EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. DENNIS KAHN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life Mr. Dennis Kahn, a great citizen and prominent attorney in my western New York Community. Mr. Kahn passed away on February 6th, 2012 at the young age of 60.

Mr. Kahn was one of Buffalo's brightest and most successful attorneys. He earned his law degree from the University of Akron after completing undergraduate work at the University at Buffalo. He began his practice in 1976 and became partner at a firm that eventually bore his name, Siegel Kelleher & Kahn, focusing on personal injury law. Mr. Kahn helped expand the firm to the sixth-largest law firm in western New York. He was recognized in ''Who's Who'' in law and nominated as ''Best in Field—Personal Injury''.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Kahn served as a member of the Erie County, New York State, and American Bar Associations. He was admitted to practice before U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, and Federal Tax Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Khan also served as a member of the advisory board for Bry-Lin Hospitals and is a former member of the board of trustees for Shea's Performing Arts Center.

I was privileged to introduce Dennis at an American Cancer Society event in 2011. Dennis was a tireless advocate in the fight against cancer and I was proud to stand with him in that fight. We will carry on this mission in his memory, reflecting on the passion with which he waged his fight against this terrible disease.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my deepest condolences to Dennis's wife, Carrie, his son, Max, and the rest of the Kahn family.

HONORING NATHAN VINCENT FAGERSTONE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Vincent Fagerstone. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2012 theme—Black Women in American Culture and History. This year's theme offers us the opportunity to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of African American women who often faced not only racial discrimination, but gender discrimination as well.

The innumerable contributions made by African American women throughout history have played a major role in shaping our great nation. From historical heroes, such as the leader of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, and the courageous civil rights activist, Rosa Parks, to modern leaders, including First Lady Michelle Obama, and locally, the Honorable Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of the City of Gary, Indiana, the American people have been blessed and inspired by extraordinary African American women who have at many times, against all odds, strengthened our union.

As the Representative of the First Congressional District of Indiana, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to know and work with Mayor Freeman-Wilson. Mayor Freeman-Wilson's first term began this year, and her victory is an extraordinary example of how far our nation has come. With her recent election, Mayor Freeman-Wilson became the first female mayor of the city of Gary and the first African American female mayor in the State of Indiana.

Standing on the shoulders of the brave African American women who fought so hard for their rights, Mayor Freeman-Wilson continues to inspire and is a role model for women of all races. Mayor Freeman-Wilson grew up in Gary and was taught by her parents the importance of hard work and public service at an early age. She eventually graduated from Harvard Law School but quickly realized her calling was to be a public servant. She has held many prestigious positions throughout her career including: presiding judge for the Gary City Court, Attorney General for the State of Indiana, Executive Director of the National Drug Court Institute, and Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. She is also active in numerous organizations and charitable groups aimed at protecting human rights, promoting the quality of life, and combating substance abuse. In particular, Mayor Freeman-Wilson's work with the Second Chance Foundation, an organization she helped found to fight substance abuse, is truly admirable.

It is leaders like Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson who become an inspiration for future generations. We honor her, along with all of the courageous African American women, past and present and across the nation, for their courage and tenacity to help create better communities and a better nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the many strong African American women who have left their mark in history and have fought for equality for all races and genders. They are worthy of the highest praise. Through the efforts of these honorable individuals, we are reminded of how far we have come as a nation, while recognizing that there is still much progress to be made.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU ON HIS RE-ELECTION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, President Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated President of the Republic of China, ROC, on May 20, 2008. He was elected on a platform which included a promise to revive Taiwan's economy and improve cross-Strait relations.

President Ma was re-elected on January 14, 2012. Upon President Ma's re-election, The White House issued a statement. ''Cross-Strait peace, stability, and improved relations in an environment free from intimidation are of profound importance to the United States. We hope the impressive efforts that both sides have undertaken in recent years to build cross-Strait ties continue.'' The U.S. State Department also congratulated President Ma and, added, ''Taiwan has once again held a free and fair election.''

President Ma's victory shows that the people of Taiwan agree with his efforts, and so do I. As the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I offer my congratulations to President Ma. I have known President Ma before he was first elected, back when he was one of many candidates. I knew then what I know now. President Ma is the right man for the right times.

Since his election in 2008, U.S.-Taiwan relations have been far better than any period in recent memory, and the Obama administration has shown clear support for the Ma administration by more than doubling the Bush's administration's arms sales to Taiwan. The Obama administration has also sent high-level officials from the U.S. to Taiwan and, most recently, the Obama administration nominated

Taiwan for inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, VWP.

The people of Taiwan have also shown strong support for President Ma and his policies. As a result of President Ma's policy to reduce tensions in cross-Strait relations, there are now 558 direct flights from cities in Taiwan to cities in China every week. China-bound investments have been relaxed, and business is good for both the Taiwanese and Chinese people.

President Ma's policy of rapprochement, which upholds our shared values of democracy, freedom and the rule of law, has advanced regional peace and stability, and the U.S. is appreciative and supportive of President Ma's initiatives because improved cross-Strait relations are in the best interest of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

President Ma Ying-jeou graduated from National Taiwan University. After earning a Master of Laws degree from New York University, he received a Doctor of Juridical Sciences from Harvard Law School, specializing in the law of the sea and international economic law.

