed the challenge of worldwide malaria eradication.

While much progress has been made in combating malaria, as we have seen from past eradication efforts, malaria can resurge when treatment becomes ineffective through drug resistance. While the global commitment remains to beat this disease, and to beat it as soon as possible, the stakes are too high to bet it all on doing so before the tools we have lose their impact.

At yesterday's hearing the subcommittee received an update on the progress toward malaria elimination in the most endemic countries with a focus on the vitality and effectiveness of the treatment component. The hearing examined the future of anti-malarial drug and vaccine development, and challenges in ensuring an adequate supply of effective medicines. We also heard about the continued availability, affordability, and safe distribution of quality anti-malarial medicines.

Our distinguished witnesses explored means for achieving the immediate goal of saving lives, and the ultimate goal of eradicating malaria from our world.

A TRIBUTE TO IRIS ROBERTSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Iris Robertson for her contributions to her community in the role of mentor, educator and community coordinator.

Mrs. Robertson was taught at an early age to treat people with respect and integrity, and to approach any task with rigor and importance. Her mother and grandmother instilled this discipline upon her. These pillars allow her to impact the community in a positive way through growth and development.

Mrs. Robertson devotes herself to several charitable and educational organizations and sits on the board of directors for Brownville Heritage House Inc. (BHH) as secretary. Since joining BHH in 1995, Mrs. Robertson and her fellow board members worked tirelessly to bring forth the vision of founder Mother Rosetta Gaston to form an intergenerational exchange in order to teach African American children of their heritage.

Mrs. Robertson is a member of and has been recognized by the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW) as Woman of the Year for 2009, 2010, and 2011 for excellence and proficiency in her work as an advertising executive. She has also received high achievement award from the National Association of Hispanic Publishers in 1994 for her work with AT&T.

Working in the advertising industry for more than 30 years, she currently holds the position of media supervisor at UniWorld Group Inc, a multicultural agency owned by Mr. Byron Lewis Sr. In this capacity, Mrs. Robertson has had the privilege of working with fortune 500 companies, recommending media strategies that best showcase their products.

In 1965, Mrs. Robertson met and married her husband Larry Robertson. She is the proud mother of six children. She attended New York City School of Technology and is currently enrolled at Kaplan University.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Mrs. Iris Robertson.

A TRIBUTE TO KITTY O'NEAL ON THE OCCASION OF BEING NAMED PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE CARMICHAEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kitty O'Neal on being named Person of the Year by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce.

Over the last 20 years, Sacramentans have known Kitty as the voice of our afternoon radio. With exceptional class and professionalism, Kitty has given us the news on our drive home from work, anchoring the award winning KFBK Afternoon News. As an ambassador of Sacramento, she has represented us at the Grammy Awards, Academy Awards and on national programs such as A&E Channel's Biography.

Those of us who live in the region know Kitty as more than simply the voice coming through our speakers; she is a pillar within the Sacramento community. Her roots run deep there as she donates much of her time and talent to community events and charitable organizations. Growing up, Kitty's father was the Base Commander at Mather AFB in the 1970's, and before embarking on her path in radio, Kitty attended Sacramento State graduating with a degree in Communications. Along with being one of the Sacramento region's most notable figures, Kitty is married to restaurateur Kurt Spataro, and together they are partners in several well known Sacramento area restaurants.

If you have ever dined, listened to Sacramento radio or have been involved in our surrounding community, more than likely you have benefited from Kitty's legacy. The Carmichael Chamber couldn't have chosen a better person to recognize and again it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Kitty O'Neal on her achievements and recognition as Person of the Year by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GEORGIA FAYE BAKER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Georgia Faye Baker who passed away on November 24, 2011 at the age of 95. Georgia was a loyal friend, loving mother, and respected community leader who touched the lives of many in the great San Joaquin Valley. Georgia was born on March 30, 1916 to James and Susan Herd in Ozark County, Missouri.

Georgia made her way to Madera, California in 1938, where she quickly became an icon and a source of inspiration due to her involvement in the community. On April 14, 1946, Georgia married Aubrey Baker, the love of her life. Together they worked on several projects to improve the quality of life in Madera, the place they called home. They were married for 55 years until his passing in 2001.

Through her leadership and willingness to serve, Georgia became a role model for her friends and neighbors. For 33 years, she was a committed and reliable member of the Madera Community Hospital Board. Her membership demonstrated her dedication to fostering and preserving the health and safety of residents throughout Central California, and her compassion and concern for our community served as a testament to her extraordinary character.

A principled and engaged citizen, Georgia was very active in local, state, and national elections. She served on a number of state committees and boards, including the Madera County Fair Board. In addition, Georgia was also an energetic member of the Democratic Party. In 1960, her wisdom and capability allowed her the opportunity to campaign with President John F. Kennedy during his bid for the presidency.

In 1991, the State of California honored her strength of character and zest for life when she was recognized as "Woman of the Year."

A generous and graceful woman, Georgia was a faithful parishioner at the Madera Trinity Episcopal Church and would often be seen attending weekly services at the historic site. Her long-lasting participation in our community and commitment to the well-being of future generations will ensure that her legacy lives on for years to come.

Georgia lived an exemplary life and will undoubtedly be missed by many. She is survived by her daughter, Claudia Steinauer; her sister, Mable Russell; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and five great great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Georgia Faye Baker, a beloved leader and true champion for the people of Central California.

TRIBUTE TO THE HAZARD HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM 2011

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2011 Hazard High School Football Team, who captured the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Class 1–A State Championship Title for the first time in history. This group of student-athletes should be proud of this remarkable achievement and I am honored to recognize them as champions.

