EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Budget offered by the Congressional Progressive Caucus. This budget and the others we are considering tonight and tomorrow morning speak volumes about the country we would like to see. The Budget for All is the only budget under consideration that cuts war funding, funding from the bloated Defense budget, and a slew of subsidies for corporations and for the rich.

This bill includes language that mirrors my own efforts in Congress. The first is an example of a corporate subsidy that is rescinded by this budget. It removes the tax deduction for advertising and marketing junk food and fast food to children. We should not be using taxpayer money—about $2 billion every year—to make the childhood obesity crisis even worse for the sake of boosting the profits of the junk food and fast food industry. If this tax break were to be revoked, it has been estimated that the number of overweight children in the U.S. would be reduced by more than 5–7 percent.

This bill also provides relief for states struggling with financial crises by allowing them to move to a single-payer model of health care. If the residents of a state demand it because they want their businesses to be more competitive, they want higher quality health care, and they want coverage for everyone in the state, the federal government should not stand in their way. This is an issue I have worked on for years now. I was able to win, by a bipartisan vote, an amendment to the health care reform bill in 2009 that would have helped states go to a single payer health care system. Though it was stripped out by the Administration, it was one of the first single-payer Congressional victories in U.S. history and it showed there is an appetite in Congress for moving forward.

Finally, and most importantly, this budget provides for full public financing of elections, mirroring a constitutional amendment I have introduced. Public financing of elections benefits the public. Private financing of elections benefits private interests.

I urge my colleagues to support the FY 2013 Budget for All.

HONORING EARL SCRUGGS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Earl Scruggs, who passed away on March 28, 2012. He was a noted banjo player whose style changed the way the banjo is played and whose music will endure for generations.

Born on January 6, 1924 in western North Carolina, Scruggs came into a musical family. His parents, brothers and sisters all had musical talents and traditional music was heard all around him. His love for music started at an early age after watching his older brothers master the banjo, which promoted his interest in playing. The support and practice he received at home with his family produced an artist who would go on to leave an indelible mark on traditional American and bluegrass music.

Scruggs began his remarkable 67-year career in music in 1945 when he began playing with Bill Monroe, the father of Bluegrass music, and his band the Blue Grass Boys. On these earliest recordings, his peculiar style of playing the banjo, which brought out a syncopated rolling rhythm using three fingers as opposed to the old ''clawhammer'' style, was immediately recognized as a fresh approach to playing the instrument. This style has been imitated by so many players that today it is referred to as the ''Scruggs style'' and is the preferred style among many musicians in traditional and bluegrass music. Bluegrass music is an essential part of the heritage of my congressional district in Southern and Eastern Kentucky, and many of the musicians in my region were influenced by him and play the banjo in his style.

In 1948, Scruggs joined forces with band mate Lester Flatt to form Flatt & Scruggs, and the two played together for over 20 years. In the 1970s, he formed the band Earl Scruggs Revue and expanded his audiences into genres where the banjo is not commonly heard, and even shared the stage with many folk, rock, and pop acts of the time, broadening the reach of traditional and bluegrass music. Even those who are not familiar with bluegrass music have likely heard Scruggs' playing on ''The Ballad of Jed Clampett,'' which was the theme song for The Beverly Hillbillies television program, as well as his Grammy Award winning ''Foggy Mountain Breakdown.''

Earl Scruggs was a two time Grammy Award winner, inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor, as well as a recipient of the National Medal of Arts in 1992. His presence on stage will be sorely missed, but his music will last for many years to come.

DR. ROBERT DILLMAN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Dillman, who will be retiring as President of East Stroudsburg University on June 30, 2012, after sixteen years of serving the university and our region. East Stroudsburg University is one of the fourteen state universities that compose the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It offers 7,387 students a world class education. Dr. Dillman, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., came to East Stroudsburg University after several years of experience in higher education, and undoubtedly left his mark. Dr. Dillman demonstrated extraordinary leadership at East Stroudsburg University. By recognizing the importance of science and technology, he positioned the university as a key economic development force in Northeastern Pennsylvania. During his tenure, East Stroudsburg University became the first university in the United States to offer an undergraduate degree in computer security. The university also established its award-winning Business Accelerator Program, which joined the Ben Franklin Business Incubator Network and the University City Science Center's Port of Technology. In addition, President Dillman led the expansion of the Division of Research and Economic Development, which serves as a vital educational resource for technology-based entrepreneurs. Furthermore, he spearheaded the establishment of the university's world-class Science and Technology Center, which houses the departments of computer security and biotechnology, accommodates other sciences with classrooms, equipment, and labs, and is home to a state-of-the-art planetarium and a soon-to-come natural sciences museum.