President Ma's father, Ma Ho-ling, and his mother, Chin Hou-hsiu, dedicated themselves to government and country. Following in his parents' footsteps, President Ma devoted his life to creating a government that upholds those ideals that embody Taiwan's core traditional values—benevolence, righteousness, diligence, honesty, generosity, and industriousness.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to the service President Ma Ying-jeou has rendered for and on behalf of the people of Taiwan. President Ma is married to Chow Mei-ching and they have two daughters—Ma Wei-chung and Ma Yuan-chung—and a stray dog affectionately known as Ma Hsiao-jeou (Little Ma).

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE ARIZONA CENTENNIAL

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will introduce this week the following resolution to recognize Arizona on her Centennial birthday.

For almost 50 years, Arizona has been my home, and today I could not be more excited to celebrate her 100th birthday.

While Arizonans celebrate her Centennial, we also remember the pioneers who went before us to settle our beautiful state, and those since who have made her the Masterpiece of the West.

Our state motto is "Ditat Deus," or "God Enriches." The truth of that phrase can never be clearer each time I travel across our painted deserts, peaks, valleys, and canyons or see a red sunset.

It is not only the beauty of our landscape, but the character of our people that make Arizona a great place to live and raise our families.

Here's to another 100 years for our Grand Canyon State.

RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE ARIZONA CENTENNIAL

Whereas on February 14, 1912, after nearly 49 years as a United States territory and thousands of years as a sacred home to indigenous peoples, Arizona became the 48th State and the last of the contiguous states to enter the Union of the United States;

Whereas in 2008, in order to commemorate its centennial and to properly celebrate the history of its people, the Arizona Centennial Commission was established to develop a comprehensive plan to specially mark such an auspicous occasion;

Whereas Arizona has been home to some of the most influential citizens in United States history including Barry Goldwater, William Rehnquist, Carl Hayden, Mo Udall, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Pat Tillman;

Whereas after being explored by Europeans in the 1500s, first by Spanish Franciscan Marcos de Niza and later by the Spanish explorer Coronado, Arizona is now known around the world as the Grand Canyon State for its breathtaking natural formations and unique beauty;

Whereas Arizona, among all the States, has the largest percentage of its land set aside and designated as Indian lands;

Whereas Arizona is the home of the Salt River Pima, Gila River, Fort McDowell, Pasena Yaqui, and many other indigenous communities;

Whereas Arizona is home to Oraibi, the oldest Indian settlement in the United States, which was founded by the Hopi Indian Tribe;

Whereas the Navajo Code talkers helped safeguard United States mlitary secrets during the Second World War;

Whereas in 2001, the Arizona Diamondbacks defeated the New York Yankees 4 games to 3 in the World Series, becoming the youngest expansion franchise to win the World Series;

Whereas Arizona's State flag consists of 13 rays of red and yellow to symbolize its picturesque sunsets and the 13 original colonies, a copper star to represent the copper mining industry, and a blue background to represent liberty;

Whereas Arizona's centennial engenders a sense of unity and pride in the diverse nature of Arizona's people, and reminds Arizonans of the need to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come; and

Whereas the sun shines in Arizona more than 85 percent of the time: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and commends the State of Arizona and its people on Arizona's centennial.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA L. BONESSA, AFTER 41 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa will retire from federal service on February 28th, 2012, after 41 distinguished years of service to the U.S. Army.

Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa has distinguished herself by her exceptional leadership and unparalleled demonstration of technical expertise in the management of the Army's Budget from June 2006 to February 2012. Ms. Bonessa led the development of seven Army Budget requests totaling $944 billion dollars and seven supplemental requests totaling $635 billion. These resources were essential to the Army's strategic and unprecedented goals of restoring balance to a force feeling the cumulative effects of 10 years of war and setting conditions for the future to fulfill its strategic role as an integral part of the Joint Force.

Ms. Bonessa led the Army Budget Office's efforts to develop, justify, and defend the Army's budget requests along four imperatives: Sustaining Soldiers, Families, and Army Civilians in an era of persistent conflict; Preparing Soldiers, units, and equipment for success in the current conflicts; Resetting returning Soldiers, units, and equipment to restore readiness consumed in operations; and Transforming the Army to improve its ability to meet the needs of combatant commanders.

To ensure the Army's story was widely told and understood by its stakeholders, Ms. Bonessa built highly effective strategic partnerships with senior officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget, and with Congressional staff and members. Her ability to facilitate formal and informal information-sharing and articulate the Army's message garnered resources and protected programs that were necessary to build and sustain the Army while simultaneously prosecuting two wars. These relationships were instrumental in the Army's ability to articulate, defend and secure both base and supplemental funding for the past 7 years. Through her tireless efforts, the Army's base and supplemental requests were consistently and flawlessly presented, justified, defended, and ultimately submitted to and supported by Congress. Her leadership and technical skills directly resulted in obtaining critical and timely funding for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn; Grow the Army; Army Modularity; Base Realignment and Closure; Army Modernization; sustainment of the All-Volunteer Force; care of Soldiers, Families and Civilians; and Soldier and leader development. As a direct result of her efforts, the Army's supplemental requests were consistently funded at 100% or more of its request.