The State Championship title has been a highly coveted achievement for the Hazard

Bulldogs. After their third appearance in a Class 1–A title game in four years, the Bulldogs tenaciously took the field with experience, heart and determination, earning every yard to lead them to a well-deserved victory and their first-ever State Championship.

The Hazard Bulldogs defeated a tough team from Mayfield, winning 24–6. More than five thousand fans filled the Houchens Smith Stadium in Bowling Green, Kentucky to witness these focused young men put their athletic ability and knowledge of the game to the highest test. Redeeming themselves from last year's 47–6 loss to Mayfield, the Bulldogs dominated the majority of the game and put an end to Mayfield's state-best 29-game winning streak. Holding the Cardinals to just 237 yards offensively, the Hazard Bulldogs forced five Mayfield turnovers and sealed their victory with an interception returned for a touchdown in the last two minutes of the game.

This season, Coach Mark Dixon led the Bulldogs to a near perfect 12–2 season. Despite defeat in last year's title game, the Bulldogs persevered and came back this season with unwavering determination to bring the state title home to the mountains of eastern Kentucky. These experiences and life lessons learned on the field will be carried on after the game and continue to shape these football players into men of promise and outstanding character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Coach Dixon and the Hazard High School 2011 Football Team as the KHSAA Class 1–A State Champions. This team has successfully carried on a sports tradition of pride in the mountains and I wish them all the best in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH CROSLAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth Crosland for her commitment to her community and for her service to the children of Brooklyn as a Family Assistant with PS 13.

Ms. Crosland was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late William T. and Annie Lee Pinchback. She was the eldest of five siblings, and later moved to Brooklyn, New York.

Ms. Crosland has been employed with the Department of Education at PS 13 as a Family Assistant for 24 years. During her years of service, she has enjoyed working with the administrators, her colleagues, and the students. Ms. Crosland prays everyday that she will empower the lives of the students and their families to become productive citizens in the community.

Ms. Crosland attends the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church on the Hill in Bedford Stuyvesant, where she has been a member for 74 years. She is active on the usher board, serving the needs of the congregation. She also sings in the Robert A. Laws Millennium Choir and was a member of the Allstate Club.

Ms. Crosland is an Honorary past Matron in the order of the Maria Chapter #18 Order of Eastern Stars. She has also been a great contributor to the community by working with the district leaders and working the primary and general election polls for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Crosland for her exceptional service to her district as a dedicated member of her local religious and government institutions, and as a long serving employee of the Department of Education.

RECOGNIZING THE NOVEMBER 25, 2011 DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS OF MOROCCO

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Morocco for the free and fair Parliamentary election that took place on November 25, 2011. Participation rates were 20 percent higher than the previous election held in 2007. The Justice and Development Party (PJD), a moderate Islamist party, secured the largest number of seats in the new Parliament. Morocco's King Mohammed VI, in line with the new constitution, has already tasked the leader of the PJD, as Head of Government, to form a new coalition government. This election marks the first time the Moroccan people have gone to the polls within the framework of the new constitution. With this election, Morocco has crossed yet another major milestone in its democratic progress. I extend my warm wishes to the King of Morocco for his leadership and the Moroccan people for their achievements so far and hope they continue on the path of reform and progress.

A TRIBUTE TO DEACON AUDREY WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deacon Audrey Wright who has dedicated her life to the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to her family, colleagues, and community.

Deacon Wright was born to Anna Mae King-Gordon and Mitchell Gordon in Princeton, West Virginia where her parents regularly attended Golden Gate Church. With her strong convictions, Deacon Wright completed high school in a very segregated district of West Virginia, and soon relocated to Brooklyn, New York to complete her undergraduate studies at Medgar Evers College.

Later in life Deacon Wright spent 25 years as an assistant teacher in the Ocean Hill Section of Brooklyn before retiring. Prior to teaching, Deacon Wright was employed by Abraham Strauss for several years in the sales department. After retiring as an assistant teacher, she turned to the Lord and became a member at Berean Baptist Church.

Joining Berean Baptist Church in 1994, she worked as a volunteer with children in the "Time Release Program" for seven years. At Berean, Deacon Wright was ordained on December 13, 1998 and continued her deep involvement with the church. She became a member of the First Lady's Ministry and served as the Deacon Advisor as well as the Spiritual Advisor to the Hospitality Ministry. Presently, she is a member of the Deacon Ministry, Pastoral Care Ministry, the Sunday School Ministry and the Sisterhood Ministry.

Several of her hobbies include writing, reading and exercising. During her tenure at Berean, Deacon Wright wrote and directed seven plays; two of which were performed to raise funds for Women's Day and five others that were written to raise funds for the church. In addition to being an avid reader and writer, Deacon Wright has been dedicated to her health and exercise—walking two miles every day.

Deacon Wright is married to Samuel Wright, and has been blessed with three sons—Bobby, David, and Dominic. She is thankful for God in her life, and gives thanks to the Lord every day for loving and caring for her.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Deacon Audrey Wright.

HONORING DR. EDWARD WAITE MILLER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor my friend, Dr. Edward Waite Miller, who passed away October 27, 2011, 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 Mann 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 Mann 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.

TRIBUTE TO RONNY L. BEESLEY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, 2011, US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District employee, Ronny L. Beesley will retire after 40 years of service to his country. It is my pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Beesley for all he has done for the people of Texas and the United States.

Mr. Beesley's long and distinguished career with the Federal Government begin in October 1968 when he joined the US Army. Mr. Beesley served in Vietnam as part of the in the 1st Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division until June 1971. After leaving the Army, Mr. Beesley earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University, in Kingsville, Texas.

