

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2012, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 98 through 106.

Had I been present for rollcall 98, on agreeing to the Napolitano amendment to H.R. 2842, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 99, on motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 2842, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydro-power Development and Rural Jobs Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 100, on agreeing to H.R. 2842, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 101, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 572, providing for consideration of H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 102, on agreeing to H. Res. 572, providing for consideration of H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 103, on agreeing to the Himes amendment to H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 104, on agreeing to the Ellison amendment to H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 105, on agreeing to the Waters amendment to H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 106, on agreeing to the Connolly amendment to H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD M. PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the passing of our dear colleague, Congressman DONALD PAYNE and honoring his lifetime commitment to service and humanitarian causes.

DON PAYNE and I were classmates in Congress. I was first elected in a special election in August, 1988 and DON was first elected in 1988 and took office with the 101st Congress in 1989.

A life-long resident of Newark, New Jersey, DON PAYNE was an educator, insurance executive and President of the National Council of YMCA's, an organization with which he was involved until his passing. His passion for community service took him to elected positions on the Newark city council and as an Essex County freeholder before being elected as the first African American to represent New Jersey in the U.S. Congress.

As a Member of Congress, DON continued to be a tireless advocate for his constituents in New Jersey but he also built a reputation as a champion of human rights on an international scale. As a leader of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights, DON traveled extensively to bring aid and fight for oppressed people across the globe. DON was very involved in efforts to combat political oppression, ethnic violence, the spread of Aids and starvation in Africa but he also worked for relief efforts in Haiti and was very supportive of peace negotiations in Northern Ireland.

On this past Tuesday, March 6, DON PAYNE lost his battle with cancer, the people of Newark and the world lost a dedicated public servant, and I lost a dear friend and colleague. He will be truly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation for the life and service of Congressman DON PAYNE and to keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STARTUPS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3606) to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, the House today will vote on the final passage of H.R. 3606, the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act. While there is no doubt that this Congress must work to create jobs and support small businesses, we must ensure that any attempts to do so are targeted in a manner that directly benefits the American people, and prevents the outsourcing of jobs.

With unemployment just above eight percent, it will take a coordinated effort at all levels of government to create jobs and rein in the high unemployment rate. Addressing the estimated 2.9 million jobs that were eliminated from the U.S. economy and added overseas by multinational corporations should be a critical component of any piece of legislation that leaves this chamber.

Creating and retaining jobs in the United States has always been a top priority of mine, and I will only support legislation that keeps the American people at the center of its focus. In Texas, I've brought critical infrastructure investments to Dallas that have not only strengthened our roads and bridges, but more importantly brought skilled and hardworking Americans back into the labor force. Ultimately, my concern for the well-being of the American people will remain at the core of any considerations I make.

The Democratic Members of Congress have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to creating jobs at home and protecting the middle class. I am encouraged to finally see that my Republican colleagues are beginning to understand the merits of this commitment, and have refocused their efforts on these critical issues. The JOBS Act is just one step we can take to bolster our economy, and I hope to see increased efforts to address the persistent outsourcing of American jobs emerge from this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember the life and mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD M. PAYNE.

For twelve terms, Congressman was an effective advocate for the interests of constituents, a trusted expert on international affairs and Africa policy to his colleagues, and a tireless champion for poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized people everywhere on earth. But above all, DONALD PAYNE was a good and kind man, who with unfailing good cheer enriched the lives of all he met and served.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, on July 16, 1934, to William Evander Payne and the former Norma Garrett, this son of a chauffeur and a dockworker went on to graduate from Seton Hall University, teach English and social studies and coach high school football, and serve as the first black president of the National Council of YMCAs before his election to Congress in 1988 to succeed Peter W. Rodino, another legendary figure in New Jersey politics and the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee during Watergate. DONALD PAYNE holds the distinction of being the first and only African American elected to represent New Jersey in the Congress of the United States.

Throughout his congressional career, DONALD PAYNE championed educational and economic opportunity and human and civil rights, both here and abroad. From his work in furtherance of the Northern Ireland peace process, to his efforts to bring attention and an end to the genocide in Darfur, as well as his indispensable work to secure full funding for PEPFAR to combat the HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa, DONALD PAYNE made a difference and his impact has been felt around the world.

As a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, DONALD PAYNE mentored and provided wise counsel to many of his colleagues, including me. I valued his counsel and his friendship and I will miss him very much and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.

ESSAY BY RAVENA JACOB

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Ravena Jacob is a junior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

George Washington once said, "Government is a necessary evil." Even after several decades of debate on whether government should be involved heavily or lightly on people's life, his statement remains true. Since my life is inherently weaved into public and community life, apart from my personal choices, likes and dislikes, all my life is connected to public. Therefore, even when I say it is my opinion, it certainly is influenced by shared values of my family and others of the community. When I think of government I am surprised by the massive efforts by government to keep things going by implementing laws and regulation which influence my life. When I was about 8 years, my dad got a ticket for not stopping at a stop sign as he was hurrying to drop me to day care and

trying to be at work on time. I was upset with the officer who issued the ticket. But later it became clearer that the officer may be avoiding a bigger problem. Roads were not paved when automobiles were first invented, and after they were paved, there were no stop signs or traffic lights, and no rules of the road. As vehicles became faster and caused more accidents we had to improve the safety of the vehicles. Changing the roads and the rules could only be done through government. Similarly in times of crisis and disaster, I can see the importance of public service government provide. Thus government's most important role is to protect its citizens. For a business or educational field, we need appropriate control by the government. At the same time the governmental control should not be too much. Its role in my life becomes more optimal when the fine line between big vs. small government is crossed

Therefore, the role of government in my life can be analyzed in terms of big or small Government that is usually debated by political parties to describe a large public sector. The term Big Government is used by conservatives in relation to government policies that regulate private or personal matters. Conservatives argue that big government attempts to have federal control on traditionally private institution-based programs. Proponents of small government describe money paid to the government in taxes as money taken away from the private economy. This argument is not true as government spends what it receives. Small-government advocates argue that government can't do anything right. The recent fall of Solyndra, the company that was awarded millions for solar technology expansion, is a good example. Both government and private institutions make mistakes. However, government's mistakes are usually exposed to public and the mistakes of businesses and nonprofits are often unknown.

Government's main weaknesses in deciding what to do are based on the special interests that support election or reelection. In some cases extreme governmental control sometimes question a person's freedom. A good example is governmental influence on dictating what we eat and drink. Yes, it is true that sodas and ice cream undoubtedly leads to obesity and other health issues. However, instead of controlling what we intake, government should create awareness of childhood obesity. In a recent discussion Glenn Beck, argued that the government shouldn't be regulating his Doritos intake or how many miles he can drive. President Obama's response was, "We have also clearly seen the dangers of too little government. Like when a lack of accountability on Wall Street nearly leads to the collapse of our entire economy."

When considering governmental role in my life I would conclude by saying that governmental duplication and control of existing social institutions should be avoided. Government should never forget its preliminary and preeminent role: establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF MASCOUTAH, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the City of Mascoutah, Illinois.

In the early 19th Century, much of the development in Southwestern Illinois had been concentrated along the Mississippi River which formed its western border. By the 1830's the county seat of Belleville was the easternmost town in St. Clair County. Roads were sparse, with the St. Louis—Shawneetown mail route being the road that provided transit for mail, goods and travelers between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

In 1837, a group of German settlers platted the town of Mechanicsburg along the St. Louis—Shawneetown mail route and a post office immediately relocated there. Since postal records indicated there was already a Mechanicsburg, Illinois, the post office and town were renamed, Mascoutah, a name taken from the Mascouten tribe of Native Americans.

The low, swampy terrain of Mascoutah would prove challenging for the early settlers, but a saw mill and flour mill attracted customers among area farmers and a wave of German immigration in the 1850's helped to swell the population. By 1880, Mascoutah was the third largest town in St. Clair County with a population of 2,576.

As the region developed, many changes had an effect on the growth of Mascoutah. In addition to mills and breweries, coal mining brought employment to many in St. Clair County and drew more people looking for work. In 1917, the U.S. War Department leased land near Mascoutah to develop one of the new "flying fields." Scott Field would grow into Scott Air Force Base which would have a tremendous impact on every aspect of life in the Mascoutah community.

From its founding 175 years ago, Mascoutah has experienced considerable growth and has positioned itself to continue that trend. It offers a small-town feel within a major metropolitan area and prides itself on excellent schools and a great quality of life.

It has been an honor to represent the City of Mascoutah for over two decades in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the City of Mascoutah, Illinois and to wish them the best for a bright and prosperous future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT JAMISON KAMPMEYER, COLBY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the life and service of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer, from

Colby, Wisconsin, who lost his life on Sunday, March 4, 2012 due to injuries sustained while fighting a fire at the Abbotsford Movie Theater.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Kampmeyer had qualities that many of us strive for all of our lives. He was a dedicated husband, father of three sons, public servant and friend to many. Since 2002, Jamison served his community with honor as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the City of Colby, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant. Jamison began his career with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department in 2004. Throughout his career as a Deputy Sheriff, he served in numerous capacities including Field Training Officer and SWAT team member. It is because of his extreme dedication to duty that he was posthumously promoted to Detective on March 5th, a position which he was due to assume next month.

The selfless sacrifice and exemplary service of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer will not soon be forgotten. Through his actions, he has made his family, community, state and nation eternally proud. It is my humbling honor to pay tribute to him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer for the sacrifice he made for his community and fellow firefighters.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION
AND RETIRED ARMY CORPORAL
LEONARD SANTANGELO

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of our nation's veterans. The brave men and women of the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves deserve our support, gratitude and prayers. We owe a great debt to these Americans for their service, for their courage, and for the sacrifice of their families.

I would also like to thank the organizations that support these veterans and their families when they come home. In particular, the American Legion will be celebrating its 93rd birthday this Friday, March 9, 2012. The local American Legion posts in my district, and around the country, play a vital role in bringing our community together. The American Legion supports not only our service members, but also our youth, with programs such as an amateur baseball league, scholarships for college-bound students and more.

One of the American Legion posts within my district, Post #145 in Douglasville, will be honoring a very special veteran this Friday—Pearl Harbor survivor Leonard Santangelo, who is one of only 17 survivors from Georgia. Leonard is a retired Army Corporal, and, at 92, is almost as old as the American Legion itself. He began his military service in 1941, just a few months prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Throughout his military career Leonard has received the American Defense Medal with one Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He served his country through the end of World War II and continues even today by sharing his story with his community—adults and school children alike.

It gives me great honor and pleasure to recognize American Legion Post #145 and Ret.

Army Corporal Leonard Santangelo for their great service to our nation.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY
HALLIDAY'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her one hundred and first birthday tomorrow. Ebby is a remarkable woman who has made a lifelong impact on the Dallas Community through her leadership and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Ebby is a true entrepreneur that we can all admire. Her savvy business ventures have produced countless jobs, and her success is a true testament to what can be achieved with a positive attitude and hard working spirit. Ebby is a symbol of the American Dream, and through her company she has been able to help countless others achieve their own dreams of home ownership.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her one hundred and first birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

WAR ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S
HEALTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for working to organize Women's Health Wednesday, and also all of my colleagues of the Congressional Pro Choice Caucus, of which I am also a member, for standing up for women's health every single day.

I'm here, once again, to stand against the ongoing War on Women and Women's Health.

And let me just say how unfortunate it is that we continue to have to fight for what is and should be a basic health right and necessity for women. I am sure the American people would much rather have us focusing on ways to create jobs, especially for the long-term unemployed.

Yet here we are again. Defending women's right to access basic health care services. And yes, that includes contraception.

Much of the debate around access to contraception has centered on the so-called conscience clause. The ability of a religiously affiliated business to withhold access to contraception care for women based simply on an abstract moral objection.

An objection, mind you, that not only ignores the conscience or moral beliefs of the women these businesses employ, but completely disregards the real medical needs of these women.

And let me say, as I have before, that as a former devout practicing Catholic I fully understand and respect the Church's doctrine on contraception, even though I disagree with it.

But the health care decisions a woman makes should and must be between her and her doctor. And as I have always said, the government has no place inserting itself between the medical decisions a woman makes with her doctor. Period.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize and highlight those women who are especially impacted by the attempts of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as some religious leaders, to restrict access to vital contraception coverage.

Those who often get lost in the debate around this issue. Although I believe that women's health care decisions should not continue to be unfairly politicized.

We know the benefits of birth control for women and their families. We know how planned pregnancy and spacing children improves the quality of life and the outlook for the children and the whole family.

And we know that is also improves the health of the woman.

Often, however, we do not hear from the women for whom birth control may literally mean the difference between life and death.

I'd like to share the story of a woman named Sally who is from my district in California. She is a working mother who could not afford to have more children. After numerous miscarriages, she relied on birth control to allow her body to heal properly before becoming pregnant again. After a couple of years of taking this medication, her body healed sufficiently to allow her to finally have a viable pregnancy.

Another young woman from California has polycystic ovarian syndrome and uses birth control to regulate her hormones.

She was prescribed the medication after her gynecologist had to scrape dozens of precancerous cysts from her uterus. According to her gynecologist, had another 6 months passed, this young woman would have developed full blown cancer.

And another young woman who, after having a very difficult first pregnancy and being diagnosed with a serious heart condition, was told by her doctor that if she were to become pregnant again, it could cost her life and the life of her unborn child. And so she depends, in part, on contraception to not only to preserve her life, but to be there to raise her son.

And these are just a few of the thousands of stories from women across the country who use contraception for many many medical reasons.

Two years after the passage of the Affordable Care Act we are beginning to see true reforms in our health care system that expands access to vital preventative health services.

We must protect these gains, instead of working against them.