There are very few Financial Management professionals or leaders who have had a greater impact during their service to the Nation than Barbara Bonessa. She is highly respected throughout the government for her unquestionable integrity and passion for supporting Soldiers and the Army. Our commanders in the field have always benefitted from her incredible capacity to meet challenges, whether presented by individual units or the Congress, and to develop an enterprise approach to solutions. The Army has gained immeasurably over the last 7 years from her positive and strategic outlook, and she leaves a solid foundation upon which the Army will continue to build.

Ms. Bonessa richly deserves to be recognized for her selfless service and influential leadership and her efforts to support an Army at war and sustain the all-volunteer force. Her exceptional performance leaves a lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa, for her extraordinary dedication and service to her country throughout her distinguished career as an Army civilian. We wish her and her husband Alan all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SEATTLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 61ST ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNIZING ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREATER SEATTLE REGION AND THE WASHINGTON STATE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the contributions of the World Affairs Council of Seattle as it marks the 61st anniversary of connecting the Seattle community with the global community. Seattle has long served as a gateway for the global economy, as home to one of the United States' largest ports, innovative companies and world-class research. Since the World Affairs Council of Seattle was founded in 1951, the Council has been integral in providing extraordinary opportunities for people to participate in global debates and expanding people-to-people relationships across the globe. I thank the World Affairs Council of Seattle for its contribution in fostering dialogue in the Seattle region and Washington State.

IN CELEBRATION OF RYAN ROSSI

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Ryan Rossi, an inspiring young man from my district who died too soon this past December.

A star soccer forward at his alma mater of Cal State Northridge, a talented singer songwriter, and a dedicated humanitarian, Ryan made the world a brighter place for his having been in it. And while non-Hodgkin's lymphoma extinguished his life at the age of 27, it could not dim the love and generosity that suffused it.

After a trip to El Salvador, meeting impoverished children with ragged breathing caused by the toxic fumes of the kerosene lamps that lit their homes, Ryan helped start a charity to replace the noxious lamps with clean, safe and affordable solar lamps.

Before his death, Ryan asked that he be remembered not with a funeral, but with a celebration. And well we should celebrate, for today I know Ryan's light lives on—not only in the hearts of those who knew him, but in the homes of thousands who never will.

HONORING CITY MANAGER STEVE HELVEY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Helvey for his public service to the people of Whittier, California. Steve began with the City of Whittier in 2000 as the city's sixth City Manager. After 12 productive years of service to Whittier and its residents, Steve is retiring.

Steve and his wife Paula are long-time Whittierites. He attended Sierra High School from 1964–1968, Rio Hondo College from 1968–1970, and graduated from California State University in Fullerton in 1972. Steve came to the City of Whittier after serving the City of Burbank for 17 years as its Financial Services Director and Assistant City Manager. Prior to that, Steve was the Finance Director in the City of Alhambra and the Chief of the Tax Division for the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller's Office.

During his tenure with the City of Whittier, Steve always provided strong and knowledgeable leadership and direction for major projects. Those numerous projects included the Whittier Utility Authority Finance Plan, Pio Pico State Historic Park renovation, Parnell Park Community and Senior Center construction, Whittier Greenway Trail acquisition and development, new Whittier Police Headquarters Building, Uptown Whittier Specific Plan, Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan, Whittwood Town Center redevelopment, release of Fred C. Nelles property for development, and the Mineral Extraction Project.

Over the past decade, Steve has worked tirelessly to ensure Whittier operates on firm financial footing and never outside its fiscal means. While the struggling economy has impacted many cities throughout Southern California, Whittier has managed to maintain funding for all city services and capital improvement projects and Steve is a big reason why.

As an active civic member he has served as a member of the California City Management Association, California Society of Municipal Finance Officers, and the San Gabriel Valley City Managers Association.

From one public servant to another, I praise Steve Helvey and commend him on his many years of outstanding public service and dedication to the City of Whittier and the community. Whittier would not be the community it is today without him.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

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, the day after the President proposed a federal budget that would never again balance, it is $15,355,198,335,393.66. We've added $10,553,793,160,099.38 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CARRIED INTEREST FAIRNESS ACT OF 2012

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I introduce today the Carried Interest Fairness Act of 2012.

The Carried Interest Fairness Act provides that the "carried interest" compensation received by investment fund managers will be taxed at ordinary income rates and treated as wage income subject to employment taxes. In exchange for providing the service of managing their investors' assets, fund managers often take a portion of a fund's profits, or a carried interest, usually equal to 20 percent of such profits. The bill clarifies that this income is subject to ordinary income tax rates rather than the much lower capital gains rate. For a technical explanation of the Carried Interest Fairness Act of 2012, please visit my website at www.house.gov/levin.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN HERBAL PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (AHPA)

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) as that organization celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Since AHPA's founding in 1982, the organization has been at the forefront of promoting the responsible commerce of herbs and herbal products and providing leadership in the herbal products community. Started by a handful of growers, processors, manufacturers and marketers of herbal products, AHPA has now grown into a diverse trade association, representing nearly 300 companies in the herbal products industry and their affiliated businesses.