Mr. Beesley started working with the Galveston District, Army Corps of Engineers in July 1975. He has held numerous positions with the Corps over the past forty years including; Civil Engineer in the Fort Point Area Office, Civil Engineer and Project Engineer in the Houston Area Office, he worked in the Construction Branch of the Construction Operations Division, General Engineer in the Plant Branch of the Construction Operations Division, and he was promoted to Chief of the Plant Branch in 1990 until he became the Chief of Management Support Branch in 1995. In July 1998, Mr. Beesley was again promoted to Senior Operations Project Manager, Project Operations Branch, and Operations Division. Mr. Beesley's outstanding work was recognized by the Galveston District in 2004 when he was selected as Employee of the Year.

In July 2010, Mr. Beesley was promoted to Chief of Project Operations Branch in the Operations Division of the Galveston District. His duties include managing and supervising Operations and Maintenance of the District's projects including Addicks/Barker Dams and Reservoirs, Brazos River Floodgates, Wallisville Lake Project and the Colorado River Locks. He is also responsible for overseeing expenses for Operations and Maintenance at the Neches Saltwater Barrier, as well as for inspection of projects built by the Government and operated by local sponsors. Mr. Beesley provides support/assistance to the Chief, Operations Division in areas of land and water resource management and is responsible for maintenance of the district's floating plant. Under Mr. Beasley's leadership, the Operations Division acquired a new floating plant for the Galveston district.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ronny Beesley provided outstanding services to his country and his town as both a soldier and an employee with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. It is therefore my pleasure to once again extend my congratulations and thanks to him as he prepares for retirement.

HONORING RETIRED MASTER SERGEANT NATHAN WEISER

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Retired Master Sergeant Nathan Weiser, on this the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a horror which by the grace of our Almighty God, Mr. Weiser survived.

After graduating from Albion College with a teaching degree in 1939, Nate Weiser enlisted in the newly formed United States Army Air Corps along with two of his friends in October 1940. All three men were sent to Hawaii as part of the 15th Fighter Group, 45th Fighter Squadron and were stationed at Pearl Harbor on the horrific day of December 7, 1941.

Retired Master Sergeant Weiser and his two friends were in the mess hall waiting in line for breakfast when the attack began. He recalls the planes flying low enough to be able to see the red scarves and goggles of the pilots hell-bent on destruction. After surviving the initial wave and the smaller second wave of enemy planes, it began to rain. Having lost the friends he enlisted with to the Japanese fury, Weiser and his unit headed toward a mountain foxhole and spent some very uncomfortable nights in the flooded dugout.

In 1943, Staff Sergeant Nate Weiser was sent back to the mainland to attend special schooling. He was asked to serve as an Army officer and declined. Weiser requested to be sent back to the Army Air Corps and was assigned to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. From there he was detailed to the 365th Fighter Bomber Group, 386th Squadron based out of Richmond, Virginia. Nate Weiser arrived in Normandy, France on June 13, 1944, a mere seven days after the initial invasion. As 1944 gave way to 1945, Weiser served in the grueling 40 day Battle of the Bulge. Master Sergeant Nate Weiser undoubtedly saw some of the fiercest combat in the history of these great United States and was released from service in August, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, Nathan Weiser has faithfully served and dutifully protected the citizens of the United States. Our nation owes him a deep debt of gratitude. He has been retired since 1996 after 55 years as a small business owner. He is blessed to enjoy life with his beloved wife of 65 years, Norma, their daughters Karen and Kendra and two granddaughters. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and acknowledging Master Sergeant Nathan Weiser for his years of loyal service to our community and country.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. R. SANDLIN LOWE, III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. R. Sandlin Lowe, III, MD for his outstanding contribution to Neuroscience and the treatment of brain disorders and injuries.

Originally from Coosa County, Alabama, Dr. Lowe obtained his MD from Tulane University in 1987. Currently on the Faculty of New York University School of Medicine with appointments in both the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Physiology and Neuroscience, he is the Consulting Neuropsychiatrist to the NYU School of Medicine Brain Research Laboratories and Collaborating Psychiatrist at the NYU Langone Center for Neuromagnetism. After 18 years of service and research (for which he was honored with a Congressional Award), Dr. Lowe has become a member of various research councils and health centers.

Dr. Lowe is an expert in Translational Clinical Neuroscience and Therapeutics and has created new paradigms for the conceptualization, evaluation, and treatment of consciousness spectrum disorders associated with brain injuries. In the past few years, for personal reasons, his efforts have focused on autism spectrum disorders.

Currently, Dr. Lowe and his colleagues are exploring small molecules, biological, cellular and regenerative medicine therapeutics, and applied field energy techniques to find new treatments for autism and brain injuries.

Dr. Lowe is a co-founder of the Global Alliance for Innovation in Neuroscience, to which he brings his experience and ability to creatively approach the study and management of coma and other brain injuries. Dr. Lowe possesses a remarkable energy with an unparalleled faith and optimism that are apparent in his approach to research and his dedication to patient care.

Dr. Lowe has recently been awarded a grant of over $3.2 million from the Marcus foundation to study the safety and efficacy of cellular and regenerative medicine therapeutics in the treatment of autism. This work will be done by the GAIN labs at New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation in collaboration with the Stem Cell Institute in Panama, along with Inverion Technologies, Ltd. and Xplora Interactive India. Preliminary data from the individuals with autism who have received these treatments shows that these new methods are both safe and promising.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. R. Sandlin Lowe, III, MD for the advancements he has made in the study and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, brain injuries, and other disorders.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY COWLES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Cowles, who was

honored last week with the Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman's Circle of Commendation Award for her tireless advocacy for children's product safety. This is the first time that this award has been presented, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving.