It is time to stop this War on Women and Women's Health Care.

IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate International Women's Day and the remarkable achievements of women around the world.

I have always used my voice and vote to support foreign policies and assistance to promote equality for women and girls in agriculture, education, the workforce, politics, and beyond. To be sure, the funding is never enough to meet the need. But with minimal resources and relentless grassroots and grassroots advocacy, women the world over are bending the narrative of our times towards gender equality. While this is happening in all corners of the globe, I want to highlight the tremendous gains the women and girls of Latin America have made in recent years.

Not too long ago, women were just 20% of the Latin American labor market. But in the last 50 years, that figure has doubled and today, women are roughly 40% of the region's workforce. These professional gains have a powerful ripple effect, particularly in political participation where women now make up 22% of Latin American legislatures, which surpasses the global average of 18.6%. Clearly, women in Latin America are a force to be reckoned with. And that's a cause to celebrate!

But while these gains are significant, this is no time to sit back on our laurels. There is still much more to be done to sustain this important tide of momentum in Latin America, and also help to propel a similar groundswell in other parts of the world where women still struggle for basic rights and equality. We must continue to fight for policies and programs that promote equal access to opportunity for women and girls. So, today and every day, let us do all that we can to make gender inequality a thing of history and gender equality a reality of the future.

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS
STARTUPS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3606) to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for the efforts my colleagues have made this week to improve the regulatory environment for growing small businesses across our nation. This is important work that should continue without delay.

As we move forward though, there is a policy I am opposed to in the underlying bill that

I hope can be addressed either in the Senate or in Conference. Specifically, I am concerned that in this legislation, Congress sets a perilous precedent by establishing an accounting standard through legislation. While I am not opposed to this bill today, in part because I appreciate the work that has already been done to address this issue, there is still more to do to fully correct the problem I see.

As a CPA and the former Chairman of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, I am concerned about the encroachment this bill makes on the independence of the Financial Accounting Standards Board or FASB. FASB is an independent, private sector organization which establishes the standards of financial accounting that govern the preparation of financial reports by non-governmental entities.

The law has long recognized the need for an independent body, unencumbered by political or business affiliations, to arbitrate the complex accounting questions that arise in our modern economy. FASB functions as a rule maker that sits above the fray, so that public companies, investors, analysts, and government officials can all rely on the integrity and accuracy of financial statements. FASB's independence from businesses and governments alike is central to their ability to balance the competing interests of all stakeholders and generate standards that everyone can have confidence in.

Today's bill, H.R. 3606, takes a dangerous step away from this autonomy and towards a FASB that is held captive by the political and parochial interests of Congress. This legislation will interpose the views of Congress between FASB and the individuals and companies who rely on FASB's independence and judgment.

While I am strongly in favor of lifting regulatory burdens on our nations businesses, small and large alike, Congress should not direct when particular accounting standards are applicable to emerging growth companies. Replacing the careful, inclusive, and deliberative judgments of FASB with the inexpert opinions of Congress could result in a standard that does not meet the competing needs of all market participants. Investors and analysts rely on the information in financial reports to fairly evaluate the firms they seek to invest in; FASB is the appropriate body to balance their need for information against the concerns of small business owners with the cost of complying with reporting requirements.

I am encouraged that the Chairman, Ranking Member, and sponsor of this legislation have already met with representatives from accounting profession and made good faith efforts to address my concerns. However, there is still work to be done to improve this bill. I hope that as similar legislation is considered in the Senate and if the two houses meet in a conference committee, my colleagues will take a close look at the consequences of this policy and take another step back from this slippery slope.

While many might argue that Congress ought to be able to set accounting standards, accountants are universally opposed to this idea. For those of us who spend our lives dealing with Congress's handiwork in the tax code, we see a grim glimpse of the future if Congress were to stand in for the independent accounting standards bodies. As I often tell my constituents, if you like the tax code, you

will love financial statements when Congress writes the accounting rules.

The value of good and effective accounting standards cannot be overstated; they are the yardstick of the marketplace. Good standards are essential to a well functioning economy because they provide a consistent framework for the meaningful evaluation of widely disparate entities. Without them, it is impossible to hold an accurate understanding of the financial position of a firm, an industry, or the wider economy.

Almost 80 years ago, Congress had the wisdom to establish an independent body to develop those standards so that accounting was never influenced by politics. Today, as more Americans than ever are active participants in financial markets, the need for a trusted, independent arbiter of public accounting standards has never been more important.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve this legislation and to further strengthen the independent process for writing financial accounting standards in the future.

PROTECTING THE HEALTH SUPPLEMENT INDUSTRY FROM BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my concerns about recent FDA draft guidelines impacting the health supplement industry.

Each year millions of Americans choose to take vitamins and supplements. These supplements are regulated under law and represent just one way consumers can make informed decisions about their healthcare.

In July 2011 the Food and Drug Administration issued guidelines relating to new dietary ingredients or NDIs. These guidelines were aimed at ensuring the safety of ingredients contained in dietary supplements. While the FDA is responsible for the safety of supplements and the general public, I am concerned this regulation will create unnecessary paperwork and ultimately cost valuable jobs.

The FDA received over 146,000 pages of comments from the public on the guidelines and it is my hope they will take these into serious consideration as they draft a final guidance.

In February 2011 President Obama stated in a speech before the United States Chamber of Commerce that if there are rules and regulations, ". . . needlessly stifling job creation and economic growth, we will fix them. Already we're dramatically cutting down on the paperwork that saddles businesses with huge administrative costs."

Instead the Administration continues to promulgate burdensome regulations like the New Dietary Ingredient guideline that go beyond the original Congressional intent and will ultimately make it more difficult for companies to operate.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MARY JANE (POLLY) TETI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Jane (Polly) Teti of Chester County, Pennsylvania on her retirement after 30 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Detective Teti began her law enforcement career in 1980 with the City of Coatesville Police Department. In 1982, she was hired by the Tredyffrin Police Department and in 1986 was named Officer of the Year. In 2000, Teti was promoted to Detective and specialized in sex crimes and child abuse cases. She has received numerous unit citations and merit awards for the investigations and arrests she has handled.

Detective Teti served as Defensive Tactics Instructor for the Tredyffrin Police Department in the PR24 Baton, ASP Baton and OC Spray. A trained Crisis Negotiator, she was instrumental in creating a team of negotiators to quell volatile situations through communications. Detective Teti became Team Leader for the Crisis Negotiators North Team for Chester County and served as Vice-President of the Delaware Valley Negotiators Association.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Detective Mary Jane (Polly) Teti for her invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL
CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT
AND RURAL JOBS ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2842) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, as Co-Chair of the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, I support the responsible development of renewable energy wherever we can generate it—and that includes the development of small conduit hydropower at Bureau of Reclamation facilities.

What I cannot support is this legislation's blanket exemption from the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Conducting appropriate environmental reviews is not a barrier to the responsible development of our energy resources; it is a prerequisite for that development. Moreover, NEPA already gives federal agencies the authority to create categorical exemptions for projects that already meet statutory and regulatory criteria.

For that reason, I will be supporting the amendment offered by Rep. NAPOLITANO to

correct this defect in the underlying bill. If the NAPOLITANO amendment is not adopted, I will oppose final passage and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. HELEN
MYERS LONG CORDELL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Helen Myers Long Cordell, a beloved citizen of Albany, Georgia, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Sunday, March 18, 2012. On this special and momentous day, she will be honored by her family and friends at a celebration at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany.

Mrs. Cordell was born on March 18, 1912 in Chipley, Florida to Albert Addison Myers and Meddie Fryer Myers. She spent her early childhood in Chipley but after the sudden passing of her father, the family moved to Albany, Georgia in 1924 before then moving to Rome, Georgia.

Mrs. Cordell is a graduate of Rome High School and she received a bachelor's degree in education from Shorter College.

As an advocate for quality education for all of our Nation's children, Mrs. Cordell served as a teacher in Columbus, Georgia from 1933–1944; at Albany High School in Albany, Georgia from 1946–1959; and at Albany Vocational School from 1959–1968. She was very dedicated to her role of properly instructing young people and helping them to reach their full potential.

As a testimony to her endearing charisma and her devotion to her pupils, the students and faculty of Albany High School dedicated their annual yearbook, *The Thronateeska*, to her in 1955. She also actively participated in various educational associations and was a member of many community organizations including the Albany Garden Club and Gold Star Wives.

During World War II, she married Master Sergeant Wayne C. Long on October 9, 1943. Sadly, Master Sergeant Long was killed while serving his country at the Battle of the Bulge on December 20, 1944.

On October 19, 1968, she married Joel J. Cordell, the longtime Superintendent of Dougherty County Schools. They were happily married for many years before his passing in 1988.

Always active in her church, Mrs. Cordell was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church in Albany for many years. Following her marriage to Mr. Cordell, she became a longtime member of Sherwood Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir and held a leadership role in the activities of the church.

As fate would have it, I had the great pleasure of serving in the U.S. House of Representatives with Mrs. Cordell's nephew, former U.S. Congressman Earl Hutto, who dutifully represented Florida's 1st Congressional District from 1979 until his retirement in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Cordell, a beloved educator and inspiring fig-

ure, as she and her loved ones prepare to celebrate her 100th birthday. I commend her for her exceptional work of educating the generations of young people who have grown into teachers, entrepreneurs, and leaders and helped build a stronger foundation for Georgia and for our Nation.

Happy Birthday Mrs. Cordell! May God continue to bless you and may you have many, many more years of peace and happiness.

MARGARITO CANO "GUNNY"
VASQUEZ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Margarito Cano "Gunny" Vasquez. For many years, we have worked side by side to help improve the quality of life for many Veterans and their families around the Houston area. Mr. Vasquez passed away on February 24th and on March 1st, the Houston Chronicle printed his obituary written by Pedro Pinto. In honor of Mr. Vasquez, I would like to submit the text into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Margarito Cano "Gunny" Vasquez, who worked with programs helping military veterans and their families, has died of liver cancer. He was 77.

Vasquez was a member of countless organizations, including Veterans Incarcerated, which helped imprisoned veterans get their lives in order.

"He helped incarcerated, disabled, and homeless veterans," his son, Monte Vasquez, 33, said. In a 2005 interview with the Chronicle, Vasquez said he wanted his incarcerated brothers to come out and be productive.

"My hope is to die as an honorable Marine, that I tried to do what I could for veterans," he said then. He died on Feb. 24.

Vasquez also worked for Kids with Disabilities First, an organization dedicated to helping veterans' children with Down syndrome.

Vasquez also was instrumental with efforts to rename an East End street after Navy veteran Cesar Chavez and acquire the Houston Veterans Memorial Park, family and friends said.

Vasquez was born on July 20, 1934, in Bastrop. After a couple of years in the Army, he found his niche with the Marines.

"Any Marine was his brother; his loyalty and love was with the Marine Corps," said his son, Monte. "If he could have served his whole life there, he would have."

He got his nickname for having retired as a gunnery sergeant.

"He instilled a lot of Marine in us," said his daughter Margie Vasquez Lopez, 44. "When we were little, he taught us how to starch our clothes Marine style."

The family was proud of his volunteering, she said, but didn't know he'd helped so many people.

"When he passed away, we learned how devoted and recognized he was," she said. "We had people calling us who we didn't even know."

A prayer service will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday in Compean Funeral Home, 2102 Broadway. Burial will follow at Houston National Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Consuelo, and six children, Debra Ann, Margie, Michelle, Michael, Martin and Monte.

With great sorrow, I honor Margarito Cano "Gunny" Vasquez for his efforts to improve

not only the lives of Veterans, but their families as well. His efforts to help so many will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF FRANCIS RUSCIO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Ruscio of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 23 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Corporal Ruscio began his law enforcement career in 1979 when, at 20 years old, he was hired as a police officer by the City of Coatesville Police Department. He participated in 3 major drug investigations and raids with county, state and federal agencies in 1981, 1987 and 1988. Corporal Ruscio also served as Acting Detective Sergeant of Coatesville PD from May thru September 1988.

Corporal Ruscio was hired by the Tredyffrin Township Police Department in September 1988 and served in the Department until his retirement in December 2011. He served as Tredyffrin's DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor from 1997–2003, presenting programs to middle school students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, Valley Forge Middle School, Woodlynde School and The Crossroads School.

Promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2003, Ruscio lives with his wife Sandy in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Corporal Francis Ruscio for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA'S
BICENTENNIAL

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia.

The Hibernian Society of Savannah originated in 1812 as a society of gentlemen to come to the aid of Irish immigrants in the area. One year later they held the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Savannah at the Independent Presbyterian Church. In 1824, they invited all of the Irishmen of Savannah to join in on a parade which would become the first St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah's history.

Their role in the history of Savannah and its people has developed greatly over the years. They have been addressed in the past by notable speakers such as President Taft in 1912 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt by radio in 1937. President Truman addressed the body in 1952 at their 150th Anniversary Dinner

and President Carter addressed their Anniversary Dinner in 1978. Since its inception, these notable figures have recognized the actions and donations of the society for the greater good of the people of Savannah.

The scope of their efforts evolved from just the Irish community to the community of Savannah as a whole. They are very active through The Hibernian Society of Savannah Foundation, Inc. in their charitable contributions to the community. These organizations they support include some local schools as well as the Empty Stocking Fund, the Inner City Night Shelter and the Salvation Army among others.

A rich heritage and strong personal ties to the city and the community have ensured that the The Hibernian Society will continue to play a vital role for those in need in Savannah. What once started as a society of Irishmen helping Irish immigrants in need has transformed into a body whose positive impact can be seen everywhere around the City of Savannah.

I commend The Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia for their contributions to the people of Savannah and would like to congratulate them on their bicentennial celebration and their rich and continued history in the area.