AHPA has distinguished itself in the herbal and dietary supplement trades for the quality of its work and advocacy before lawmakers and regulators. Legislatively, AHPA was an active participant in the passage of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, which is the law that established a separate category for dietary supplements under a robust regulatory framework. AHPA also played a seminal role in the passage of the Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act of 2006, which established a Federal serious adverse event reporting mechanism for the dietary supplements.

Since its inception, AHPA has also been tireless in its efforts to communicate respectfully and clearly with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other Federal agencies on the unique aspects and needs of the herbal trade. In recent years, the supplement industry has encountered a number of substantive regulatory issues, including a new rule for Good Manufacturing Practice compliance, guidance on New Dietary Ingredients, and implementation of various

Food Safety Modernization Act requirements, to name just a few. AHPA has been at the forefront with each of these and others, actively and effectively interacting with regulatory agencies on proposals that impact the regulated community and providing guidance and training to regulated businesses.

AHPA and its members should be commended for their ongoing commitment to supporting the responsible commerce of herbs and herbal products in the United States. I once again rise to recognize this momentous occasion and to wish AHPA a happy 30th Anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Izaak Walton League of America on their 90th Anniversary and to congratulate its members on their many accomplishments. In honor of this exceptional milestone, the Izaak Walton League of America began a yearlong celebration on January 14, 2012, 90 years to the date of the organization's incorporation.

After being formally incorporated on January 14, 1922, in Illinois, the League, which initially consisted of fifty-four admirable men, began to work diligently on conserving natural resources in order to ensure their enjoyment, benefit, and use to the current generation and generations to come. Today, the League consists of 39,000 members and more than 250 community-based chapters who are committed to continuing the legacy and furthering the accomplishments of their predecessors. With a goal in mind to protect the nation's soil, air, wood, waters, and wildlife, the League's members have set high standards, and through hard work and dedication, not only met, but exceeded their goals. To elaborate on just a few examples of the tremendous impact the League's efforts have had on the environment, League leaders played a major role in the formulation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, which led to the landmark 1973 Clean Water Act. Furthermore, the League led the way in the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and today, its members work to ensure these funds are being allocated appropriately, for purposes which include the acquisition of public land and the creation of local opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Izaak Walton League is also to be commended for its role in the creation of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Superior National Forest, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and the Everglades and Isle Royale National Parks.

The League's continuous cooperation in working with communities, as well as with Congress, has led to many positive changes involving policies, legislation, and efforts to protect the environment. When it comes to protecting our water sources, defending public lands, establishing farm and energy policy, protecting fish and wildlife, and conservation, the Izaak Walton League's members have proven that with diligence, teamwork, and an appreciation for nature, everyday citizens can have a major impact on the world.

The Izaak Walton League's dedication to communities is endless. The League has supported programs to keep family farms in business, and groups of League members, known as "Ikes," give their time to help build nature trails, restore stream banks, plant trees and rain gardens, and prevent the spread of invasive species. The Izaak Walton League knows how important it is to invest in the future, and it is with this in mind that the organization annually awards $125,000 in scholarships to college students seeking their degrees in fields related to conservation and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Izaak Walton League of America on its 90th Anniversary. Through the years, the League's members have dedicated their time and efforts to ensure the conservation of our natural resources, and for this, they are to be recognized and commended.

RECOGNIZING LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the administration, teachers, coaches, and athletic training staff of Langley High School in McLean, Virginia for the care and compassion they showed in helping one of their students detect, cope, and ultimately recover with vigor and honor from an aggressive form of cancer.

In a world that charts success in reaching goals and milestones, Langley High School more than 'measures up.' Although this AAA school is consistently ranked among the best in the country, their care and attention exemplified by their role in Maureen Marsh's life tells a deeper story, holding lessons for everyone to learn from and follow.

As a 14 year-old freshman volleyball player, Maureen continued her intense daily regimen even as her knee pain grew more severe. Despite the doctors' diagnoses as growing pains, the Langley training staff noticed a small bump that the doctors had missed. The bump was osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer. Maureen endured months of intensive chemotherapy and limb-salvage surgery that resulted in her needing to re-learn how to walk. This tall, quiet young woman had clear goals: to stay on track with her schoolwork and to once again play volleyball, something the doctors said would never happen. Most of all, she wanted to be a 'normal' kid, not easy when you are literally fighting for your life.

The team at Langley understood Maureen's wishes and gave her everything she needed during a battle that this young warrior conquered, defying the odds and her doctors' prognostications. Now a junior, she is an honor student and has returned to the volleyball court.

At a time when we could all use some good news, I am proud to recognize all of the staff at Langley for their outstanding work, going far beyond what can be measured quantitatively, to lift up and support those in their tutelage. To Principal Matt Ragone, Vice Principal Fred Amico, Volleyball coaches Sue Shifflett and Amy Dean, the Langley training staff, administration, and the wonderful teaching staff, I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor your service to our children, as they are our future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST ROBERT J. TAUTERIS JR.

