

Sergeant Cheeks' commitment to individual and community wealth building was the driving force behind much of his pledge to serving the citizens of Canton. To that end, he served as the Chairman of the Madison County Union for Progress, a private organization that helps citizens seek and secure employment; he served on the Board of Directors for the Canton Housing Authority, an organization in which he currently still serves as a chief advisor; he served on the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center's Board of Trustees and Madison General Hospital's Board of Trustees. Sgt. Cheeks has also been the Utility Commissioner for the City of Canton for three years in addition to volunteering with the Full Gospel Fellowship Church under the direction of Pastor Toni Brooks to serve hot meals to senior citizens at their homes once a week. He graciously took care of the personal needs of several senior citizens and hosted a talk show twice per month at WONG radio station that addresses various issues within the community.

Not only is Sgt. Cheeks committed to economic equality and bettering the community, but he is also committed to civic engagement and involvement. He currently sits on the Voter Registration committee and serves as the Chairman of the Membership Committee for the Canton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Even with all this on his plate, Sgt. Cheeks still made time to own and manage Winn-n-Cheeks Grocery Store for over twenty years after retiring from the Army. Sergeant Cheeks has been a pillar in his community more than half a century and has served our country honorably; I cannot find anyone nobler or better suited to have a federal building named in their honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing First Sergeant Landres Cheeks for his dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
IN OUR ARMED SERVICES

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to our men and women in uniform during this holiday season.

While we must always remember those who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country, it is especially important to remember them as we celebrate this holiday season. What should be a time of joy, will be a difficult time for many families who are dealing with the loss of a loved one who has died in service to our Nation.

Two families in my own district are coping with the tragic loss of their loved ones this year. Marine Corporal Kyle Schneider of Phoenix, New York was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Lorie Schneider, his brother Kevin, and his fiancée Theresa Lynn Dodge.

Chief Warrant Officer Brad Gaudet, a native of my colleague Mr. GOHMERT's district, was killed in Afghanistan after his helicopter crashed near Kabul. He is survived by his wife Ginny, of Liverpool, New York, and two young daughters.

In this season of giving we must remember not only those who have fallen, but also the families they have left behind.

In addition to remembering those we have lost, we must continue to honor those who currently serve. We must remember that there are soldiers who will spend their Christmas in a war zone fighting for our freedom; soldiers who have not seen their families for months.

We must also remember veterans at this holiday time. While their service is over, the debt of gratitude we owe to them for their sacrifice should never be forgotten.

Christmas is an important time to stop and pay tribute to our men and women in our armed services. We are privileged to live in the greatest nation in the history of the world because of their service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING ERIC FOSS

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work of Eric Foss, my legislative assistant.

Eric has worked in my office since I came to Congress and is leaving Washington, D.C. to return to Kansas. He has been a valued and reliable member of my staff, and it has been my honor to work with him as we serve the great people of the State of Kansas.

Eric is a proud Jayhawk, and a graduate of the University of Kansas and KU law. He has been a great source of information in my office, and my entire staff and I are sad to see Eric leave. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors in Kansas, and know Eric will do great things.

We thank Eric for his service to the 3rd District of Kansas.

RECOGNIZING REALTOR ASSOCIATION OF GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

The Association has a long, successful history of growth and success that mirrors the community growth and economic development of the City of Fort Lauderdale and surrounding South Florida community.

From its humble founding in 1922 by six local real estate professionals as the Fort Lauderdale Board of Realtors, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale has grown over the past nine decades into one of the largest realtor Associations in the state of Florida.

Today, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale serves more than 7,500 members across Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade counties who in turn assist tens of thousands of South Floridians.

Since its inception, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale has helped its

membership conduct thriving businesses and along the way has promoted the highest standards of professional practice in the real estate community.

As a Member of Congress, I have been particularly proud of the Association's work over the years as a constant champion for consumers in our local communities.

In cities and towns across America, realtors provide expert advice and guidance to current and future property owners on what often is the biggest investment a family makes. Realtors promote affordable housing, expand home ownership, and work to end housing discrimination wherever it exists.

The Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale does all of these things while maintaining the highest level of professionalism. The Association's realtors study long hours to hone their professional skills and adhere to the Code of Ethics set out by the National Association of Realtors.

The last few years have been extremely difficult for the housing market nationally, and especially in South Florida. Yet, realtors have stood ready to assist with the challenges of the current market because they know—as all of us who live in South Florida know—that our community is one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise our families.

I am pleased to join in celebrating the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale on their 90th anniversary and wish to honor all of Florida's realtors who serve our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale as it continues its long tradition of excellence to the South Florida community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
DAVID LOWRY WIDELL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. FARR, Mr. MILLER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute to the life of David Lowry Widell who recently passed away at the age of 44. His advocacy and passion for Central California's wetlands, wildlife, and water issues made him a distinguished community leader and notable conservationist. He served our great state in a number of capacities, most recently as the General Manager and Governmental Affairs Director for the Grassland Water District.

Dave was born on May 17, 1967 in Watsonville, California, and was raised in the agriculturally rich city of Los Banos, California. Dave grew up hunting and fishing, and it was at this time that his deep appreciation for the Valley's wildlife and resources developed. His love of the Valley led to a fulfilling career, one where he was able to seek political solutions to some of Central California's most pressing issues.

Dave's reverence for the San Joaquin Valley was enhanced by the knowledge he gained through his education. Upon graduating from Los Banos High School in 1985, Dave studied at Modesto Junior College, and then transferred to the University of California, Davis, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in History in 1990.