HONORING WILLIAM MITCHELL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the following is a speech given by the former Mayor of South Windsor, John Mitchell, to honor his brother, William Mitchell, for being recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation. These two brothers are united in their love of public service and a willingness to give back to their community. It has been an honor to know them both. John's tribute to his brother offers only a brief glimpse into his many contributions.

Billy is affectionately known to friends and family as "Big," and we call him this because of his big heart, and for always being a big help to anyone who asks. Congratulations Big, and thank you, John, for the following remarks:

In the words of that great S.W. Rotarian and philosopher Robert J. Ignagni, "This is the main event!" Thank you all for coming and being a part of this great evening to honor my baby brother Billy.

For everything and everyone there is a beginning, and this is the way it unfolds . . .

Billy, was the 5th child of 6, born to Joseph and Katie Mitchell. We had 3 older sisters and my father was ready to jump off the Buckley bridge. He always wanted a son and then he got his wish, 3 more children, all 3 boys.

Now, years ago, think about it, our mom gave birth to six children—all in the house wherever we lived at the time. Two girls born in Pennsylvania, 1 in New Britain, Billy and myself in Manchester and Joey in East Hartford. There really wasn't a need for hospitals during this period in our Nation's health care system, but somehow it worked.

Now, if you have ever been poor, it is quite likely, you will remember it. Believe me, you will remember it!

Growing up in East Hartford on Tolland Street during World War II was an experi-

ence for six siblings. Coal was the method that most people used to heat their homes, and our father delivered coal. At our yard there were piles of coal, sometimes as tall as this beautiful restaurant. And for many, many of our young growing years, we would climb those piles of coal and slide and tumble down those huge piles. The neighbors often thought mom had 3 white daughters and 3 black sons, we were the only minorities at the time on Tolland St.

Ice skating was great fun in the winter time, the wooded area across the railroad tracks would contain little locked up areas of frozen ponds that were great for skating all over. Often as our feet grew and the skates didn't we would cut off the front of the skates to accommodate the growth of our feet. Everyone was poor but nobody knew it. Many of you in this room won't remember, except for Kenny Jackson, this is the World War II era, everything is in short supply, gas, soap powder, butter. You name it, it probably was tough to get. Often our family would sit together on the front porch during the air raids at night because Pratt and Whitney was considered a prime target. Wardens would be running up and down the street making sure all lights were out. There were national guard bunkers with guardsmen living in them on the Long Hill Golf Course and on Goodwin Street almost in our back yard, frightening times for kids. And guess what, the Germans do arrive in a sub in Hancock Point, Maine, right where Della lived at the time, and a number of them go walking up Main Street in suits, they were going to infiltrate the area. They are promptly apprehended because they just didn't fit into the local area. Nobody in that part of Maine owned a suit! Talk about not doing your homework!

But we survived it all, and by 1952 the family moved to S.W. where the base of Billy's operations for business is today. Back then it was called North Foster Rd., it was a gravel road and we quickly fit in to our new surroundings by working in the tobacco fields and man were they all over town. After Billy graduated Ellsworth High School, he worked for the family business known as Mitchell Fuel and Trucking and after the coal business died, Billy and Joey started Mitchell Trucking and Mitchell Excavators. Billy became active in town joining the SW Volunteer Fire Dept. and was recently recognized for his service of 50 years and he still to this day, is chairman of the board of fire commissioners. During this period I will never forget 3 incredible fires in town. The Industronic's building on Sullivan Ave., the Pyrofax Propane fire on Rt. #5, and the Fishman Building on Chapel Rd. As the Pyrofax fire was raging, I was standing out in the middle of Rt #5 as huge propane tanks were burning out of control and I saw Billy jump into a piece of heavy equipment and cut a path so the fire trucks could get closer with their suppressants and as the fires burned out of control, one large piece of metal debris landed a short distance from me, I thought how incredibly brave he was, or was he just plain dumb. Needless to say, he survived and this act of bravery did help diminish that huge and dangerous fire more quickly.

Years ago, the trucking business was thriving and Billy actually used to drive a ten-wheeler, Billy calls me around 6:30 a.m., "Johnny could you get a couple of shovels and meet me at the intersection of Crane Road and Wapping Wood Road in Ellington, I said sure, I'll be right there as soon as I can." Now picture this in your mind, Billy's big 10 wheeler is laying over on it's side, gravel all over and I arrive with two small shovels. If ever there was to be a defining moment in our lives, this was it, I knew it, I absolutely knew that I would forever be

mom's favorite. The trucking business was tough enough, but when something like that happens, it did hurt. You'd hire the trucks out for \$45 an hour and it would cost \$47 to run them. But, I attribute his love of the trucking business was due to the fact that he never had any toys to play with.

Now I'm going to fast forward to 20 years ago, because I know the attention span of the average S.W. Rotarian is less than 10 minutes. And there is already a fair amount of money that has been bet on the over and under, 10 minutes.

Billy started Environmental Services, they now employ over 55 people and have approximately 100 different pieces of specialized equipment. The office often is in a constant state of confusion and activity, Billy's computer screen clearly shows where he has left off on the game of solitaire. A quick look around reveals all the latest types of health foods imaginable (and boy if that isn't an understatement). Visitors coming and going, and so when I go there and bring him a coffee, it's so easy to understand why I forgot what I went there for in the first place. But, I'll tell you this, Billy loves oil companies, just loves us passionately. You see we deliver oil products for \$3-\$4 per gallon and God help you if you spill it, he will clean it up for \$100 per gallon!

Throughout his many years, Billy has had a unique way of handling pressure, and I really admired this talent. Picture this, "courtroom scene" Billy is the co-defendant in a suit brought against him. He is represented by the Big East Hartford law firm, Leone, Throwe, Teller and Nagle. In the midst of the proceedings, Judge George Ripley smacks his gavel down and says Attorney Throwe approach the bench, so Jim approaches the bench and Judge Ripley says if you don't wake your client up I'll hold you both in contempt. Can't you see we have students present observing these proceedings. That's about as relaxed as you can get!

Not long ago Billy was honored by the S.W. Volunteer Fire Department for his many years of service and recently he was selected to be the Town Marshall representing the Town of S.W. for the St. Patrick's Day parade. This is despite the fact that I think he is actually polish. Oh well!!!

Additionally his recent awards and citations include one from Governor Dan Malloy, Secretary of State, Denise Merrill, the General Assembly, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Mayor John Pelkey and the S.W. Town Council, Atty. General George Jepsen and State Comptroller Kevin Lembo. (I think he's trying to snag his signature stamp). After all this prominence, I decided to stop by the office and ask him if he was dying. Billy says "No, why how do I look?" I said well maybe you might want to lose a pound or two and don't roll up your tee-shirt so high—but we are who we are.

Over the many, many years, Billy has always supported Rotary's fund raising efforts by either donating items for the auction or the purchasing of countless car raffle tickets, which was started by Andy Charboneau, and Rotary's many other worthy causes.

Billy's never been a Rotarian although he's been asked many, many times. He never held a public office, he never excelled in sports and when we played baseball in the lot next to our home in East Hartford and things didn't go well for our youngest sister, the game was over because it was her bat and her ball. Billy exhibits the kind of quality that you would like to see in everyone, a compassion for his fellow man and a willingness to help whenever and however he possibly can. He exhibits to the highest degree, the first rule of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self". Billy's life style reflects the work ethic of a seemingly distant era, except

for maybe his favor nephew Davids. Billy is asleep by 8 p.m., awake by 4 a.m. and on his way to the 7-11 on Ellington Rd., where he may be asleep in the parking lot, stocking shelves or making coffee for the attendant. It was on one such early Sunday morning on his way there that he noticed a raging garage fire starting to lick the side of a home. A mother with her 3 children lie asleep inside and he pounded on the door and was able wake them and call the Fire Department to respond. It is quite likely that he saved their lives.

When that final book is written, I believe it will not be the measure of one's achievements or wealth but what that person has done with his or her life to help make this a better and caring world.

Fellow Rotarian's and guests, I submit to you the nominee for Rotary's highest award, the Paul Harris Award to Billy F. Mitchell.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY MS150 BIKE RIDE FROM HOUSTON TO AUSTIN 2012

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, rise to discuss Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and to support the Multiple Sclerosis MS150 Bike Ride from Houston to Austin occurring this weekend. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has sponsored this and many other events over the course of last 32 years.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS), itself, is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system which disrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body.

Sadly, there is no known cure for multiple sclerosis at this time. However, there are therapies that may slow the disease. The goal of treatment is to control symptoms and help you maintain a normal quality of life. Most people experience their first symptoms of MS between the ages of 20 and 40; the initial symptom of MS is often blurred or double vision, red-green color distortion, or even blindness in one eye.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects women more than men. 75% of the people diagnosed with MS are female. The disease is most commonly diagnosed between ages 20 and 40, but can be seen at any age.

I would personally like to thank the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for spreading awareness about MS and for organizing the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 2012 X Event/ Bike Ride from Houston to Austin.

In additions, I would like to thank all the participants who are biking and supporting those who are participating in this meaningful bike riding.

Their efforts have raised funds and hopes not only in support of researching a cure for Multiple Sclerosis, but also providing programs for people affected by the disease to address their daily challenges.

Multiple Sclerosis is known to be one of the most debilitating chronic diseases. It is a terrible affliction that interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body. Every single day, over 400,000 people battling with the physical, mental and emotional challenges of this disease.

It is an unpredictable disease that affects each person differently. Symptoms can be

mild, such as some numbness in the limbs. Or, they can be severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS are erratic and vary from one person to another.

Thanks to organizations like the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, however, today new treatments and advances in research are giving new hope to people affected by the disease.

BIKE MS150 OVERVIEW

Beginning in 1980, Bike MS150 has grown to be the largest organized charity bicycling event in the US, inspiring over 100,000 volunteers to participate every year. For the last 6 years my office has volunteered to participate in the MS150. Together, we have raised more than \$600 million for this noble cause.

I also know there are other Multiple Sclerosis events, such as MS walks and golf tournaments through which people raised the public awareness and delivered their love, support and care to the members of the MS community.

THE STORY OF NICOLE

I would like to share with you the story of Ms. Nicole. Diagnosed with MS in 2000 while attending nursing school, Nicole didn't give up her dream, persevered, and finished her degree. Sadly, the development of the MS forced her to give up her nursing career in 2009. But the disease never stopped her from pursuing a full and beautiful life.

Nicole started a personal blog and re-adapted to all the physical difficulties in her life. I would like to take this moment to share with you a sentence from her blog, "emotionally I'm stronger, more resilient and tenacious than ever. Looking forward, my new normal is uncertain. In my heart I feel it is going to get better."

It is going to get better because Nicole has a determination to battle the disease; because everyone of us here today are dedicated to offer our support; because together we believe we can make a difference to people and their families living with the diseases.

Again, I am honored to be part of this event, and applaud all of those involved in the effort to free people from MS.

KEY POINTS

1. *The Disease.*

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is caused by damage to the myelin sheath, the protective covering that surrounds nerve cells. When this nerve covering is damaged, nerve signals slow down or stop. The nerve damage is caused by inflammation. Inflammation occurs when the body's own immune cells attack the nervous system. This can occur along any area of the brain, optic nerve, and spinal cord. It is unknown what exactly causes this to happen.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects women more than men. 75% of the people diagnosed with MS are female. The disease is most commonly diagnosed between ages 20 and 40, but can be seen at any age.

Those living with MS experience muscle weakness in their extremities and difficulty with coordination and balance. These symptoms may be severe enough to impair walking or even standing.

In the worst cases, MS can produce partial or complete paralysis. Most people with MS also exhibit paresthesias, transitory abnormal sensory feelings such as numbness, prickling,

or “pins and needles” sensations. Some may also experience pain. Speech impediments, tremors, and dizziness are other frequent complaints. Occasionally, people with MS have hearing loss.

Approximately half of all people with MS experience cognitive impairments such as difficulties with concentration, attention, memory, and poor judgment, but such symptoms are usually mild and are frequently overlooked. Depression is another common feature of MS.

The MS150 Bike Ride.

The purpose of the ride is to raise money for multiple sclerosis research and other services supported by the National MS Society. The ride typically takes place over the course of two days and are generally around 150 miles long, though they can be as short as 3 miles (for a family fun ride) or as long as 250 over five days.

Bike MS events aim to pull the whole community together by gathering support from local businesses, elected officials, residents and people living with MS. In 2008 the Society created a special website so riders can select a ride based on dates, length, location or difficulty.

Donations raised through Bike MS directly help people affected by multiple sclerosis through support programs and cutting-edge research. The Upper Midwest Chapter serves more than 17,000 people living with the disease and Bike MS makes a difference to each one.

HONORING REVEREND MAURICE MOYER

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Reverend Maurice Moyer who died Tuesday at age 93. Rev. Moyer was one of Delaware's most prominent civil rights leaders. As president of the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP from 1960 and 1964, Rev. Moyer led the fight for open public accommodations and fair housing.

He was part of the 1963 March on Washington and participated in the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

Rev. Moyer fought tirelessly for equal rights for all and was an inspiration for everyone who knew him. He did so much to make Delaware and our country a better place for all of us.

Rev. Moyer was one of Delaware's most respected and beloved citizens. It was a privilege for me to know him personally and to join his family and friends for his 90th birthday party where we celebrated his incredible life and legacy.

I will always remember Rev. Moyer's broad smile, his strong voice and his kind heart.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker. DONALD PAYNE was a man of few words, but his actions spoke loudly and boldly for those who could not speak for themselves. He dedicated his life to helping the less fortunate, and to expanding and protecting human rights for all, both in the United States and abroad.