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember and honor the life and dedicated service of Specialist Robert J. Tauteris Jr., a native son of Hamlet, Indiana, and a proud member of the 713th Engineer Company based in Valparaiso and assigned to 81st Troop Command. Specialist Tauteris died along with three of his fellow soldiers on January 5, 2012 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when their vehicle was hit by a roadside improvised explosive device as they scouted for bombs and potential problems along a major supply route.

The state of Indiana mourns the loss of the four brave men who took on this dangerous mission to ensure the safety of their fellow soldiers. Specialist Tauteris died with his fellow National Guardsmen, Specialist Brian Leonhardt, Specialist Christopher Patterson, and Staff Sergeant Jonathan Metzger. Private Douglas Rachowicz was severely injured in the same incident.

Robert graduated from North Judson High School in 1986 and had worked in manufacturing at Faro Corporation in Plymouth. Robert Tauteris served one tour in Afghanistan with the National Guard and volunteered for his second deployment when his son Robert Tauteris III enlisted. Father and son left together for Afghanistan in the fall of 2011; Bobby III accompanied his father's body home to Dover Air Force Base.

Robert's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Posthumous; Purple Heart, Posthumous; Army Good Conduct Medal, Posthumous; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with the Bronze Service Star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; Combat Action Badge; Driver and Mechanic Badge; Combat and Special Skill Badge; Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge; and the Overseas Service Bar.

Robert will be remembered by his friends, family, and fellow soldiers as a dedicated, reliable, and hard-working man who cared deeply for his family. He is survived by his sons Robert J. III and Matthew, his father, Robert J. Tauteris, his sister, Tammy Tauteris Smith, brother, Thomas, half-brother Darrel Ray Minix and step-mother Nichelle as well as extended family and friends who are left to treasure his memory.

It is my solemn duty and humble privilege to honor the life, service, and memory of Specialist Robert J. Tauteris Jr. He is a testament to the great honor possessed and sacrifices made by our men and women in the armed

forces. We mourn his passing and offer solemn gratitude for his service and sacrifice.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BISHOP BARNETT KARL THOROUGHGOOD

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of the family of Bishop Barnett Karl Thoroughgood:

''Bishop Barnett Karl Thoroughgood was born November 7, 1949 in Princess Anne Co., to the parentage of Mr. John Thomas Thoroughgood and Mrs. Mildred B. Cooper Thoroughgood. He was the 7th of 9 children, one whom (John Thoroughgood) preceded him in death.

He received his formative education through the Princess Anne County School system and graduated from the former Union Kempsville High School in 1967. He received many educational honors taking him to his Doctorate of Ministry. In 1970, Bishop Thoroughgood founded the New Jerusalem COGIC. He served as District Superintendent of the Virginia Beach District and 2nd Administrative Assistant to Bishop Samuel L. Green, Jr. He was very active in the community and received numerous awards. He also served as a member of the Virginia Beach Clergy Association and Ministerial Alliance. He was the founder and President of the Hampton Roads Ecumenical Council of Bishops.

Bishop Thoroughgood leaves to cherish his memories his loving wife of 39 years, Mrs. Ernestine Thoroughgood; his sons Bertram, Emmanuel, and Jonnathan; One daughter, Mekia Bonita; four brothers, Olanda (Silvia) Thoroughgood, Darnell (Jean) Thoroughgood, YD (Shylene) Thoroughgood, Paul (Darlene) Thoroughgood; three sisters, Constance Spence, Alice Faye (Purnell) Major, Paulette (Joseph) Spence, one adopted sister, Mable Beckett (Robert) five grandchildren, many children they have adopted and helped through the Social Services Foster Care Program, the New Jerusalem Church family, and the members of the Church of God in Christ worldwide.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on a vote cast on February 9, 2012. The vote was on passage of S. 2038, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act, which would prohibit members of Congress and staff from benefiting from insider trading based on non-public information.

On rollcall vote Number 47, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote ''aye.''

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID DAVENPORT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major David Davenport as he departs Fort Bliss and the 1st Armored Division. His selection as the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Command Sergeant Major will provide him with a new opportunity to influence the next generation of Army leaders.

In his 27 years of Army service, Sergeant Major Davenport has held every enlisted leadership position from cavalry scout and tank commander to his current position as command sergeant major. Sergeant Major Davenport's career has taken him to Army installations across the United States and the world, and his assignment as Command Sergeant Major of the Future Forces Integration Directorate put him at the leading edge of the Army's top modernization initiative.

During their time in El Paso, Sergeant Major Davenport and his wife Claudia have not only committed themselves to supporting soldiers and their families at Fort Bliss, but they also served as ambassadors representing the post in the El Paso community. From completing the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce Leadership Course to volunteering with many local organizations, Command Sergeant Major Davenport did not just live in El Paso; he made it his home. He worked with the civilian community to expand understanding of the changing mission of the post, and he helped enlisted soldiers and their families make important connections to the El Paso community.

In his time at Fort Bliss, Command Sergeant Major Davenport demonstrated outstanding leadership both as a strong advocate for the Army and as a liaison working to build bridges between the post and the civilian community. His most important role has been as a tireless voice for Fort Bliss soldiers and his families. From ensuring that they have the resources they need to achieve their mission to caring for enlisted families as they deal with deployments and other challenges, his unwavering commitment to serving those who serve is a model for future Army leaders.