Nancy is the Executive Director of Kids in Danger (KID), an advocacy organization dedicated to protecting children by improving the safety of the products they play with or otherwise use. In the more than a decade that Nancy has headed KID, she has served on the front lines, educating parents and caregivers about the dangers of certain products, promoting the development of safer children's products, and advocating for important legislative and regulatory improvements. She has worked on numerous issues both as a member of panels and as an outside advocate for safety improvements in CPSC standards and recall efforts.

Nancy has played a significant role in the improvement of consumer product safety, ensuring that children and families have a voice and that product-makers are held accountable. In Washington, Nancy's work has served as an invaluable contribution to the creation of CPSC standards and the implementation of recalls, no doubt saving many lives in the process. She has served as an invaluable resource for me and many of my colleagues who are committed to protecting the health and well-being of children.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) became law in 2008, and it is the most significant reform of the CPSC and its responsibilities in decades. With Nancy's input, I authored several provisions to the bill, including mandatory standards and testing for infant and toddler products such as cribs and high chairs and a provision requiring that postage-paid recall registration cards must be attached to products. I am proud of those provisions, and the overall bill, which would not have been as strong or protective without Nancy's guidance.

I would like to thank the CPSC, and Chairman Inez Tenenbaum, for recognizing the contributions of Nancy Cowles toward making products safer for children and families. As the Chairman said, Nancy's ''contributions to product safety are invaluable.''

As a mother and grandmother deeply concerned about preventing injuries to children, I could not be more grateful for Nancy's efforts and I am proud to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM (BILL) H. OSBORNE ON 50 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING FEDERAL SERVICE WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Mr. William (Bill) Osborne of Atlanta, Georgia for 50 years of dedicated Federal service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has also served as the Commandant of the 3388th USARF School in Tampa, Florida with prior assignments in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta, Georgia. He retired from the Army Reserve in April 1993 at the rank of Colonel. I hope Members will join with me today to thank Mr. Osborne for his contributions to the Corps of Engineers, his local community and the United States of America.

Mr. Osborne began his career with the Corps of Engineers in 1957 as a summer hire in the Operation Division in the Nashville District. After graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering he joined the Jacksonville District as a Civil Engineer. In 1970, he transferred to the South Atlantic Division and took a position as the Assistant Chief of the Program Management Office. Since 1988 he has been the Chief of the Civil Works Integration Division. In this position he puts together the South Atlantic Division's portion of the President's Civil Works Budget for Congressional consideration.

Some of the major projects for which he has provided Congress justification documentation include the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, Herbert Hoover Dike, Portugues and Bucana Rivers, and two of the largest environmental projects in the country; South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Comprehensive Restoration of the Mississippi Barrier Islands projects. Over his stellar career he has justified billions of Federal dollars in support of these and countless other much needed projects. For over two decades he has provided exceptional support to Division Commanders, Chiefs of Engineers and the Assistant Secretaries of the Army in their annual testimony before Congress. Through his expert knowledge of the Civil Works process Mr. Osborne consistently provided outstanding service in the relationship with the public, Congressional Members and their staffs, involving controversial and complex issues.

Mr. Osborne has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding efforts to include Superior Civilian Service Awards, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and he has been nominated for the prestigious Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from the Secretary of the Army.

Bill Osborne is a tremendous assist not only to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but also to Members of Congressional Delegations throughout the Southeast and his country. I want to sincerely wish Bill and his wife, Fran, every success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 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 $15,071,624,794,970.66. We've added $10,270,219,619,676.38 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.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBRA DAVIS-SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Debra Davis-Smith for her service to the health and well being of those living in the 10th Congressional District of New York.

Ms. Davis-Smith was born to the late Joyce and Robert Davis, and raised in an extended family that included her maternal grandparents and aunts in Brooklyn, New York. Being the eldest of three, Ms. Davis-Smith always had the instinct to care for and look after others.

Ms. Davis-Smith was educated in both the public and parochial school systems. It was during this time that she recognized her interest in helping others outside of her family by volunteering her services after school as the Candy Striper at Kings County Hospital. On weekends and during the summer months, she volunteered with the Department of Aging which allowed her to work with elders in various senior citizen centers and also work with her local precinct in mentoring teenagers.

After high school, Ms. Davis-Smith attended The City College of New York where she majored in Sociology. During her studies, she continued to volunteer and intern with several non-profit groups. Her focus was always on educating and empowering others whether they be youth or senior citizens.

Following her undergraduate studies, she attended Fordham University and received her Master's in Social Work. While at Fordham her studies focused on individuals and families which eventually led her towards the field of mental health. The National Institute of Mental Health provided support to Ms. Davis-Smith which would also determine her future employment.

Upon graduating Fordham, Ms. Davis-Smith was employed by The Catholic Guardian Society where she worked with children in foster care and adoption service. She remained there for a year until she began working as a social worker at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in their Inpatient Psychiatric Unit. Ms. Davis-Smith would spend the next 25 years with the health center, working alongside dedicated professionals who shared her passion in working with the mentally ill. Within this time she held several positions within the discipline of social work, and is currently in the position of acting Director of Social Work Services.

Ms. Davis-Smith is married to Clifford Smith and has two daughters, Brittany and Morgan. With her family's continued love and support she is able to continue her community service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the community achievements of Ms. Debra Davis-Smith.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JAMES E. BURCH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and work of the Honorable James E. Burch, known to all as 'Jim', who died on Monday, November 28, 2011, at the age of 85.

Jim Burch was born on February 27, 1926, in Evanston, Illinois to a World War I veteran and a religious pacifist. He, his parents and two brothers moved to San Mateo, California in 1940. Jim graduated from San Mateo High School in 1943 and served in the U.S. Army until 1946.