He served 12 distinguished terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, and was the first African American congressman from New Jersey. He served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, as well as chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights. His work on behalf of Darfur; his involvement in the fight against HIV and AIDS; and his extensive travels to places like Rwanda, Somalia and Haiti demonstrated the depth of his passion for social justice, and served as an example for all who seek to make the world a better place.

On a personal level, I will never forget him traveling to Connecticut for the launching of the Freedom Amistad Schooner in 2000. DONALD was also instrumental in commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, and ensured the success of the Amistad's anniversary trip. He himself traveled to Sierra Leone and back to honor the 53 slaves that were held aboard that fateful ship. He followed the Amistad's journey very closely, and it was through his tireless efforts that the Congressional Black Caucus succeeded in bringing the Amistad to DC.

Last year I was also fortunate to host DONALD and a delegation from the Congressional Black Caucus in Hartford to celebrate the 200th anniversary of author Harriet Beecher Stowe—the woman who wrote the book that started a great war. Given DONALD's commitment to social justice, and his respect for history, I knew it would be a meaningful and symbolic occasion. His attendance meant so much to me, and I was grateful for the chance to show him my district.

It was an honor to serve with Representative PAYNE, and he will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JERRELL J. COCKRELL'S 30 YEARS OF UNIFORMED SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Jerrell J. Cockrell for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Colonel Cockrell will retire from the United States Army Reserve while on Active Duty in March 2012 after serving his country with integrity, dedication and visionary leadership for

over 30 years. Over his illustrious career, Colonel Cockrell has held various positions within the military medical community from Medical Platoon Leader to United States Army Reserve Army Medical Department Outsourcing Contracting Officer to Medical Observer/Trainer to Medical Training Brigade Commander, and culminating as the Chief of Staff for Army Reserve Medical Command.

While his accomplishments are numerous, these deserve special notice. Shortly after the events of September 11, 2001 he was named as the Senior Medical Coordinator of the Crisis Operations Team at Joint Forces Command. Colonel Cockrell was instrumental in ensuring the Office of Command Surgeon accomplished all assigned missions during this time of high fear and uncertainty within our Nation. In 2005, Colonel Cockrell was named Director of Army Medical Department Region at Human Resources Command where his team professionally supported over 40,000 Reserve Medical Soldiers including the management of over two-hundred, ninety day rotator healthcare professionals ensuring a continuum of Reserve physicians deployed in support of Homeland Security and the Global War on Terror. In 2007, Colonel Cockrell became the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of Human Resources Command in St. Louis where he ensured the success of the first ever assembly/muster of over 8,000 Inactive Ready Reserve Soldiers. The successful muster validated the efficacy of our strategic reserve and brought much needed relief to our Army at war. As Chief of Staff for Army Reserve Medical Command, Colonel Cockrell successfully managed the day to day operations of over 10,000 Reserve Soldiers with 15% to 20% being mobilized or deployed at any given time. His years of leadership and mentoring were formally recognized in 2011 when Major General David Rubenstein, Chief of the United States Army Medical Service Corps, selected him as the (United States Army Reserve) Medical Service Corps, Mentor of the Year.

Colonel Cockrell's exemplary leadership and selfless devotion to duty has touched fully two generations of Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and their Families. His integrity and credibility are unsurpassed, and his expertise is unquestioned. Colonel Cockrell's 30 years of service to our Army and the Nation can only be characterized as honorable and distinguished.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Colonel Jarrell J. Cockrell for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to his country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Army Reserve and we wish him, his wife Janice, his daughter Melissa, and son Aaron, all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL C. SCHLENKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Paul Schlenker of Indianola for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five

percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Paul's service project included researching, designing and installing historical signs at each end of the Summerset Bike Trail in Warren County, which stretches from Carlisle to Indianola. Paul's signs recount the history of the railroad that formerly occupied the trail. The work ethic Paul has shown in this project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Paul and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

DR. VICTOR F. GRECO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Victor F. Greco, who will receive the prestigious 2012 Marconi Science Award presented by UNICO National. Dr. Greco is a fellow native of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and a 1941 graduate of my alma mater, Hazleton High School. UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States, presents the Marconi Science Award to a U.S. citizen of Italian descent involved in the physical sciences who exemplifies Marconi's vast scientific and creative accomplishments through their own life's achievements.

The University of Scranton accepted Dr. Greco to college early because of his outstanding academic record. He graduated magna cum laude in 1947. He has the honor of being the only graduate of a Jesuit university to finish eight semesters of education in six semesters. After graduating, he continued his education at Jefferson Medical College and earned his degree as a medical doctor. During his time at Jefferson Medical, he was one of six students inducted to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Dr. Greco completed his internship at the Philadelphia General Hospital in 1951–1952, and was a research fellow at Jefferson Medical College from 1952–1953. Two years later, he completed his fellowship in cancer surgical research while serving as chief surgical resident.

Dr. Greco trained as a general and thoracic surgeon. He played a crucial role in the development of the heart-lung machine that allowed surgeons to operate on the heart, specifically allowing surgeons to open the heart and replace damaged valves. While the machine keeps the patient's heart and lungs functioning, the surgeon is able to surgically cor-

rect defects that were previously impossible. This notable achievement allows for the correction of a multitude of congenital vascular defects.

The UNICO chapter in my hometown of Hazleton is proud of Dr. Greco's achievements and his nomination for the Marconi Science Award. Overall, his membership and involvement in UNICO has helped promote and enhance the image of Italian-Americans, and he encourages other members to serve our community.

Mr. Speaker, today, Dr. Victor F. Greco stands as an icon in the Hazleton, Pennsylvania, UNICO chapter. I join my fellow Italian-Americans in congratulating Dr. Greco for receiving the Marconi Science Award. I commend him for his years of dedicated service to his patients, community, and country.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM DAVIS
SNIDER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of William Davis Snider, who eloquently chronicled the struggle for civil rights in North Carolina as a newsman while quietly helping to usher in a new era of race relations in his beloved home state.

A native of Salisbury and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he served as a Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the India-Burma Theater in World War Two. Returning home, he served as private secretary to Gov. R. Gregg Cherry and later as administrative assistant to Gov. W. Kerr Scott.

Bill Snider's experience in war and politics steered him for the social upheaval of the mid-1960's, when he was associate editor and opinion writer for the Greensboro Daily News. His columns and editorials from that tumultuous era established him as a leading voice of white moderation. Simultaneously, he worked behind the scenes with civic, religious, and business leaders to prevent racial tensions from exploding into violence.

While his colleagues respected his clear and principled arguments for restraint, he was not without his critics and his work resulted in a burning cross on his lawn and broken windows on his family home. One of his eulogists remarked that Bill probably appreciated that someone was actually reading his columns, though he would have preferred they express their disapproval with a letter to the editor instead.

Later rising to Editor of the Greensboro News-Record, Bill's forthright, yet measured and helpful criticism influenced a new generation of journalists who later came to national prominence. His service as president of the National Conference of Editorial Writers and on the Pulitzer Prize Jury further attests to his stature in his profession.

He also wrote two books: Helms & Hunt, The North Carolina Senate Race published in 1984 and a history of his Alma Mater: Light on the Hill, a History of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill published in 1992. Jim Exum, the former chief justice of the N.C. Su-

preme Court, who is from Greensboro said: "Bill was a very deep and careful thinker and a clear writer and a gentle giant in his field."

He was also a devoted family man who celebrated 63 marriage anniversaries with his beloved wife, Florence. Bill and Flo were blessed with four accomplished and loving daughters, one of whom is a valued member of my staff and a dear friend. Their golden years together were enriched with the gift of 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Those who had the good fortune to know Bill Snider personally say he epitomized the ideal of the Southern gentleman. Throughout his long life, he retained a twinkling sense of humor and a love of learning, especially about the history, politics, and natural beauty of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, we are all fortunate that in a time of uncertainty and ugliness in America's history, Bill Snider and other progressive Southerners persuaded their neighbors to abandon the prejudices of the past and embrace the spirit of our founding declaration that All Men are Created Equal. His life and work stands as an enduring testament to the difference one person can make in the lives of others, and of our great nation.

HONORING HOMER GEORGE AND
NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION
WEEK

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Homer George and National Poison Prevention Week, observed March 18 through 24, 2012. Mr. George was instrumental in the establishment of National Poison Prevention Week, and this year marks its 50th anniversary.

After treating many cases of accidental poisoning, Mr. George, a St. Louis College of Pharmacy graduate and Cape Girardeau pharmacist, realized that the most effective way to treat poisonings was by prevention. Mr. George brought this issue to the mayor of Cape Girardeau in hopes of establishing a poison prevention week. Cape Girardeau Mayor Walter Ford proclaimed October 12 through 18, 1958, as the first Poison Prevention Week. He cited the total number of poisonings as almost 1,000,000 annually, mostly due to careless handling and storage of common household items, including lye, pharmaceuticals, insect poisons, coal oil, and cosmetics.

Missouri Governor James T. Blair immediately expanded the declaration to a statewide Poison Prevention Week. Mr. George followed up on this success by enlisting Congressman Paul Jones to introduce legislation establishing a national Poison Prevention Week. A joint resolution was introduced in Congress on February 1, 1960, and President John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law on September 26, 1961. Congressman Jones presented the signing pen to Homer George in recognition of his public service in preventing childhood poisonings and the creation of National Poison Prevention Week.

Today, more than two million poisonings are reported each year to the 57 poison control centers across the country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home.

Pharmacists and pharmacy organizations are active participants in efforts to prevent accidental poisonings thanks to the difference one pharmacist made. There is no better time to remind the citizens of our country about the selfless service of Homer George, and I am honored to represent him and all of Missouri's Eighth Congressional District in Congress.

IN HONOR OF MRS. JO AVIS NEAL
FREEMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman of extraordinary class and remarkable grace, Mrs. Jo Avis Neal Freeman. Sadly, Mrs. Freeman passed away on March 2, 2012. Her passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of her family, friends and the Albany, Georgia community.

On Monday, March 12, 2012, a gathering of family members, friends, and colleagues will pay their respects to Mrs. Freeman at a memorial service that will be held on the campus of Albany State University.

Mrs. Freeman was born on July 21, 1953 in Washington, D.C. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Hampton University and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. Following her graduation, she worked as an administrator, manager and psychotherapist in the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area for more than 25 years.

The community of Albany, Georgia and the Albany State University Family gained a gem when she married Albany State University President, Dr. Everette J. Freeman in 2006 and moved to Albany. While in Albany, she continued her life's work by serving as a Clinical Supervisor for the Albany Community Service Board and more recently at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

During her stint in Albany, Mrs. Freeman became actively involved in many local service and civic organizations. Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Throughout her life, Jo paid her rent and she paid it well.

In her role as Albany State University's First Lady, she was very supportive of the student body and always represented the university with the highest level of class and grace. The student body truly believed that "she was one of them" because she connected with them in a very personal way.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Jo is her welcoming demeanor and charisma. She loved people and she never met a stranger. Her favorite song was: "I Hope You Dance." This is truly a fitting song that represents the joyful spirit and dedicated resilience with which Jo lived her life and how we should all live ours.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Jo went far in life because she treated people the

right way—with dignity, honor and respect. We are all blessed to have had her touch our lives and the world is better because she passed this way.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the almost 700,000 people in the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Freeman, Jo's daughters, grandsons and other family members during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

MAJOR RICHARD RUSNOK

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor United States Marine Corps Major Richard Rusnok, who has been named the Marine Corps Test Pilot of the Year by the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA) John Glenn Squadron. Major Rusnok, a native of Jenkins Township, Pennsylvania, dreamed of becoming a pilot when he was younger. A graduate of Pittston Area High School, he was the second test pilot to perform a vertical landing on the flight deck of the USS *Wasp*. Currently, Major Rusnok is with the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland.

Major Rusnok was selected test pilot of the year for his role in the successful embarkation and deployment of more than 250 people and 140,000 pounds of supplies and equipment with two F-35B test aircraft on USS *Wasp's* flight deck. Major Rusnok was the focal point for an extremely complex event, and the amount of thought and planning he demonstrated was commended by Navy Captain Erik Etz, military director of test and evaluation for F-35 naval variants.

Major Rusnok has shown his dedication to the U.S. Marine Corps in countless ways. He played a major role in making naval aviation history in the Joint Strike Fighter program, and he flew a number of combat missions in the Iraq War. In 2003, he participated in the initial invasion of Iraq and flew numerous missions over a seven-month period.

This year, he will transition to Edwards Air Force Base, California, where operational testing on the F-35B will begin. As Test Pilot of the Year, he will be considered for the National Commandant of the Marine Corps' Award for Acquisition Excellence, which will be announced in May.

Mr. Speaker, today, Major Richard Rusnok stands as a pillar in the U.S. Marine Corps. I commend him for his years of dedicated service to the Marines, the community, and the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Guam for their

60 years of providing post-secondary education to the island of Guam. UOG was established in June 1952 and has evolved into a highly recognized institution of higher education in the Western Pacific region, and is the only fully accredited, four-year university on Guam.

UOG is one of the premiere institutions for higher learning in the Western Pacific. Under the leadership of UOG President and former Guam Delegate to Congress, Dr. Robert A. Underwood, UOG has continued to prepare students for their professional careers and carry on their mission "to enlighten, to discover, and to serve."

UOG's humble beginnings started in the village of Mongmong as the Territorial College of Guam, a two-year teacher training school under the authority of the Guam Department of Education, with an enrollment of about 200 students. In 1960, the then-Territorial College moved to UOG's present location in Mangilao and continued to expand the academic programs for its students. In 1963, the Territorial College was granted its first accreditation as a four-year degree institution and by 1967, it had implemented three new undergraduate schools. On August 12, 1968, the Territorial College was renamed the "University of Guam" by the Guam Legislature.