As we say farewell to the Davenports and wish them well in their next assignment, I wanted to add my words of thanks and recognition for all that Dave and Claudia have done for our Army and our community. While we know the Army needs them in such a critical leadership position at USAREUR, we look forward to welcoming them back to El Paso in the future.

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 233RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KETTLE CREEK

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 233rd anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek, one of Georgia's most memorable victories during the American Revolutionary War. The battle, which took place on February 14, 1779, demonstrates the popular patriotic spirit that defined our fight for freedom, as a small group of militiamen fearlessly confronted and conquered a force twice its size.

In pursuit of Colonel John Boyd and his force of British Loyalists, Colonels Andrew Pickens, John Dooly, and Elijah Clarke led Patriot rebel forces to attack at Kettle Creek. Despite being outnumbered and far less experienced, the fearless patriots rallied and decisively won the day. They inflicted many times the casualties and took the remaining contingent as prisoners. Following this extraordinary triumph, Colonel Pickens declared, ''Kettle Creek was the severest check and chastisement the Tories ever received in South Carolina or Georgia.''

For this reason, and on the occasion of its anniversary, it is my honor to acknowledge the victory at the Battle of Kettle Creek and pay tribute to the courageous soldiers who fought on behalf of their new sovereign Nation. Furthermore, I extend my sincere appreciation to organizations such as the Washington-Wilkes Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, Kettle Creek Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington Wilkes Historical Foundation, and the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association for their efforts to discover our heritage and preserve our history for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to unite with my fellow Americans as we observe this remarkable event in Georgia history and recognize the indispensable role that the Battle of Kettle Creek achieved in the American Revolution.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR JIM RIDENOUR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to Mayor Jim Ridenour, as he completes his second term and concludes his service as Mayor of Modesto, California.

Born and raised in Modesto, Mayor Ridenour enjoyed a successful career in the ambulance industry before embarking on a career in public service. In 1974, he became the first paramedic certified in Santa Barbara County and served in law enforcement as a reserve deputy in both Stanislaus and Santa Barbara Counties. In forty years of service, Mayor Ridenour became Vice President for Central Valley Operations for American Medical Response and served five terms as chairman of the California Ambulance Association.

Since 2003, Mayor Ridenour led the city of Modesto under the premise that local government should be responsive to its citizens by providing basic services, while still being a responsible steward of taxpayers' dollars. The Mayor's background in business proved to be a perfect foundation for his commitment to making the City of Modesto a safe and prosperous community. During his time in office, Mayor Ridenour focused on improving the

city's economic development, its transportation problems, and the citizens' overall quality of life. In addition to his many daily tasks as Mayor, Mayor Ridenour also served as chair of the Audit Committee for the Modesto City Council.

Mayor Ridenour further demonstrated his commitment to public service during his tenure as the 2010–2011 President of the League of California Cities. He demonstrated true leadership by bringing leaders together to address regional and State challenges.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to the City of Modesto by its long-time public servant, Mayor Jim Ridenour. He has been a true inspiration to those he has served; and although he has completed his service as Mayor, I know he will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around him.

REMEMBERING JOHN FALLON

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of John Fallon. John Fallon, whose integrity, love of politics and trusting eyes guided him through a successful career in the Cook County Assessor's Office, passed away on January 11, 2012, after heroically battling cancer since 2004.

John battled cancer on three different occasions since 2004, but refused to give up his fight for life. He once said he considered cancer to be a "blessing because you appreciate everything so much more." His life was never defined by his illness, but rather by his commitment to his family, his skillful baking, his love of the bagpipes and his dedication to politics.

John never let cancer get in the way of living every moment of his life to the fullest. He participated in Chicago's Polar Plunge fully clothed while playing the bagpipes, a challenge few are brave enough to tackle. He trained and ran in two marathons, successfully completing the Chicago marathon in 2008, a feat few healthy people achieve. John also continued to help others in need by serving in a soup kitchen and working with Immerman's Angels to help people fight the disease with which he had become so familiar. John taught us all how to live the life we are given regardless of the obstacles we face.

May Mr. John Fallon rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA AND PAULA McGEE

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to two women of exceptional talent and character—Ms. Pamela McGee and Ms. Paula McGee.

Always committed to excellence, the McGee twins, as they came to be known, are often recognized for their accolades in women's basketball. At the University of Southern California they teamed up with Cheryl Miller and Cynthia Cooper to win two back-to-back National Championships in 1983 and 1984.

Equally as impressive are the McGee sister's lives off the court after her life in basketball, Paula McGee pursed her life's calling to preach. She was also the co-founder of Christian Business Success Network, a nonprofit organization that specialized in training and providing support for Christian business leaders. After winning a Gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Pamela McGee served as Executive Director of the non-profit Save the Children or Perish (S.T.O.P.), a grassroots organization that helped her to become an elected official as a School Board Member in Flint, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, Paula and Pamela McGee are two great American role models who I am proud to have in my District.

KANKAKEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in celebration of the Kankakee County Farm Bureau, which is set to celebrate its 100th Annual meeting on March 15, 2012. This exemplary organization was created during a public meeting at the Kankakee County Courthouse on May 29, 1912 and continues to enrich our community today.