He returned to civilian life and launched a very successful career in advertising, retiring in 1974 to serve his community as a volunteer. He co-founded San Francisco's Urban Coalition and was President of Palo Alto's Creative Initiative Foundation, which evolved into Beyond War and then into the Foundation for Global Community, organizations he volunteered with for 36 years. He gave so generously of his time and considerable talents to many other organizations, including the Boy Scouts, United Way, NAACP, and most recently he served on the Palo Alto Police Chiefs Advisory Committee, where his wise counsel earned the respect of the entire committee.

In 1999, Jim was elected to the Palo Alto City Council, and he was elected Mayor in 2005. At the age of 78, he was the City's oldest Mayor, but he served in the role with energy, enthusiasm and distinction. He was honored for his Lifetime of Achievement by Avenidas in 2011.

I was privileged to know and work with Jim Burch for many years. He was a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to me. The memory of this strong and gentle, wise and funny, proud and humble man will live long after him, as will his countless contributions which have made our community better and our country stronger.

Jim's son, Bill, is quoted as saying ''My father led a life of giving to his family, of giving to his community, of giving to his city and giving to the world.'' His daughter, Barbara Lindsay, said ''He was the most giving person in terms of what he sought to do out in the world and his hometown.'' There can be no greater tributes than these from his beloved children.

I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and the accomplishments of Jim Burch, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Wileta, and his children, Barbara, and Bill.

RECENT EVENTS IN BAHRAIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. and Bahrain share a decades-old economic and strategic partnership that spawned a free trade agreement in 2006 and influenced the decision to locate the U.S. Fifth Fleet in the port-city of Jaffair. That partnership has endured for years in part because the U.S. viewed Bahrain as a nation committed to evolving toward a political system that allowed greater public participation and respect for religious tolerance. Events over the last year have dealt a serious blow to that long held belief.

The Arab Spring inspired Bahrain's Shi'a majority to seek the full human and political rights that they say they have been denied since the Al Khalifa family became the rulers of the tiny island nation over 200 years ago.

The Bahraini government's response to the largely peaceful demonstrations of the opposition groups who seek only a better life for themselves and their families has been violent and systematic. Dozens of demonstrators lost their lives; independent media outlets were silenced; Shi'a mosques were burned; thousands of Bahrainis were incarcerated and thousands more lost their jobs.

Our worst suspicions were confirmed by the report recently released by the Bahrain Commission of Inquiry. The report described the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by security forces. Opposition members were abused, beaten and even tortured.

I associate myself with the public statements of President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton as they strongly urge the Bahraini government to follow through on its promises and to systematically and expeditiously implement the forthcoming recommendations of the newly established follow-on committee.

To achieve a meaningful and lasting reconciliation, all parties must engage in comprehensive political dialogue geared toward a mutually satisfactory power-sharing solution. The long-standing commitment of the United States to a strong partnership with the government and people of Bahrain will be influenced by how the government of Bahrain chooses to negotiate this challenging moment in its nation's history.

We all will be watching closely.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDONESIAN FAMILY REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleagues, Rep. FRANK PALLONE, Rep. LUIS GUTIERREZ, Rep. MADELEINE BORDALLO, Rep. MIKE HONDA, and Rep. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, which would simply allow Christian Indonesian citizens fleeing persecution, many of whom arrived during a five-year timeframe (January 1, 1997–November 30, 2002) and were denied asylum solely for missing the one-year filing deadline, the opportunity to reopen their claims during the two-year period following enactment.

Beginning in 1997, many Indonesian Christians fled religious persecution in Indonesia, where extreme violence and destruction of churches drove them from their homes. These individuals came to this country, seeking relief from extreme violence and persecution for their religious beliefs, but were unable to make the one-year filing deadline. They deserve the opportunity to have their claims heard.

The United States has long sought to protect refugees fleeing persecution and provide a process to fairly consider their claims. This bill does not, in itself, grant asylum, but merely removes a procedural barrier to their claims being considered. These individuals seeking asylum deserve a second chance to avoid the persecution they have fled and remain united with their families.

A TRIBUTE TO CRUZ FUKSMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Cruz Fuksman for her continued efforts to rebuild and improve her community through health and educational services.

Ms. Fuksman was born and raised in the Dominican Republic by her single mother and six siblings. Ms. Fuksman came to the United States to seek a better education to provide for herself and her family. She attained her bachelor's in Human Services from Boricua College and later received a Master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work. Currently Ms. Fuksman works as the Community Liaison at the New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center where she uses her expertise in social work to serve as the director for a variety of mental health and family service programs. She likewise served in this capacity at the American Red Cross of Greater New York for more than a dozen years, where she was routinely honored as Caseworker of the Month.

The work that Ms. Fuksman has done reflects her ambition to reform her community at the highest levels. The social work discipline she learned throughout her schooling has been a guiding tool that Ms. Fuksman frequently relies on to help families. Recently Ms. Fuksman was honored by Bushwick Impact for her enthusiasm, wisdom, collaboration, and support in helping them serve over 2000 families in the Bushwick area.

Ms. Fuksman also displays her strong community ties by serving as one of the co-chairs of the Community Partnership Project of East New York, Chair of the Seed Committee of the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation and by participating in many community projects and events in East New York. Aside from her community involvement, Ms. Fuksman understands the importance of educating our youth, and has had the opportunity to work as an adjunct professor at La Guardia Community College.

Ms. Fuksman has a very genuine and unique passion for helping children and families to improve the quality of their lives and for getting the community involved in efforts to improve the quality of life for the residents. Ms. Fuksman is an excellent cook and uses her cooking skills to fundraise for many causes. Among them are victims of the earthquake in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity, Breast Cancer Foundation and various catholic charities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Ms. Cruz Fuksman.