In October of 1979, UOG established its Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program to prepare future leaders in our nation's armed forces. Since then, UOG's ROTC program has become one of the most respected ROTC programs in the United States and was recognized by the Department of the Army as the Top U.S. Army ROTC program in 2002.

Over the years, UOG has continued to expand its academic programs and now includes a College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, School of Business and Public Administration, School of Education, and a School of Nursing & Health Sciences. UOG is home to the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI), which has a long-standing history of providing high quality research that addresses the unique challenges facing Guam's water resources. WERI's expertise and research have proved invaluable in studying aquifer sustainability and the military build-up.

UOG has also recently begun efforts to expand its educational services by establishing a School of Engineering. This expansion will bring greater opportunities for students in Guam, and throughout the Micronesia region, to study the engineering field. Further, UOG has endeavored on a \$60 million capital improvement campaign, which includes three new buildings on campus, including a Student Services Center, Triton Engagement Center, and a new Fine Arts Building. Further, under Dr. Underwood's leadership, UOG has also established the Center for Island Sustainability. The Center will create an Islands-based model of renewable, sustainable and appropriate technologies focusing on indigenous energy alternatives and replicable research to meet the needs of island communities. The Center is playing a critical role in developing studies that will help inform decision-makers about the impacts of the military build-up on Guam and reasonable mitigations.

I congratulate the University of Guam on their 60th anniversary, and I commend them for their years of providing higher education

opportunities to the people of Guam and the Western Pacific region. I also commend the UOG Board of Regents, UOG President Dr. Robert Underwood, and all administrators, faculty, and staff, for their commitment to the mission of the University. I look forward to the continued growth and expansion of UOG for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING STACIE SMITH AS
THE 2012 OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Stacie Smith as the 2012 Okaloosa County, Florida School District's Employee of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and faculty of Northwest Florida.

While serving the Okaloosa County School District, Ms. Smith has worked in myriad capacities. Her career began as a secretary, and through her exemplary work ethic and business acumen she was immediately delegated additional responsibilities, such as handling clerical duties, open enrollment, and retiree benefits. Currently, Ms. Smith serves in the integral role of Insurance Ombudsman for the Okaloosa County School District, where she advocates, assists, and provides active and retired employees solutions to their claims. Never one to remain stagnant or settle for mediocrity, Ms. Smith continuously accepts new challenges. This characteristic, coupled with her superior demeanor, professionalism, and dedication, is responsible for her promotions through the ranks and the award she is receiving.

Teachers, administrators, and supporting faculty play a vital role in guiding and encouraging the positive growth of America's youth, and they deserve our utmost gratitude and appreciation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Stacie Smith as the 2012 Okaloosa County School District Employee of the Year. Her passion for the students and faculty is laudable and her dedication to the education profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Smith, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

NATIONAL MEDIA'S BIASED
COVERAGE OF RISING GAS PRICES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent study by the Business and Media Institute found that news coverage of rising gas prices are four times less likely during the Obama administration than the previous Bush administration.

The study found that news sources—such as ABC, CBS, and NBC—only covered the ris-

ing prices 21 times during the Obama administration compared to 97 times under the Bush administration.

The quantity of coverage was not the only difference. The tone of the coverage was different as well. Under the Bush administration, gas prices were "skyrocketing" as people's "wallets were running on empty." Now, "gas prices creep up."

The national media owe it to Americans to provide the facts and let the people make their own decisions. Democracy is threatened when the national media report in a biased manner.

"SHARE YOUR BREAKFAST"
CAMPAIGN

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, what did you have for breakfast today?

We all know that a great breakfast can lead to a great day.

That's why it is so important that our children receive a healthy, nutritious breakfast to prepare them for a productive school day.

It is hard to believe that today, one in five children live in a home where food is not always available and don't have access to this important meal.

This week is National Breakfast Week—a time for Americans to join together to give more children the opportunity to start their day with the nourishment they need to reach their potential.

To celebrate National Breakfast Week, I am participating in the "Share Your Breakfast" campaign—an initiative by Kellogg's and Action for Healthy Kids to help ensure more children have access to breakfast.

The "Share Your Breakfast" campaign seeks to provide one million breakfasts to kids by increasing participation in school breakfast programs across the country.

Now in its second year, the program has assisted nearly 100 schools in 26 states—including 7 in my congressional district—and is setting its sights much higher for the future.

I salute the "Share Your Breakfast" campaign as one of the many initiatives now underway to address the issue of childhood hunger in America.

Through the power of breakfast, we can make a difference in the lives of children in need.

HARRY C. MCPHERSON JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry C. McPherson, Jr., a fellow Texan. For many years, he worked for President Lyndon B. Johnson while he was in the White House and previously on his Senate staff. Mr. McPherson passed away on February 15th and The New York Times printed his obituary, written by Robert D. McFadden. In honor of Mr. McPherson, I would like to submit the text into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Harry C. McPherson, Jr., an influential White House counsel and speechwriter for President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965 to 1969 and the author of a classic insider's memoir on Washington-style politics, died on Thursday in Bethesda, MD. He was 82.

His death was from complications of cancer, his wife, Mary Patricia McPherson, said. A liberal from Texas who read literature and history for pleasure, Mr. McPherson went to Washington in 1956 "to do good," by his own account, a naive, idealistic young lawyer who, like many Americans, thought political integrity meant making decisions based on sound principles and standing up for your convictions.

Then he went to work for Lyndon Johnson. Thirteen years later—after a realpolitik education as Johnson's aide in the Senate, as a Pentagon and State Department official and as a presidential confidant and wordsmith—he looked back on the battles for civil rights, the crises of American cities and the corrosive war in Vietnam with a keener appreciation for the arts of horse-trading and compromise, and for Johnson's Machiavellian ways of getting things done.

Mr. McPherson helped draft bills that became the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Later, with Joseph A. Califano, the president's special assistant for domestic affairs, he helped shape Johnson's Great Society programs, the most sweeping social legislation since the Roosevelt era, including antipoverty and equal opportunity laws covering employment and housing, Medicare, Head Start and scores of other innovations.

For years, he supported the military policies in Vietnam, but by 1968, Mr. McPherson had come to believe that the war was unwinnable. And as antiwar demonstrations swept the country, he and Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford helped persuade the president to scale back the bombing of North Vietnam.

It was Mr. McPherson who drafted Johnson's landmark address to the nation that spring, announcing the cutbacks of United States bombing, although the stunning conclusion of that speech—disclosing the president's decision not to seek re-election that fall—was drafted by another Johnson aide, Horace Busby.

After leaving the White House in early 1969, Mr. McPherson became a partner in Verner, Liipfert & Bernhard, a prominent Washington law firm and one of the capital's most successful at lobbying. His clients included businesses, foreign governments and nonprofit organizations.

Among other cases, Mr. McPherson helped to negotiate the 1998 master settlement in which major tobacco companies and 46 states agreed on advertising limitations, partial immunity from lawsuits and payments of hundreds of billions of dollars to the states to cover the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses.

Mr. McPherson also served on presidential commissions, including the 1979 panel named by Jimmy Carter to investigate the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, and another named by Bill Clinton to recommend the closing of military installations to streamline the Defense Department.

Mr. McPherson wrote numerous articles on foreign and domestic policies for The New York Times, The Washington Post and other publications.

His memoir, "A Political Education" (1972), was well received and has become a perennial favorite of students of Washington's crafty, duplicitous political merry-go-round and of Johnson's years in the Senate and the White House.

Reviewing it for The Times, Anatole Broyard called it "a lesson not only for Harry McPherson, but also for most of us,"

adding: "To put it bluntly, few Americans have a realistic idea of how our government works. We have instead a series of naive assumptions. If the message of this book were common knowledge, much of the sound and fury that currently caricatures our politics and our national image could be averted."

Harry Cummings McPherson Jr. was born on Aug. 22, 1929, in Tyler, Tex., the son of Harry and Nan Hight McPherson. He attended Southern Methodist University and graduated from the University of the South in 1949. He intended to be a writer and poet and enrolled in a graduate program in literature at Columbia in 1949. But when the Korean War broke out in 1950, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as an intelligence officer in Germany, assessing Soviet troop deployments.

His first marriage, to Clayton Read in 1952, ended in divorce. He married Mary Patricia DeGroot in 1981. Besides his wife, he is survived by two children from his first marriage, Coco and Peter, and a son from his second marriage, Samuel.

He earned a law degree in 1956 at the University of Texas. At the urging of a cousin who worked for Johnson, who was then a senator, Mr. McPherson went to Washington and was hired by the Democratic Policy Committee, which fashioned the legislative agenda for Senate Democrats. Johnson, the majority leader, was its chairman. Over the next seven years, Mr. McPherson rose to general counsel of the committee, serving under Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana after Johnson became vice president in 1961.

He was appointed deputy under secretary of the Army for international affairs in 1963 and assistant secretary of state for educational and cultural affairs in 1964. Nearly two years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Mr. McPherson joined President Johnson's White House staff in 1965, and over the next four years, he became one of Johnson's most trusted advisers.

In 1966 he helped organize a White House conference on civil rights, a gathering that included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Thurgood Marshall, who was then the solicitor general but would become America's first black Supreme Court justice a year later; and representatives of almost every major civil rights group in the country.

Mr. McPherson also became Johnson's chief speechwriter, shaping all of the president's major addresses from 1966 to 1969.

In 2008, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by American Lawyer magazine.

It is with great respect, I honor Harry C. McPherson, Jr. for his service to the country under President Lyndon B. Johnson and his many wonderful accomplishments upon his death.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their achievements as Class 2A FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading State Champions and most recently as Universal Cheerleaders Association's National Cheerleading Champions.

No single component by itself renders a champion, but rather to be a champion requires a combination of discipline, desire, focus, and determination. The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders have found the perfect blend of each element and serve as an example for other teams in the area. At the beginning of the season, the Fort Walton Beach High School Viking Cheerleaders said, "It's our year." Their words have come to culmination as they proved that this year was theirs to shine taking home the gold from UCA Nationals.

The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders strive for perfection in everything they do. In cheerleading, not one person stands out or wins the overall competition. Rather, it requires uniformity and working together as a collective group. As they prepared to compete in UCA Nationals, they sought to perform their routine to the best of their abilities as a team. This commitment to excellence defines a true champion; however, their excellence extends far beyond the title. Whether it is car washes, 5k runs, or even performing for Florida's Governor, Rick Scott, this team goes above and beyond what is asked of them, and I commend their active role in the Fort Walton Beach community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, on March 6th, the state of New Jersey, and more specifically Newark and its surrounding communities, lost a dedicated public servant, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Congressman PAYNE truly lived a life of service, first as an educator in the Newark and Passaic public school districts, an Essex County Freeholder, a member of the Newark Municipal Service, and finally as the first African-American Congressman from the state of New Jersey. Representative PAYNE's public service record was also dedicated to helping people through his volunteer work. His involvement with the Newark YMCA and Boy's and Girl's Club, showed his passion for helping children.

In Congress, Representative PAYNE played an instrumental role as an advocate in the treatment of AIDS and drug-resistant tuberculosis. His actions in Congress were always based on how he could best serve his constituents. Congressman PAYNE served as a role model for not only his district, but the entire State of New Jersey.

His love of service was only outdone by the love he had for his family, from his late wife, to his children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren. Congressman PAYNE will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall #103-106. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall #103: Yes—Himes of Connecticut Amendment No. 3

Rollcall #104: Yes—Ellison of Minnesota Amendment No. 5

Rollcall #105: Yes—Waters of California Amendment No. 6

Rollcall #106: Yes—Connolly of Virginia Amendment No. 9

ABILENE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I bring good news from West Texas. The 2011-2012 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A State basketball champions are the Abilene Christian High School Panthers.

In a close game that was covered by the national media, the Panthers beat Beren Academy 46-42 on March 3 in Waco, Texas to win the championship. Both schools are strong religiously based institutions. An Orthodox Jewish school from Houston, Beren Academy was a tough opponent made up of wonderful, religiously committed young men that kept the game close to the end.

The Panthers were led by 22 year-old Michael Bacon, a first-time head coach and college senior at Abilene Christian University. He coached the team along with Nick Smith and Colby Carr, all full-time college students and best friends. While some college students hold part-time jobs on the side, I suspect that most don't involve coaching a state championship-winning high school basketball team. Michael, Nick, and Colby are outstanding men and leaders that have a promising future ahead of them.

The championship caps a whirlwind season for the Panthers that ended with a 25-4 record. They played with discipline, determination, and tenacity the entire season. Michael Bacon said about the team: "We played like we were the smallest dog in the fight all season, and ended up the biggest." In every practice and game, the team gave their all and, in the end, it paid off.

The members of the team are Michael Avila, Ben George, Avron Payne, Trey Hampton, Clint Bruton, Samai Massaquoi, Harrison Hancock, Daniel Austin, Trevor Tyson, Bryton Fernandez, and J.D. Dos Santos. These fine young men are model Christian athletes. Strong in both body and spirit, their success on the basketball court reflects the deep commitment to their faith.

The state champion Panthers deserve our congratulations. They have excelled as athletes, students, and Texans,
And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SERGEANT JOSHUA A. BORN,
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deep sympathy that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Army Sergeant Joshua Born, of Niceville, Florida, was killed on February 23, 2012 in the Khogyani District in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, where he and other members of the 549th Military Police Company were attempting to maintain order during violent protests.