Since its formation, the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has pursued a mission to "Improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life." I am proud to say that the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has more than met these goals throughout its many years of service.

For the past 100 years the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has been working for our agriculture community to improve efficiency, profitability, safety, and quality of life. Today, a number of directors throughout the county maintain that course, and I congratulate and thank each of those members for recognizing the freedom, dignity and equal opportunity afforded to all individuals throughout our area. Those directors include:

District 1: Rockville Township, Jon Whitten; Manteno Township, Greg St. Aubin

District 2: Sumner Township, Gene Rademacher; Yellowhead Township, Keith Mussman, President

District 3: Essex Township, Marty Joyce; Salina Township, Patrick Joyce

District 4: Bourbonnais Township, Gary Paarlberg; Limestone Township, Mark Tanner

District 5: Norton Township, Patrick Koerner; Pilot Township, Sterling Bouchard

District 6: Kankakee Township, Steve Benoit; Otto Township, Bret Perreault

District 7: Aroma Township, Mike Bourgeois; Saint Anne Township, Duane Oosterhoff

District 8: Ganeer Township, Kevin Yohnka, Vice President; Momence Township, Paula Karlock, Secretary-Treasurer; and Pembroke Township, Brian Dandurand

Once again, I am humbled to have the opportunity to congratulate the Kankakee County Farm Bureau for reaching its centennial milestone. The farm bureau truly is an extraordinary group, serving our community in every facet of life.

OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ATF SPECIAL AGENT JOHN CAPANO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge a true American hero, ATF Special Agent John Capano, who was killed this past New Year's Eve attempting to stop an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Seaford, New York, the community where he was raised and lived for many years.

I had the privilege of knowing John, his parents, and his brother and sisters for more than 40 years. My wife Rosemary was John's 4th grade teacher.

John Capano died as he lived—putting his life on the line to protect others. He was a 23-year veteran of the ATF, with an extremely distinguished record not only at home but overseas as well. An explosives expert, John volunteered to serve on ATF missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia and Peru. Several years ago I had the honor of presenting John with an award for his overseas deployments.

On the fateful day of December 31, 2011 John Capano was off duty. He went to Charlie's Pharmacy on Merrick Road in Seaford to pick up cancer medication for his 82-year-old father, Jimmy, a retired NYPD Detective. While John was in the pharmacy, a recently released ex-convict and drug addict displayed what he said was a gun, and demanded prescription drugs. As the robber attempted to exit, John identified himself as a law enforcement officer. The robber was shot in the leg and a struggle ensued on the sidewalk outside the front door. Other off-duty law enforcement officials arrived during the struggle; shots were fired; and John Capano and the robber were both killed.

John Capano's death caused great sorrow and sadness in the Seaford Community; in the neighboring community of Massapequa where John lived with his wife Dori and their two children, John and Natalie; and throughout the entire law enforcement community in the New York-Long Island region. Thousands of mourners attended John's funeral on January 6th and our community is still overcome with grief.

This has been a particularly anguishing time for the Capano family. John's mother Helen had died just 15 days before his death. Like John, though, the Capano family is strong and unflinching. To ensure that John did not die in vain, they are dedicated to doing whatever they can to eliminate the epidemic of prescription drug abuse on Long Island.

In closing, let me extend my sincere condolences to the family of John Capano. May he always be in our thoughts and prayers and may he rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre by Armenian armed forces on February 25–26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly, now under the occupation of Armenian armed forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Khojaly, once the home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed. Six hundred thirteen people were killed, of which 106 were women, 83 were children and 56 were purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. In addition, 1,275 people were taken hostage, 150 went missing and 487 people became disabled. Also in the records maintained, 76 of the victims were teenagers, 8 families were wiped out and 25 children lost both of their parents while 130 lost one of their parents. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the Armenian armed forces were reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

At the time, Newsweek magazine reported: ''Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped.''

As part of the Khojaly population that tried to escape, they encountered violent ambushes that led to abuses, torture, mutilation and death. The Russian organization, Memorial, stated that 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days.

Time magazine published the following description: ''While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.''

The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. This anniversary reminds us of the need to redouble efforts to help resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group should continue to stay engaged in the resolution of this protracted conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALBANY MARINE BAND—MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE, ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of our nation's most prestigious and accomplished United States Marine Corps bands—the Albany Marine Band stationed at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia. After 22 years of distinguished service, members of the Albany Marine Band will be performing a farewell concert on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at the Albany Municipal Auditorium at 7 p.m. in Albany, Georgia.

The farewell concert has been titled ''Thanks for the Memories'' and admission to the event is free. The musical performance will feature many of the band's greatest hits from over the last several years, including many of the group's most notable award-winning pieces.

Mr. Speaker, last December, amid budgetary constraints, it was announced by the Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., that the Albany Marine Band would be cut along with the Marine Corps band stationed at Twentynine Palms, California. Although their mission is coming to an end, the Albany Marine Band's legacy of musical excellence will not soon be forgotten.