HONORING REVEREND LEON H. MATTHIAS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a devoted servant of God, the Reverend Leon H. Matthias who will retire from active ministry on December 31, 2011.

Sunday, December 8, 1946 seemed to be a perfect day for the arrival of Leon Henson Matthias to George and Ethel Matthias. His humble home provided his first real setting where Christian nurture would take place. The family were members of Gracefield Moravian Church in Cedar Grove and Adrian Joseph, the grandfather, was the sexton of this small-congregation.

After primary and High School he gained four subjects at Ordinary Level from the University of London. In September 1967, he entered the teaching profession and was appointed as an uncertified teacher at the St. James Government School in Cedar Grove where he had received his early primary education.

At 19, he was elected as chairman of the Board of Stewards at Gracefield. The members of the congregation recognized that God was calling him to a special task in His church.

Leon Henson Matthias began his theological training on the island of Trinidad in 1970 and in 1974 he completed the Licentiate in Theology at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. He served as student pastor in the Antigua and Tobago Conferences and on August 24, 1975 Brother Matthias was ordained a Deacon. On September 1, 1975, he began his first appointment as a Moravian Pastor in St. Kitts. Six years after his ordination as a Deacon in the Moravian Church, Rev. Matthias was consecrated a Presbyter.

On August 28, 1976, Rev. Leon Matthias made another decision in his life. He joined in matrimony to Mable Hall in that beautiful western Jamaica Town of Montego Bay. God blessed this marriage with three wonderful sons, Lennox, Leon Jr. and L Richard.

From all accounts, Brother Leon was as popular as he was active. He has always had an abundance of energy that seems contagious, and this has manifested itself throughout his life and the life of anyone with whom he has had contact. As an executive of the Rivals Sports Club in Cedar Grove, where he was a serious cricketer and concert performer, to Youth Soccer Coach in Richmond, Virginia, he displayed versatility and his love of sports.

Rev. Matthias has always enjoyed leadership roles in the church and the community. He however developed a new interest in 1992. In 1990, he was invited by the Lutheran Church in the United States Virgin Islands to participate in an oral history workshop led by Judy Saxton of Baylor University. This opened for him a vast new field of inquiry and an unquenchable thirst for the unwritten folk history of his people. This he has pursued in his visits to Tanzania, London, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The versatility of the good Reverend has also been manifested in his editing of many publications including Rapport' magazine and the writing of four books—Boy from Popeshead (1995), Against the Odds (1996), A history of the Friedensberg Moravian Church, Tales from the Hill (1997) and Winds of Change (1999) Gracefield—A Northern Star(2005)Down Punty Hill(2008)A Cloud of Great Witnesses (2011).

Brother Matthias holds a Licentiate in Theology from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Arts Degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. .In 2002 he obtained an, MLS Degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, specializing in Archival Studies.

His ministry has spanned forty years and the Western Hemisphere—beginning in Jamaica as a Student Pastor in 1971, serving the Virgin Islands Conference in St. Croix from 1988 to 1996 and St. Thomas and Tortola from 1996 to 2000, then New York from 2002 to 2009 and lastly in Washington DC.

In that time he has served in many positions of church leadership, has mentored many young pastors and served every congregation and community with excellence, dedication and compassion. We are thankful to God for his service, which overcame many obstacles over the years, and for his family who served by his side these many years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in asking God's blessings on Reverend Leon H. Matthias, his wife, Mable and the entire family with gratitude for a life of exemplary service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2011 I voted "no" on H.R. 2471; I intended to vote "yes."

THE PASSING OF MY DEAREST FRIEND AND CBC FOUNDATION FOUNDING MEMBER, OFIELD DUKES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I have been blessed to call many wonderful people my friend, but none more than Ofield Dukes. I am extremely saddened by the passing of such great man who had significant impact in not only my life, but that of my Colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, dating back to its founding. Aside from his many accomplishments in business, politics and his personal life, Ofield was simply a true and kind person who sought to make our country a better place for all. I will forever miss his virtue, justness and sincerity.

Ofield was the best communications strategist in Washington. He helped organized the first Congressional Black Caucus (CBS) dinner in 1971 and served as an advisor to numerous CBC chairpersons. He was a founding member of the CBC Foundation and served on the Foundation Board (CBCF) for 14 years. As the first chairman of the Foundation's Finance and Fundraising Committee, Ofield was instrumental in developing strategies for fundraising including recruiting business support and active involvement.

Ofield's devotion to his craft was esteemed by everyone. In 1988, Ofield was selected by CBC Chairman Julian Dixon to serve as chairman of a historic black-tie dinner in salute of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. When the CBC Chairman Clyburn needed a person to organize and edit the first news letter of the CBC-CBCF, he called Ofield and for seven years he did a superb job in editing the CBC-CBCF newsletter.

In addition to his work with the CBC & CBCF, Ofield was dedicated to fighting for racial equality. He served for 10 years on the board of the MLK, Jr. Committee for Non-Violent Social Change and as an advisor to Mrs. Coretta Scott King. He also served as an advisor to Dr. Leon Sullivan, organized the first Stevie Wonder March to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday and was an advisor to Alex Haley, author of the epic book "Roots" which provided the impetus for the historic TV series.

Aside from all his public service achievements, Ofield always find time to nurture the next generation of communicators and political minds. As an adjunct professor for 25 years at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communication, Ofield is credited with influencing hundreds of students to enter the field of public relations. He also taught public relations at the American University for eight years.

In politics, Ofield served as a communications consultant to the Democratic National Committee in six presidential campaigns. In 1998, Ofield worked very closely with me in developing the national African American media strategy that helped generate a large black voter turnout that helped Democrats to gain control of the House of Representatives.