A student at Niceville High School in Northwest Florida, Joshua enlisted in the United States Army in March 2007. He was known as a well-respected soldier and young man. On February 23, Joshua paid the ultimate price in defense of our Nation's freedom. We know that freedom often demands of us a heavy and at times unbearable price. To his wife, Megan; his parents, Elizabeth and Craig; and to all of his friends; we owe our eternal gratitude. Throughout his service, there is no doubt that Joshua displayed dedication to duty and courage of heart. Joshua's life will continue to inspire those who knew him best and those who follow in his footsteps. He will always be remembered for his selfless dedication and commitment to this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor Sergeant Joshua Born and all the heroes we have lost. My wife, Vicki, joins me in offering our most sincere condolences and prayers to his family and friends. May God continue to bless them and the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

HONORING MS. SYLVIA G. IRIONDO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida's finest community leaders, Ms. Sylvia G. Iriondo.

Sylvia was born in the city of Havana, Cuba and currently resides in Key Biscayne, Florida. She has spent over 40 years in the real estate business, serving as Co-Owner and President of two successful businesses: Tarafa & Iriondo Corporation/Realtors and Tarafa & Iriondo Corporation/Property Management Services. She also currently serves as a Broker-Associate with the prestigious real-estate firm of Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell, Inc. of Key Biscayne. Sylvia has served the real estate community as Key Biscayne Chairperson for the Miami Board of Realtors, Founder and first President of the Real Estate Professional Association of Key Biscayne, and Board Member of the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce.

Sylvia has made a tremendous impact in Miami and throughout the state of Florida with her civic engagement. She served as a United Way of Dade County volunteer Board Member for eight years, the maximum allowable term, and also was appointed member of the Advisory Board and Chairperson of the Program Committee for the Salvation Army. Additionally, Sylvia was appointed by Florida Governor Bob Graham to serve on two major statewide initiatives concerning elderly residents: the Governor's Commission on Aging and the State of Florida Department of Elderly Affairs.

Staying true to her cultural heritage, Sylvia has also devoted her life to advocacy for, and service to, a free and democratic Cuba. Her work began with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the first agency in Miami to provide assistance to thousands of Cuban refugees fleeing Castro's communist regime, and the State Department of Public Welfare—Cuban Refugee Emergency Center. Sylvia continues fighting relentlessly for Cuba's freedom today, as a co-founder of M.A.R. por Cuba (Mothers & Women Against Oppression), and the Assembly of the Cuban Resistance. This organization is committed to the defense of human rights and freedoms of Cuban people, the support of Cuban political prisoners and their families, and advocating for measures and sanctions against the Castro regime. Sylvia works daily to accelerate democratic change in Cuba; her solidarity to the Cuban people is truly inspiring and admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Sylvia G. Iriondo for her continued service to the Miami community. She is a woman of unmatched compassion and dedication, serving as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, businesswoman, leader, activist and philanthropist. Sylvia's impression upon the Miami community will last for decades to come, and she will surely inspire countless young women to follow in her footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, and I wish her continued success and happiness in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHIP CRAVAACK

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 95 for H.R. 3637, to designate the "Roy Schallern Rood Post Office Building" in Jupiter, Florida, I originally intended to vote "yes," however, I inadvertently voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEM-
BROKE

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke on the 125th anniversary of its founding.

In 1887 the General Assembly of North Carolina chartered the Croatan Normal

School, created to train American Indian public school teachers. This school, with a total of fifteen students enrolled and only one instructor, was the foundation for what has now become one of the 17 campuses in the greater University of North Carolina system.

UNC Pembroke is a center of higher learning for over 6,000 students, boasting 41 undergraduate Programs and 17 graduate programs. I am impressed by how much this institution has grown since its beginnings. Yet, despite this growth, the University prides itself on the ability to give individualized attention to each one of its students with a 15:1 student to faculty ratio.

UNC Pembroke has achieved national recognition for its diversity as well as its strong ties with the community. U.S. News and World Report has deemed the University "the most diverse University in the South," the Princeton Review has named UNC Pembroke among the "Best in the Southeast," and the University was named to President Obama's Community Service Honor Roll for three consecutive years. Additionally, the Carnegie Foundation awarded the University the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, one of its most prestigious awards.

I am especially pleased by the naming of the University as a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs Magazine for a fifth consecutive year. Access to education for our military veterans is something I am passionate about, and I am encouraged that UNC Pembroke has embraced our veterans and supported their pursuit of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of North Carolina at Pembroke as it celebrates 125 years. May it continue its tradition of excellence and its development of the future leaders of North Carolina and our nation.

HONORING VOLUNTEER FIRE
CHIEF M.L. "PUG" WELLS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Volunteer Fire Chief M.L. "Pug" Wells, a devoted public servant to the people of Elliston and Montgomery County, who passed away unexpectedly on March 7, 2012.

For nearly 55 years, Pug was a member of the Elliston Fire Department. He led as Chief for 48 of those years. Pug was a founding member of both the department in 1957 and of the New River Valley Swift Water Rescue and Recovery. Never tiring, Pug even found time to assist the Shawsville Rescue Squad.

In a recent interview, Pug said his greatest enjoyment came from "being able to help people." His selfless sacrifice is truly admirable. A committed family man, a noble community leader, and a friend of many, Pug will be greatly missed by his colleagues and those he served. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mary Lee; his four children; his family; and his friends.

Well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the Montgomery community, I am honored to pay tribute to this man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be

long remembered in Montgomery County and throughout Southwest Virginia.

HONORING DR. BARBARA DAVIS

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Barbara Davis for 25 years of service to the Hebrew Day School in Syracuse, New York.

Dr. Davis earned her Bachelor's Degree from Barnard College and received an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. She began her relationship with the Syracuse Hebrew Day School in the mid-1980's. She was a parent volunteer and served as chair of the Education Committee. Her service escalated in 1986 when she agreed to serve as co-principal of the school along with Dr. John Blasi, a position she would hold for the next 25 years.

For two and a half decades, Dr. Davis was the leader of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. During her tenure there she was instrumental in the school's growth; a new wing was constructed, student enrollment hit record high numbers, and the endowment fund grew to nearly \$500,000.

In addition to her work at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Dr. Davis serves as a Professor Emerita of Modern Languages at Onondaga Community College. She was also a member of the first Lookstein Center Principals' Seminar at Bar Ilan University, a selective intensive program combining seminars in Israel and America.

Dr. Davis' dedication to her community is not only seen in her role at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, but also in her countless hours of volunteerism and participation in numerous organizations. She serves on the board of RAVSAK, the Jewish Community Day School Network, she is executive editor of the quarterly journal of Jewish education, Ha Yidion, and has co-authored a forthcoming history of the Syracuse Jewish Community.

Dr. Davis has played a significant role in the lives of so many people, especially youths, with her dedicated service to our community. Her passion and leadership have made the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the area it serves a better place. I thank Dr. Davis for her service and am proud to honor her here today.

FORTNEY H. "FISH" STARK III

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a statement written by my 16-year-old son, Fortney H. "Fish" Stark III.

In 2004, I visited the Democratic National Convention with my dad. I don't remember much, being 8, but I do remember my visit with Dennis Kucinich. He was a little quirky, in a Ron Paul kind of way, but he was earnest, he was friendly, he was sincere, and he believed in what he was doing. Someone took a photo of us that night—I was almost as tall as him, even at 8—and he sent me a copy, signing it:

"Dear Fish: Someday I hope to come to the convention to help nominate YOU! Thank you for your support. Your Friend, Dennis Kucinich."

Congressman Kucinich wasn't a perfect politician. At times he's more concerned with taking a principled stand than trying to negotiate a principled compromise. But even though he was quirky and at times obstinate, he stood out in Congress because he truly believed in what he was doing, because he was passionate and never said die, because he was willing to stand up and say something that he believed needed to be said when no one else would stand up with him, because he believed strongly that our children needed to live in a world free from war, enjoy lives free of hunger, in families free from poverty.

Congressman Kucinich looks like he's going to lose in his primary campaign tonight. Congresswoman Kaptur is a great lady, even if she does have a penchant for needless military spending and has been flimsy on pro-choice issues. She'll do great things for the district, I know it.

But I want to honor Congressman Kucinich by sharing what he taught me—that it's OK, even when you're alone, to stand up for something if you feel it is right. I don't think—few do—that we should run the country exactly as Congressman Kucinich believes we should, but there always needs to be someone to say the things that he is saying—to have the bold ideas, even if they're not always feasible, to have the idealism and hope, even if it's sometimes fleeting.

"Courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what"—Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Congressman Kucinich made this quote come alive for me. He stood up for peace, for health care, for the environment, for reform, even when he knew he wasn't going to win—because he believed in it. And while he never should have (and never did) run the table, he always brought something to our national discussion that contributed. It was a light, an optimism, a compassion, and a humanism.

He was willing to take a political bullet to spread that message. Tonight, that's what happened. Here's to a courageous man who stood up for what he believed in, who stood up for helping others, and who would rather lose an election than lose his principles. A man who taught an 8-year-old that believing in yourself held a far greater reward than selling yourself.

Rock on, Dennis.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARME-
NIANS IN SUMGAIT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise on behalf of the thousands of Armenian Americans in my congressional district to remember the evening of February 27, 1988, when a murderous campaign began against Christian Armenian civilians living in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. Tragically, police in nearby Baku ignored the atrocities and allowed the rampage to continue for three days.

Azerbaijani rioters murdered, raped and maimed Armenians, throwing women and children from windows and burning victims alive. While some estimate that more than 30 individuals were killed and more than 200 injured,

others estimate that hundreds were murdered. The Soviets banned journalists from entering the area and, for two decades, Azerbaijani authorities relentlessly covered up, ignored and whitewashed these tragic events.

Even worse, many believe the atrocities were officially sanctioned by Azerbaijani authorities to send a clear message to the Armenians, who were peacefully demonstrating against Azerbaijani repression and discrimination in Nagorno Karabakh just days before the massacre.

The anniversary of this horrifying moment in history serves as yet another call to action to build a more peaceful and just world. The United States must stand firmly against repression and human rights abuses.

NATIONAL BREAKFAST WEEK

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Breakfast Week, and every child should start the day with a healthy breakfast—whether it's served at home or at school.

A healthy breakfast provides the fuel a young body needs to stay alert. Studies have consistently shown that children who eat breakfast do better in school than those that go to school hungry.

Eating breakfast not only can help children improve their academic performance, but statistics show it improves their behavior and results in fewer school absences.

Unfortunately, breakfast is not always on the menu for millions of American children.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one in five children live in a home where food is not always available. Finding workable solutions to the problem of hunger in America, and feeding America's children is a top priority.

The "Share Your Breakfast" program—a partnership between Kellogg's and Action for Healthy Kids—is working to achieve this goal. The "Share Your Breakfast" campaign seeks to provide one million breakfasts to kids by increasing participation in school breakfast programs across the country.

I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to Celebrate National Breakfast Week by sharing their breakfast with a child in need.

HONORING JOSEPH P. MURPHY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph P. Murphy of Rye, NY. Leaders of local veteran groups, as well as students and graduates of the United States Service Academies and their families, will join me Tuesday, March 13 in honoring Mr. Murphy for his three decades of distinguished volunteer service as chair of New York's 18th Congressional District's Service Academy Review Board.

Each fall, my Service Academy Review Board interviews several dozen young men

and women to determine who merits nominations to our nation's Service Academies. Chair of the SARB for my first 22 years in the House of Representatives, from 1989 until his retirement last year, as well as serving in the same role for my two predecessors, Mr. Murphy selflessly devoted thousands of hours to the comprehensive review process, from meeting with every applicant to advocating with the Academies on their behalf. As a result of his efforts, several hundred topnotch young people from the 18th Congressional District have received outstanding college educations and leadership training that prepared them to admirably serve our country. A retired Naval Officer himself, he has followed the careers of many of these Academy graduates, continuing as their mentor and friend.

Joe Murphy's volunteer efforts extend well beyond the Service Academy Review Board. He is a former school board member of the Rye City School District; Commander of the American Legion Post 128 in Rye; lector and CCD instructor at the Church of the Resurrection in Rye, and vice president of the Westchester Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and certified social worker (CSW) of the State of New York, Mr. Murphy has had a distinguished professional career working in sectarian and United Way agencies, civil rights organizations, child care agencies, court-affiliated programs, a settlement house, health related/skilled nursing facilities and mental health settings throughout New York State. He currently is focusing on developing, administering and implementing eldercare services that combine high standards for consumers and resource development to enhance quality care.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Joseph P. Murphy for his exceptional accomplishments and thanking him for his tremendous contributions to our community and country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "STEREO"
SAM HUPPIN, AN EASTERN
WASHINGTON LEGEND

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of a great friend and Eastern Washington legend, Mr. Sam M. Huppin. His eighty-five years on this Earth were marked by infectious vivacity, a uniquely entrepreneurial spirit, and a genuine desire to help those around him. Sam exuded such an extraordinary love of life that his legacy will live forever in the hearts of those who knew him.

As a Spokane native, Sam received his degree in aeronautic engineering from Washington State University and, in the 1950s, he transformed his family's downtown Spokane clothing store into a major electronics retailer. It was with remarkable success that he revolutionized his family-owned business—one radio and camera at a time. In the early 1970s, Sam donated the business's remaining men's clothing to charity and proudly opened "Huppin's Hi-Fi and Photo." With two storefronts in Spo-

kane today, Sam forever transformed the business that his grandfather started in 1908.

While Sam will be remembered for his success as business leader—and his aptly given nickname of "Stereo Sam"—he will be remembered even more for the impact he made on the lives of others. His customers. His family. His friends. He loved to tell stories, ask questions, and make jokes. His son Murray said about his father: "He was really someone from a different era. Every part of the business was relationship oriented."

While Sam's passing is met with tremendous sadness, it is also with great joy that we pay homage to his remarkably full life. To the impact he had. The relationships he created. The community he changed. The people he touched. He has taught us—not only in the great sorrow of his death, but in the beauty of his life—that our years on this Earth should be lived with exuberance and gratitude for all the days we are given. It is for that lesson—and so many others—that he shall never be forgotten.