Over the last couple decades, the members of the Albany Marine Band have honorably represented our country and been recognized repeatedly for their harmonious innovations and inspiring melodic renditions. In December of 2003, the band was awarded the distinguished Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award. This prestigious award recognized the members of the Albany Marine Band for their pride and commitment in performing their duties.

In 2010 and 2011, the Albany Marine Band was recognized as the United States Marine Corps Band of the Year. Additionally, in 2011, the band also received the ''Best Live Recording Award'' in a competition among the twelve United States Marine Corps bands.

Due to their musical excellence, the Albany Marine Band has performed at locations throughout the United States and around the world. The band has traveled more than fifty thousand miles to perform over one hundred commitments in destinations such as Essex Junction, Vermont; New Orleans, Louisiana; San Antonio, Texas; and the Statue of Liberty in Liberty, New York. It is also worth noting that the Albany Marine Band was given the great honor of being selected to represent the United States in 2004 as it performed for the Changing of the Guard at the Citadel in Quebec City, Canada.

The Albany Marine Band has also performed for nationwide audiences during performances on Good Morning America and at the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the exceptional musical achievements and patriotic commitment of the members of the Albany Marine Band. These fine men and women have served as excellent ambassadors for our country and the United States Marine Corps and I will remain eternally grateful to them for their many noteworthy accomplishments and selfless acts of service.

THANK YOU TO OUR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION NEW DAWN VETERANS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation while conducting combat operations in Iraq over the past 9 years. From March 20, 2003 until December 31, 2011 our Nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn while serving in Iraq. During this time they disarmed and removed Saddam Hussein from power, freed a country and its people from years of suffering under an oppressive dictatorship, and fought a brutal insurgency. Many members of our all-volunteer force, the greatest all-volunteer force in history, served multiple combat tours in Iraq during this time with little dwell time at home.

More than 1.5 million members of the United States Armed Forces served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn conducting operations against a dangerous and determined enemy force. 4,474 members of the United States Armed Forces made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn and 32,223 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded during almost 9 years of military operations in Iraq. During this time four Medals of Honor, the highest United States award for military valor, were awarded for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, additionally, at least 327 Silver Stars, 21 Navy Crosses, and 15 Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces.

I stand today to recognize the tremendous personal sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, many of whom were committed to multiple deployments away from loved ones, and the contributions of military families on the home front. The bravery and service of our all-volunteer force, the best and the brightest that our Nation has to offer, adds to the enduring legacy of the proud history of our armed forces. I am committed to honoring the memory of these heroes for their courage and sacrifice. To all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, welcome home and thank you for your service to the United States of America.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE POLICE OFFICER NATE ANDERSON

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Southlake Officer Nate Anderson for his unbelievable act of generosity by going above and beyond the call of duty to assist an individual in need.

Officer Anderson was patrolling the town square late one evening in December 2011 when he came across a parked vehicle with a woman trying to fall asleep in the back seat.

The woman was in her forties, and she had moved from California to Texas hoping for better opportunities. When Officer Anderson approached her, he found her distressed and crying. She explained her plight and how her situation had left her stranded and alone.

Officer Anderson verified her story by looking at her prepared résumé. Going beyond the call of duty, he arranged for the woman to have a hot meal, a full tank of gas and a hotel room for two nights. He then gave her all his cash, totaling $150. To ensure that she had more help, Officer Anderson put her in touch with a number of churches to assist her.

Remarkably, Officer Anderson did not speak of his actions. The event was an unknown incident until the woman contacted his superiors about his generosity. Officer Anderson's selfless actions demonstrate unbelievable charity. I am extremely proud to represent Officer Anderson and to recognize him as a Star of the 24th.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Nate Anderson for his outstanding act of charity.

SUPPORT OF THE BILL TO PERMIT U.S. NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP FROM AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of a bill to allow for U.S. Nationals who are born in American Samoa, to file an application for naturalization from American Samoa. Currently, American Samoans must travel thousands of miles to Hawaii or California and live there for 3 months before they can apply for citizenship. The financial burden of traveling to the U.S. placed on U.S. Nationals in American Samoa prevents many from applying for citizenship. My bill will lift this burden and help U.S. Nationals, who by definition owe a permanent allegiance to the United States, to apply for citizenship directly from American Samoa.

My bill will also eliminate the requirements of knowledge of English and U.S. government for U.S. Nationals. American Samoa has been a territory of the United States for over one hundred years, and has in many ways adopted parts of American culture. The education system in American Samoa is modeled after the U.S. education system and students learn both English and about the U.S. government in American Samoan schools. The requirement of English proficiency and knowledge of the U.S. government was intended for foreign nationals who applied to become U.S. citizens. It is futile to test American Samoans on their knowledge of English and the U.S. government, since they learn these subjects in American Samoan schools.

American Samoa has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military that rivals any state. American Samoans have also joined the U.S. Armed Forces and fought and died for the United States during World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Persian Gulf wars, and most recently the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite, these sacrifices of American Samoans, U.S. nationals still must travel to the U.S. and wait for 3 months prior to applying for naturalization.

My bill will have a dramatic positive effect on the lives of U.S. nationals living in American Samoa by removing the hardship of traveling to the U.S. to apply for naturalization.

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this statement in support for the bill to streamline the naturalization process for American Samoans.