Ofield is credited with having tremendous impact on the professional lives of many. Radio One Founder Cathy Hughes says there would not be a Radio One without the early support and continuing advice of Ofield. Upon receiving his graduate degree from Princeton University, Robert Johnson called Ofield who arranged the first two jobs for Johnson in Washington, D.C. prior to his founding BET.

In 2001, Ofield became the first African American to win the Public Relations Society of America's Gold Anvil, the highest individual awards given in the public relations industry. In 2004, PRWeek named him one of this nation's top five national communicators. In 2009, Dukes succeeded Dr. C. Delores Tucker as President of the Bethune-DuBois Institute.

Ofield's other professional recognition includes: being named by the Washington Post as one of the top five PR persuaders in Washington; among the first to be inducted into the Washington, D.C. Public Relations Hall of Fame; inducted into the Commonwealth of Virginia Communications Hall of Fame; and receiving the Wayne State University 2010 Alumni Achievement Award.

Ofield's list of accomplishments goes on and on, but what his friendship meant to me and so many people is immeasurable. I want to express my deepest condolences to his beautiful family. Ofield Dukes was one of a kind and he will be deeply missed. His legacy will last throughout Washington and our country.

A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT WILTSHIRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert Wiltshire for his unwavering service.

Mr. Wiltshire's career would not be as successful as it is if it weren't for his stellar academic track record. He graduated from Brooklyn's Boys High School when it was regarded as one of the city's top schools for learning. Mr. Wiltshire then received his Bachelor's degree from St. Francis College, a Masters in Public Administration from New York University, and a Senior Managers in Government Program Certificate from the prestigious Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Wiltshire's illustrious career began with the New York City Police Department, where he served for 20 years during the civil rights era. Following his retirement, Mr. Wiltshire worked for 13 years at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation serving as President and CEO. It was here that he made an indelible mark by strengthening the company's financials while also providing countless opportunities for minorities and women to enter the business community.

Mr. Wiltshire went on to work as Vice President Keyspan Corporation, one of the nation's largest energy conglomerates. He would work as a liaison between the company and the government to ensure the needs of the community were met, and to spearhead environmental awareness.

Since 2007, Mr. Wiltshire has worked as my Chief of Staff, helping me represent the people of New York's 10th congressional District in Brooklyn. Managing personnel in two Brooklyn offices and the nation's capitol, Mr. Wiltshire is one of my most trusted advisors on key legislative issues and public policies. Mr. Wiltshire's vast experience with the community in Brooklyn has been invaluable, providing sound leadership and direction in the 10th district.

While his service in the public and private sector has consumed most of his time, Mr. Wiltshire continues his involvement with the Madison Boys and Girls Club, Brooklyn School of Music, and the vestry of the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew.

Mr. Wiltshire is a proud father, grandfather, and mentor to many. The life he chose to lead is one that is admired by many and should be emulated by all. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Mr. Albert Wiltshire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, and 888 I am not recorded because I was absent due to a family event. Had I been present the week of December 2nd, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 888. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, and 887.

IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Motion to Instruct Conferees, which instructs House conferees to insist on the inclusion of certain amendments intended to improved the sexual assault prevention and response in the Armed Services that were contained in the version of National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House on May 26, 2011.

While 1 in 6 women in the United States will experience some type of sexual assault in her lifetime, as many as 1 in 3 veteran women report that they have experienced some form of Military Sexual Trauma during their service. Due to shame, guilt or fear of not being believed, countless victims do not report their assault and it has been reported that as few as 13 percent of these sexual assaults are reported to the proper authorities.

Mr. Speaker, not only do cases of sexual assault largely go unreported, but response protocols necessary to protect victims of assault need to be improved.

In addition, more must be done to protect these victims after they report their abuse. Victims of sexual assault face a lack of confidentiality, protection, support, and access to legal counsel once an incident is reported.

Currently, victims of rape or sexual assault do not have the right to a unit or duty location transfer following an assault. The result is that victims of these unspeakable crimes often have to continue serving alongside their assailant. As of this date, the Department of Defense has not yet adopted policies that will enable sexual assault victims to escape constant contact with their attackers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a huge problem. Something must be done.

Fortunately, the problem of rape and sexual assault in the military has been addressed by provisions in both the House- and Senate-passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012 (NDAA). In both the House and Senate versions, the NDAA makes improvements in the military's response to sexual assault and to provide greater protections for our service men and women in the armed forces. Our hope is to ensure zero tolerance for sexual assault in the military.

However, the House and Senate versions of this act differ significantly. The House version of the NDAA has stronger provisions regarding sexual assault in the military by strengthening legal protections for the victims, providing support and guidance to victims, and by strengthening the systems in place to prevent future assaults. That is why the Motion to Instruct directs House conferees to insist on the inclusion of these provisions in the compromise legislation negotiated in the Conference.

Among the House-passed improvements are provisions:

ensuring that sexual assault victims be afforded legal counsel if desired;

protecting the confidentiality and victim advocates;

requiring that commanders transfer duty stations; and

requiring adequate training and education programs to prevent sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to protect our men and women in the military, who put their lives on the line for our country. We have a duty to make our armed forces safe for all men and women who wish to serve. It is dangerous enough risking one's safety in defense of our country on foreign shores. It is simply intolerable for American servicewomen and men to have to assume the risk of sexual assault from their comrades.

The provisions in the version of H.R. 1540 passed by the House reflects a zero tolerance policy when it comes to the sexual assault of members of the Armed Forces by members of the Armed Forces. That is why I strongly support this Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1540. I urge all of my colleagues to do likewise.

MR. CHARLES L. NEUBERT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Charles L. Neubert of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, for his faithful and dedicated service to the United States of America through turbulent times.