THE NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP
COMMISSION ON AIDS,
INC'S EXPRESSION OF SORROW
ON THE PASSING OF CONGRESS-
MAN DONALD M. PAYNE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc, I submit a statement on condolence on the passing of my dear colleague, Donald M. Payne.

NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP
COMMISSION ON AIDS, INC.

NBLCA MOURNS THE PASSING OF REP.
DONALD M. PAYNE

In reaction to the death of Rep. Donald M. Payne, Tuesday, March 6, 2012, C. Virginia Fields, President and CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc, issued the following statement of condolence:

The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc. (NBLCA) expresses its profound sorrow at the death of Rep. Donald M. Payne. For over two decades, Rep. Payne served his constituents in New Jersey's 10th Congressional District and the nation with courage and distinction. He was a longtime supporter of the NBLCA and dedicated his 12 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives to fighting social injustice and advocating for the health and well-being of all Americans and other fellow citizens of the world. His support in the House was instrumental in the full implementation of the Minority AIDS Initiative and other legislation addressing disease prevention and health promotion. Rep. Payne was especially passionate about ending HIV/AIDS and human rights violations in Africa during his distinguished service on the House Foreign Affairs Committee where he chaired the Subcommittee on Africa.

Mr. Payne will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure and honor to work along side him in the fight against HIV/AIDS and health disparities based on race and ethnicity. On behalf of the NBLCA's Board of Directors and staff, I convey heartfelt condolences to Rep. Payne's family, constituents,

and colleagues in the 112th Congress of the United States. In Mr. Payne's memory, we rededicate ourselves to enhancing our advocacy to protect the health, human rights, and civil liberties of all Americans. May God grant him peace.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a longtime advocate for women both in the United States and around the world, I am pleased to recognize the many achievements of women on International Women's Day which we celebrate today, March 8, 2012. We honor the countless contributions made by women in all areas and observe the tireless work of female leaders throughout the world who have struggled to attain social, economic and political equality for women.

While there is much to be proud of, there is also much work to be done. Throughout the world, women continue to face the same collective barriers and embrace the same hopes—to live in a world free from violence, to be educated, vital members of society and to possess the independence to make decisions that govern their bodies and well-being. This is why I continue to fight for women and have authored legislation to achieve these outcomes: H.R. 418, the International Women's Freedom Act to establish a Commission on International Women's Rights to report yearly on the status of women's rights around the world; H.R. 949, the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act to aid in the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula; and, H.R. 2759, the Business Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act, which works toward ending human trafficking by increasing transparency in the business supply chains of multi-million dollar global companies.

We know that when women are empowered, nations are fairer and stronger, governments flourish, and society as a whole benefits. Today, I salute the immeasurable successes of women and pledge to work to create a world filled with greater opportunities for women here and abroad, where women are safe, empowered and are heard and respected.

ESSAY BY MAXIMILLIAN
McELIGOTT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I

am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Maximillian McElligott is a junior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. His essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Maximillian chose the Cold War.

The Cold War had numerous effects on America that led to prosperity in not just the American political machine but also in the everyday society. One well-known effect is the putting together of National Aeronautical and Space Administration or NASA.

During the 1950s, both the Soviets and Americans were in a so called "Space Race". The goal was simple: Be the first to space. The Soviets were the first to achieve this goal by successfully launching their rocket, Sputnik I, into space. In response to the possible threats of nuclear war and the new Soviet technology of long range missiles, the United States founded the National Aeronautical and Space Administration or NASA. The "Sputnik Crisis", as it was called sent a shockwave through the United States. For once, we weren't the first to accomplish something that hadn't been done yet. NASA's early goals consisted of getting to space, and then once John F. Kennedy was elected in the early 1960s, the goal changed to putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

The dream of putting a man on the moon was accomplished quickly by landing a man on the moon, July 20th, 1969. That single day in history where over 500 million people worldwide watched as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took mankind's first steps on the moon. The first manned moon landing opened the door for future space explorations such as missions to other planets, other planets moons, and possibly other galaxies which wouldn't have come as quick as they had without the so called "Russian Initiative".

Another immediate effect in the public school system was the majority of the focus was situated onto math and science based criteria. The government had planned to get youths more excited and intrigued by the new policies. The country went through a technological boom to close out the century. New inventions such as the cell phone, World Wide Web, computer storage units, etc.

Looking back over the Cold War, it was a stepping stone of greatness to where we are today with both our education and technological advances. Through the ups and downs the space race worked in our favor to give our country a head start on the essentials to become an even stronger, more diverse world superpower. If we as a country had not gone through the Cold War and had succumbed to letting communism make its way throughout the world, the United States would be far behind when it came to superiority.

SUPPORTING RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE POLISARIO FRONT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the renewal of negotia-

tions between the government of Morocco and the Polisario Front.

The Western Sahara region has been disputed territory since the Spanish withdrew in 1975. It is claimed by Morocco and the Polisario Front, which seeks independence for the Western Sahara.

Morocco and the Polisario began direct negotiations in 2007, under the auspices of the United Nations. The next round of negotiations begins on Monday, and I hope that a solution will finally be agreed to during the new talks in Manhasset, NY. The people who live in the Western Sahara have suffered as a result of the region's status being in limbo, and they deserve for this longstanding dispute to be resolved.

Morocco has a compromise proposal on the table: democratic autonomy for the region under Moroccan sovereignty. I believe this is a reasonable offer and can serve as a basis for negotiations. Undersecretary of State William Burns previously described the Moroccan initiative as a "serious and credible proposal to provide real autonomy for the Western Sahara." It is also important for the region's residents to be able to express their views on their future, and for negotiators to take those views into account.

Mr. Speaker, after more than 35 years, it is time for all parties to negotiate in good faith to finally bring this crisis to a close. We are witnessing monumental changes in North Africa following revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. It is in the interest of the United States and the parties involved to achieve a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Western Sahara issue, and more broadly to encourage Morocco to fully implement King Mohammed's proposed constitutional reforms and continue moving toward a more balanced governmental system that serves the many needs of all citizens of Morocco.

RECOGNITION OF MARCH 12, 2012—MARCH 16, 2012 AS NATIONAL YOUNG AUDIENCES WEEK

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Young Audiences, as they celebrate National Young Audiences Week, March 12th thru March 16th 2012. Young Audiences was founded in 1952 and serves as our nation's leading source for arts-in-education services.

National Young Audiences Week was created by Leonard Bernstein in 1971, who wanted the entire country to understand the contributions Young Audiences was making to the cultural education of children throughout the United States. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of Young Audiences, and the first celebration of National Young Audiences week since 1991.

Annually, Young Audiences reaches more than five million school children. Their many programs enable students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagina-

tion and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding.

In my Congressional district, Young Audiences serves approximately 21,860 students in my district in 14 different school districts. I am proud to recognize Young Audiences for their work, and will remain a strong advocate for arts-in education services.

HONORING CAROL PASTOR

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Carol Pastor and mourn her upon her passing at the age of 75.

Born on September 2, 1936, Carol Pastor dedicated her life to her family and was the proud matriarch of a three generation Michigan based construction business, George H. Pastor and Sons.

Regrettably, on March 4, 2012, Carol Pastor passed from this earthly world to her eternal reward. She was preceded to eternity by her beloved husband of 54 years, Richard and her treasured son, Keith. Mrs. Pastor is survived by her cherished children, Craig, Mahala, John, Tim, and Michelle and will be long remembered by her sister, Barbara and her brother, Thomas. She leaves a precious legacy of 12 grandchildren. A thoughtful and benevolent woman, Carol will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Pastor is remembered as a loving mother, a devoted wife, adored matriarch, compassionate leader, and a valued friend. Carol was a true lady who deeply treasured her family, friends, community and her country. Today, as we bid Carol Pastor farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and honoring her dedicated commitment to her family, our country and community.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK (MARCH 5-9, 2012)

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National School Breakfast Week which this year is March 5th through 9th. I thank the School Nutrition Association for their efforts to promote this important week and raise awareness for the need to ensure our school children have a healthy breakfast to start their days.

Research has shown that eating a nutritious, balanced breakfast helps kids focus and succeed in school. I believe that the federal government has an important role to play in

promoting nutrition, as well as preventing and treating obesity. And during these tough economic times, the school breakfast program also is seeing increasing demand from students who are coming to school hungry.

Currently, there are more than 31 million children who eat school meals five days a week, 180 days a year. While the National School Lunch and breakfast programs do a good job of feeding these children, they have the potential to provide fresher and healthier foods to millions of children in the United States.

In 2010 I helped write the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act to dramatically expand access for millions of children to healthy meals year-round in schools, and provide more meals for at risk children nationwide. The law included legislation that I introduced to provide \$5 million in annual funding for Farm to School programs. Farm to School programs bring locally or regionally grown fresh produce into schools, significantly improving nutrition for children eating school lunches.

During School Breakfast Week, let us resolve to do everything we can to combat childhood hunger and also ensure that the food we are serving kids is as fresh and healthy as possible.

ESSAY BY AMANDA KERSTMAN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Amanda Kerstman is a senior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

As a citizen of the United States of America all citizens are given the right to participate in the political process whether it would be to run for office, or vote in a primary election. Having the power as a citizen to participate in the political process is a right given by the United States, but many people in the present time take this as a chore to participate rather than a privilege. The voter turnout in Houston, Texas has decreased every year because of people not willing to go vote in any election, whether it is for a district judge, or an election for the president.

Our constitution was built from people who wanted to shape the new world into a country where people have the right to choose who they want to run their country. It is the citizens responsibility to keep our country a republic and vote for people to represent us. The key to make sure that people will stay politically active is to make sure the youth of the United States stays in-

formed and up to date with what goes on in politics. Once they are informed they have the knowledge to form their own opinion and allow them to take action in supporting a candidate or coming up with their own ideas to run for office one day. Whether a person is inspired to run for local office or for president all helps the political process. Having the Congressional Youth Advisory Council is a great way to get the youth of America involved in political decision-making by letting them able to share their opinion to political leaders. It also allows the youth to be informed on what is going on in congress or in political decision making directly for a political official. Being a part of the political process is very important for American citizens be involved in because if we aren't, we will let down every man that fought for our political freedom.

STATEMENT ON THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS (IBEW), AFL-CIO, LOCAL 716

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), AFL-CIO Local 716 in Houston, Texas.

IBEW represents members who work in a wide variety of electrical trade fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government.

IBEW Local 716 was chartered March 12, 1912, starting with 9 original members and has since grown to represent 4500 members. IBEW Local 716 plays a major role in enhancing the quality of life for all electricians across the Greater Houston Area by negotiating contracts for electricians that secure top paying wages, high-quality health insurance and pensions and creating safer working conditions.

IBEW Local 716 members have built some of our most memorable Houston landmarks that have vastly contributed to shaping Houston as the internationally known city it has become today. Some of which include: the original Humble Building, The Astrodome, the Texas Medical Center, most of Downtown Houston, Minute Maid Field, Metro Light Rail projects, The George R. Brown Center and the Toyota Center.

IBEW Local 716 members are widely known in Houston for their volunteerism and community service, donating countless hours of their personal time in the restoration of the Heights neighborhood projects, including the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center and vast array of other community projects.

I salute the courageous men and women who made IBEW Local 716 an organization which utilizes the skills of its members to make a better life for everyone. I congratulate IBEW Local 716 on 100 years of community building and union spirit, as well as their outstanding dedication to the labor movement and steadfast efforts to uphold workers rights to organize.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,498,306,692,627.99. We've added \$4,871,429,643,714.91 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTHFIELD CRS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. David's Episcopal Church of Southfield, Michigan on the auspicious occasion of its 60th diamond jubilee anniversary.

St. David's Episcopal Church opened in 1952 and its first mass was held on March 2, inside Oxford School in Berkley, before a permanent church was built.

Founded by parishioners of St. James Episcopal Church, a venerable institution located in neighboring Birmingham, St. David's has been a fixture in the community for more than five decades.

Committed to providing a healthy quality of life for all, St. David's developed St. Anne's Mead, an assisted living and nursing care facility in 1966. The facility is committed to the unique needs of men, women and their families while preserving their dignity and enriching their lives.

Under the devoted and dedicated leadership of the Rev. Chris Yaw, St. David's current Rector, the church holds two Sunday services each week and Taize-style healing services four times a year.

St. David's parishioners are also involved in community outreach. They support local food pantry programs and manage a community garden that produced 500 pounds of fruit and vegetables in 2011, which they donated to surrounding communities.

The church also mentors kindergarten through eighth grade students at nearby Vandenberg World Cultures Academy, providing academic support and leadership skills.

For one week each spring, St. David's turns its facility into a residence for the homeless. The church offers food, shelter and companionship for dozens of men, women and children.

St. David's human service efforts extend beyond the great state of Michigan and the boundaries of our country. The church is one of the founding members of the Haiti Outreach Mission and performs humanitarian work in Port-au-Prince and Mirebalais, two cities that were devastated by the massive earthquake that rocked the country in early 2010. Congregates have helped to provide much needed care and supplies, including anesthetics, antibiotics, pain meds, dressings, operating room

equipment and supplies, IV fluids, gloves, masks, etc.

The church recently celebrated its 60th year anniversary. During a spirited and eventful three-hour celebration, held on March 3, in the Parish Fellowship Hall, a special photo display commemorated the occasion. Former members reunited to perform as a Chancel Choir in a spirit-filled musical program.

St. David's Episcopal Church and serve God through worship, outreach, and love for all.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate St. David's Episcopal Church of Southfield, Michigan on the auspicious occasion of its 60th diamond jubilee anniversary. I salute the outstanding work that this revered institution has carried out in the Metro Detroit area.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a letter from Colin Taylor Mays, a 12-year-old school kid in Oregon. He is very worried about the future of his education. The drive by some to make deep cuts in our education system is jeopardizing his education and the future competitiveness of our Nation.

While it is critical that we must not further burden our children and grandchildren with a mountain of debt, we also must make investments in their future. With limited resources we must make smart investments that put people back to work by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure system. While we focus on creating jobs now we cannot forget about our youth and what future will lie ahead for them. We must invest in education to make sure that our children will be prepared for the workforce of tomorrow. It is possible to balance our budget and provide for the most critical needs of our Nation. We must look both at raising revenues and reducing spending in areas where appropriate. If we do not make these choices now we will continue to let our children suffer in an education system that is falling apart at the seams. I hope that my colleagues will heed this message and work with me on making the right choices for our youth by investing in their education and giving them the same if not greater opportunities than we had growing up.

(By Colin Taylor Mays)

I am age 12 and a boy scout of America. I'm writing this letter as a view not a complaint. I haven't been learning enough in school, because of all the budget cut days. It's hard to keep track of what I'm learning. We need to put more money towards schooling and education. I probably have only 12 full weeks of school and I have so many weeks that only have 4 or 3 days in them. Unlike very few children I want to learn and possibly get a very good job that I want. Please consider this letter.

CONGRATULATING LEAGUE CITY,
TEXAS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate League City, Texas on its fiftieth anniversary. For fifty years, League City has been a growing and influential region in the Baytown area and throughout Texas. Congratulations to League City for a wonderful half-century of contributions to our great state.

League City formally became an incorporated city on March 27, 1962. The city possesses a long history before that date, first settled in the late nineteenth century. It has made significant contributions to the Houston and Texas economies through its continued growth and success. Between the 2000 census and the 2010 census, League City almost doubled its population, and it also surpassed Galveston as the largest city in Galveston County in the early 2000s.

Known for its talented and capable workforce, many engineers and scientists that work at NASA's Johnson Space Center reside in League City.

The history and economic efforts of League City bring pride to our state. League City residents agree that it's a great place to live, work and raise a family. Congratulations to League City for fifty years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

HONORING MS. DEBRA SCHWARTZ
ON HER RECENT SELECTION TO
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Debra Schwartz on her recent selection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

With more than 25 years of financial services leadership, Ms. Schwartz will be a great addition to NAFCU. She has been president and CEO of Mission Federal Credit Union in San Diego since 2009. Prior to joining Mission Federal, she served as Chief Financial Officer at First Future Credit Union and as Executive Vice President at San Diego County Credit Union.

Debra Schwartz graduated magna cum laude in Economics and Marketing from the State University of New York, and obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Throughout her 25 years of leadership in the financial services industry, Ms. Schwartz has also dedicated time and energy to a variety of non-profit organizations focused on youth and financial literacy. In fact, she currently serves on the governing board of Junior Achievement in San Diego and Imperial counties.

With more than 163,000 credit union members in San Diego community, Ms. Schwartz is

a welcomed addition to the NAFCU Board of Directors and will undoubtedly make an immediate impact in her role. She has been both a leader and an innovator in the community and the NAFCU will be well served by her representation. Ms. Schwartz's experience will be a strong asset to the NAFCU as the credit union industry negotiates the recent financial regulatory reforms that will make lasting changes in the way credit unions operate.

I wish Ms. Schwartz the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU board and look forward to working with her in this capacity. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Debra on this achievement and wishing her luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND DR. ISAIAH MADISON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great African American educator, pastor, attorney, and highly respected member of our community, Reverend Dr. Isaiah Madison, who passed away March 1, 2012, at the age of 71.

Dr. Isaiah Madison was born on February 16, 1941, in Lake Cormorant, Mississippi. He later graduated from Delta Center High School in Walls, Mississippi in 1960. Dr. Madison went on to receive an Associate's Degree from Owens Jr. College in Memphis, Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard University in 1964. He continued his education at Howard University, where he received his Juris Doctorate. Additionally, Dr. Madison received a Masters Degree in Political Science from Atlanta University and a Masters Degree in Theology from the International Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Reverend Dr. Isaiah Madison began his career as an instructor teaching Political Science at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and the Clinical Law Program at Howard University School of Law. Dr. Madison was a retired Associate Professor of Political Science at Jackson State University, where he taught courses in Public Law, American Government and Legal Research and Writing. While at Jackson State, he was Co-Advisor of the prominent Fannie Lou Hamer Prelaw Society in the Department. The Reverend Dr. Madison was a prolific writer and author. He published several poems and essays dealing with a wide variety of subjects—ranging from the law to social justice issues.

Dr. Madison was a man of deep and abiding faith, and served wholeheartedly as a United Methodist Pastor and Church Leader. Using his God-given gifts of teaching and exhortation, Dr. Madison pastored churches in Mississippi and Georgia. Dr. Madison was a member of New Dimensions International Ministries, where he served as an Assistant Pastor.

In 1973, Dr. Madison was the lead attorney in the development of the high profile Ayers Case. In fact, he was the Chief Architect of the Ayers decision. Madison was the Founding Chairman of the Black Mississippians' Council on Higher Education which was the support

organization that provided financial and organizational assistance to the Ayers effort. Madison was primarily responsible for the \$503,000,000 settlement that was reached in the Ayers Case.

Dr. Madison was married to Carol A. Madison of Memphis, Tennessee. Her son and his stepson, William L. Poston, is serving in the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincere gratitude to the life and legacy of Dr. Madison. This extraordinary man was an unsung hero of his generation, who did not seek recognition but always sought justice. Our country was blessed with his service, strengthened by his faith, and bettered by his devotion to his family and the state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDE-
PENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the twentieth anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence from the Soviet Union.

On December 25, 1991, the United States became the first country to recognize Kazakhstan as an independent nation. Two decades later, Kazakhstan remains an important U.S. partner and a leader in Central Asia.

During the Soviet era, The Kazakh Steppe served as an important testing ground and launch site for the Soviets' nuclear weapons program. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan was left with a substantial nuclear arsenal consisting of over a thousand strategic nuclear warheads as well as delivery systems including intercontinental ballistic missiles and long-range bombers. This stockpile left Kazakhstan as the world's fourth largest nuclear power.

The Kazakh people understood the devastating power of these weapons, having hosted over 500 Soviet nuclear tests. Rather than embrace its new found status as a nuclear power, Kazakhstan, under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, became the first country to voluntarily renounce its nuclear arsenal. The country subsequently signed and ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1994. By 1995 the last of Kazakhstan's nuclear weapons had been transferred to Russia, with substantial assistance from the United States through the Comprehensive Threat Reduction program. Kazakhstan and the United States continue to cooperate through this program to secure remaining nuclear material as well as chemical and biological weapons, including Anthrax, left over from the Soviet era. After twenty years of independence, Kazakhstan remains a leader on the nonproliferation and an example to others that the path to prosperity does not require nuclear weapons.

Upon independence, Kazakhstan immediately began working to reform its Soviet-style economy. Today, Kazakhstan boasts the most

developed economy in the region. The country has the potential to become an energy power house and to provide a stabilizing influence on global markets. In addition, the government's decision to create a National Oil Fund will help ensure that Kazakhstan's mineral wealth benefits the Kazakh people.

Despite its mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is committed to diversifying its economy and as a result has made significant progress toward membership in the World Trade Organization. This progress is exemplified by the recently signed WTO bilateral market access agreement between Kazakhstan and the United States. This agreement will allow U.S. service providers to benefit from significantly expanded opportunities in Kazakhstan's markets once it joins the WTO. Membership in the WTO is good for Kazakhstan as well as for the major American companies that are increasingly attracted to this developing market.

In the months prior to September 11, 2001, President Nazarbayev voiced his concern that the situation in Afghanistan threatened regional security. Soon after the attacks on the United States, Kazakhstan began supporting coalition operations in Afghanistan by providing access to Kazakh airspace. Since 2009 the Kazakh rail network has been a key link in the Northern Distribution Network which provides an increasingly important supply route into Afghanistan. In addition to its support for military operations, Kazakhstan continues to support Afghanistan's development in a number of ways, including by providing Afghan students with scholarships to study at Kazakh universities.

As a result of policies such as those outlined above: the rejection of nuclear weapons, the embrace of economic reforms, and support for allied operations in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan has become a pillar of stability, and an engine of development in Central Asia. This leadership was reflected in the decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to grant Kazakhstan the chairmanship of the organization in 2010.

I respectfully urge President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people to build on this solid foundation by actively pursuing democratic reforms including the development of a free press, an independent judiciary, a robust civil society, and a transparent political system. Democratic development will not only benefit the Kazakh people but will preserve and strengthen the leadership role that Kazakhstan plays in Central Asia and on the world stage.

In the past twenty years Kazakhstan has become a key ally of the United States. As Kazakhstan continues to develop, we must continue to work to build this important relationship. I congratulate President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people on twenty years of independence.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 35TH
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF
BISHOP EDGAR VANN OF SEC-
OND EBENEZER CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in a tribute to my

friend and a distinguished man of the cloth, Bishop Edgar Vann, on the auspicious occasion of the 35th anniversary of his service to Christ and the community as Pastor of Second Ebenezer Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1976, Bishop Edgar L. Vann II assumed the mantle of leadership at Second Ebenezer when, at the time, the congregation numbered less than 100. With great vision and steadfast purpose, Bishop Vann toiled to create the vision of his spiritual calling. By the grace of God, grew the flock of Second Ebenezer numbers to nearly 5000 today. However, Bishop Vann's ecumenical reach extends far beyond the impressive walls of the beloved "Second Eb."

With the good Bishop's message of empowerment and dedication, Second Ebenezer today has grown to be one of Detroit's premier ministries, inspiring its congregants toward the path of life transformation. The inspiration he provides is not just through words and teachings, however. His life's work is an example for us all.

Bishop Vann is not just a builder of better souls, he is a builder and innovator in our community. Established in 1994, Bishop Vann leads the Vanguard Community Development, an institution that has created more than \$80 million of church and of community development in Detroit. Vanguard is leading an entire community toward restoration, healing and empowerment. Bishop Vann preaches extensively throughout the world. He is a mentor, life coach and spiritual father to nearly 200 sons and daughters in the ministry and pastors across the country. His travels have taken him to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Haiti, the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe. With each visit, he brings the powerful word of God to each stop.

But Bishop Vann's labor and great work extends beyond his church and his family. In fact, he serves with distinction on several boards. His civic and community organizations affiliations include: Mosaic Youth Theater, Wayne State University's Research & Technology Park, The Skillman Foundation, Detroit Regional Chamber, Michigan Coalition of Human Rights, Detroit Institute of Arts, Henry Ford Health System, Commissioner for the Detroit Police Department, Habitat for Humanity, and the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. He also served as a consultant and an advisor to governors, mayors, civic officials and corporate executives throughout the great state of Michigan.

A devoted husband and a dedicated father, Bishop Vann has been married to Elder Sheila R. Vann, a gifted woman of God, since 1978. They have two adult children, Edgar L. Vann III and Ericka Monique Vann.

Mr. Speaker, it is too tall a task to fully detail each and every way that Bishop Vann has made a difference in our community, and indeed, the world. We are truly blessed by his calling, and deeply grateful for his dedication and work. I extend my sincerest wishes on this momentous occasion and hope that his gifts to us continue for another 35 years and beyond.

HONORING PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department and to firefighters across this country who are committed every day to keep our communities safe by putting their own lives at risk during times of our greatest need. They each have made the ultimate contribution to our communities—the contribution of personal sacrifice to ensure our safety and well-being.

On February 24, 2012, a house fire in Riverdale Heights, MD, took an unexpected turn for the worse. The Prince George's County firefighters advanced into the home searching for victims. High winds that Friday night are believed to have caused a sudden rush of fresh air into the home, creating a "fireball" that engulfed the firefighters on the first floor and forced the crews to evacuate the structure.

Unfortunately, seven firefighters from three Maryland Volunteer Fire Departments were in-

jured, transported, and treated at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Six of those injured have been released, with one still remaining at Washington Hospital Center's burn unit. On behalf of the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, I want to send my appreciation to these individual firefighters and all their colleagues for their relentless dedication to public service. I would also like to recognize the paramedics and the doctors and nurses at the Washington Hospital Center for their compassionate care and treatment these firefighters received.

I would like to discuss briefly each of these brave men:

Firefighter Kevin O'Toole, 22 years old, a member of the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad remains hospitalized in stable but critical condition with burns over 50% of his body;

Firefighter Ethan Sorrell, 21, of the Bladensburg Fire Department sustained burn injuries to his airway and was released last week;

Firefighter Michael McClary, 19, a member of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department suffered injuries to his ribs and burns to both hands and was hospitalized overnight before being released;

Firefighter Michael Olszewski, 22, of the Riverdale Fire Department sustained burns to the side of the face and was treated and released that same evening;

Firefighter Roberto Ramirez, 21, of the Riverdale Fire Department suffered ear burns and was treated and released that same evening;

Firefighter Michael Naples, 24, of the Riverdale Fire Department sustained ear and face burns and was treated and released that same evening; and

Assistant Chief Ari Schloss, 36 years of age, of the College Park Volunteer Fire Department suffered burns to the hands and was treated and released that same evening.

I have seen firsthand how difficult a job our local firefighters have. They are tasked with the tremendous responsibility of meeting the increasingly diverse needs of growing populations with diminishing resources. Today, our first responders are being asked to be the first line of defense in our war on terror, in addition to carrying out traditional fire and public safety work.

I want to thank them for their commitment to the citizens and families of this great State. They are Maryland's heroes, and they have my utmost respect and support.