Charles Neubert was serving in the National Guard in the State of Washington when he decided to transfer to active duty in 1941. He was assigned to the 16th Truck Company, Quartermaster Corps. At the time, Charles Neubert was only 20 years old. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Mr. Neubert was working in the motor pool during the surprise military attack conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy on the morning of December 7, 1941. Mr. Neubert watched helplessly as 353 Japanese fighters and bombers launched their assault on the naval base. When he recalls this day, Charles Neubert can remember thinking that the planes just kept coming and coming. More than 2,400 American lives were lost on that day, and almost 1,300 were injured.

Charles Neubert continued to serve his country in the 357th and the 356th Truck Companies on both Pearl Island and on Tinian in the Marianas Islands.

Charles Neubert would be discharged from active duty in the Army in June 1945, just a few months before the end of the war. He would join the Naval Reserves in 1950, and he served aboard the USS *Douglas H Fox* (DD779) for 15 months during the Korean War. He was discharged in 1953.

Mr. Speaker, Charles L. Neubert, who only a few months ago celebrated his 90th birthday, is a fine example of the faithful and dedicated men and women that make up our armed forces. His selfless actions, and those of his generation, should forever be remembered and cherished by a grateful nation.

A TRIBUTE TO ABU BEKR COURT NO. 74

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Abu Bekr Court No. 74 for its long history of community involvement through activities and sponsorships.

Abu Bekr Court No. 74 has participated in all of the programs and projects of the Imperial court, Daughters of Iris. Individual Court members have been actively involved in numerous community volunteer activities on behalf of the organization.

The projects supported by Abu Bekr Court No. 74 and its members include: homeless women's shelters, a hospital for children with special needs, gifts of love baskets to elderly and needy community residents, donations to local community churches and the NAACP. Under the leadership of their Illustrious Commandress, Dt. Shirley Holliday, Abu Bekr Court has been in partnership with Tilden Hall by sponsoring multiple clothing drives.

The Court has served in many capacities throughout the community. They attended a World Day of Worship at Berean Baptist Church and gave a sizable monetary donation to their Drum Line Youth group, while also raising hundreds of dollars to participate in the Breast Cancer Walk. The Court has also donated school supplies to several schools in Brooklyn and Long Island, as well as donating over 200 knit hats to cancer patients through the American Cancer Society.

Abu Bekr Court No. 74 is pleased to have had 57 Daughters lead this Court and serve as Illustrious Commandress since 1949. As part of Abu Bekr Court's great history, two of their Daughters served the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis as Imperial Commandress, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Daughter. Dt. Phyllis McKoy who was elected and served as Imperial Commandress in 1984 and now Dt. Ruth Mayfield Ellerbe who was elected and installed as Imperial Commandress of the Imperial Court Daughters of Iris on August 18, 2011.

The Court looks forward to continuing their long tradition of service to the community and to remain supportive to the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the community achievements that Abu Bekr Court No. 74 has made in Brooklyn and throughout New York City.

PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2405, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2011. I am pleased to report that this legislation represents a bipartisan effort to make certain that our nation is prepared to successfully manage the effects of natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and acts of bioterrorism.

The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act reauthorizes and makes minor—but important—improvements to programs and activities first established in the 2004 Project Bioshield Act and the 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, also known as PAHPA. Let me highlight three provisions that deserve particular attention.

First, with respect to the Food and Drug Administration, we took great care to ensure that the agency is focusing on the medical countermeasures—or products that combat chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear agents—of highest importance. As we all know, if everything is given priority, then nothing is truly a priority. H.R. 2405 requires FDA to work with industry on industry-submitted regulatory management plans for prioritized countermeasures to facilitate scientific exchanges between the FDA and product sponsors to streamline our ability to make these products available.

Second, the legislation makes improvements to the nation's blueprint for public health preparedness and response activities that will enhance the ability of the health care system to respond to mass casualty emergencies.

Finally, H.R. 2405 continues investment in state and local public health departments to ensure we have the requisite infrastructure to respond to public health threats.

I'd like to thank Congressman ROGERS and Congressman GREEN—the sponsors of the legislation—for their hard work on H.R. 2405. I'd also like to recognize Congresswoman MYRICK, Congresswoman ESHOO, and Congressman MARKEY who contributed a great deal to the Committee's work on this bill.

I understand that Senator BURR and Senator CASEY have recently introduced comparable legislation in the Senate. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues on this issue and sending final PAHPRA legislation to the President for his signature.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 13

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine MF Global bankruptcy.
SH–216

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Watford, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.
SD–226

Environment and Public Works
Water and Wildlife Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine our nation's water infrastructure, focusing on challenges and opportunities.
SD–406

10:15 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Children and Families Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine child abuse, focusing on protection, prevention, intervention, and deterrence.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine helping homeowners harmed by foreclosures, focusing on ensuring accountability and transparency in appeals.
SD–538

DECEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine investor risks in capital raising.
SD–538

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
European Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the state of human rights and rule of law in Russia, focusing on United States policy options.
SD–419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 1855, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize various programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, and the nominations of Wendy M. Spencer, of Florida, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Deepa Gupta, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, Christopher Merrill, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, Stephanie Orlando, of New York, and Gary Blumenthal, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the National Council on Disability, and a nomination list in the Public Health Service.
SD–430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–342

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
SD–226

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, and Gloria Wilson Shelton, of Maryland, all to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
SR–418

DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine prescription drug shortages, focusing on examining a public health concern and potential solutions.
SD–430

11 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the United States-Caribbean shared security partnership, focusing on responding to the growth of trafficking narcotics in the Caribbean.
SD–419

2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine implementing the ''Physician Payment Sunshine Act''.
SD–562