Dr. Dillman made substantive changes to the campus environment at East Stroudsburg by giving numerous faculty, staff, students, and community members the opportunity to take the world-renowned professional development workshop titled Seven Habits for Highly Effective People, which he brought to the university. As a result, university administrators are better equipped to effectively reach out to students, while the students themselves are more prepared to enter the professional world upon graduation.

Mr. Speaker, today, Dr. Robert Dillman stands as an important bearer of change to Northeastern Pennsylvania and the nation. I commend him for his years of committed service to East Stroudsburg University, his state, and country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SWEENY CIVIC CLUB

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2012, the Sweeny Civic Club, the oldest female civic service organization in Brazoria County, Texas, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding by six Texas women whose goal was to form an organization ''to do good works and charitable deeds.'' I am pleased to congratulate the members of the club on their century of service to the community of Sweeny, Texas.

The Sweeny Civic Club led the effort to create the Sweeney public school system and the Sweeney Public library. Supporting education remains a passion of the Sweeny Civic Club to this day. The club's work to ensure the children of Sweeney obtain a first-class education alone makes them worthy of commendation. However, the Sweeney Civic Club's contributions are hardly limited to education. The Sweeny Civic Club has played a vital role in making sure the people of Sweeny have access to quality health care by working to build and support the Sweeny Community Hospital. They also played a key role in building the Sweeny Cemetery. These are just some of the many ways the members of the club have worked to fulfill their objective ''to promote civic and social improvement through organized efforts and to promote the interests and improvement of the City of Sweeney.''

The highlight of the 100th anniversary celebration will be the unveiling and dedication of ''Lady Civic,'' a life-sized statue of a women dress in 19th century fashion. ''Lady Civics'' symbolizes the Sweeny Civic Club's founders, and is the club's latest gift to the city of Sweeney. This statue is a fitting tribute to all the women who have worked with the Sweeny Civics Club, freely dedicating their time and talents to improving the lives of their fellow residents of Sweeny.

The Sweeny Civic Club's 1900 years of service to their community stands as a shining example of how citizens acting together can better their communities. The Sweeny Civic Club's many accomplishes should serve as model and inspiration to us all. It is therefore my pleasure to offer my congratulations to the Sweeney Civic Club on their centennial and extend my best wishes for many more years of service to the people of Sweeney.

HONORING CARNELL EDWARD SMITH, 54TH ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE OF OMAN TEMPLE NO. 72 OASIS OF FLINT-DESERT OF MICHIGAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carnell Edward Smith on the occasion of the Oman Temple No. 72 Annual Potentate Ball on May 5, 2012 where Shriners in my hometown of Flint, Michigan will celebrate the esteemed Illustrious Potentate Smith.

The Shriners of Oman Temple No. 72 of the Ancient Egyptian Arabian Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine have a long and distinguished 54-year history of charitable work and community outreach that has been a Shrine Organization tradition since 1893. Educational scholarships, illiteracy programs, medical research, anti-drug programs, crime prevention and the fight against the Sickle Cell disease and diabetes are just a few of the contributions Shriners across America have made throughout their long history.

Illustrious Potentate Carnell Edward Smith, who received his Master of Business Administration in 2007, is currently enrolled in a program of applied management and decision science leading to a Doctorate of Philosophy. He has been a dedicated Mason for more than 10 years and it is fitting that this talented community servant is being honored as Oman Temple No. 72 58th Illustrious Potentate.

Carnell Edward Smith serves my constituents on a daily basis as a skilled Internet, data and hardware technology specialist with the City of Flint. Over the years he has been involved in numerous charitable activities benefiting the American Diabetes Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Meals on Wheels and providing Thanksgiving dinner for needy families in his community. Working with a local community group, Illustrious Potentate Smith helped adopt a classroom at Carpenter Elementary School to provide financial support for students. Carnell Edward Smith is a remarkable and accomplished leader and an exemplary model for Shriners and all of us who value community service and civic dedication.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Illustrious Potentate Carnell Edward Smith, a distinguished leader from my hometown of Flint, Michigan who is being honored at the Oman Temple No. 72 Annual Potentate Ball.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote No. 152, I would have voted ''yes.''

BOROUGH OF DUNMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Borough of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, which celebrated its 150th anniversary of being incorporated as an independent borough on April 10, 2012. Dunmore is a vital part of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and it has a proud history.

Although Dunmore was incorporated as a borough in 1862, its roots date back as far as 1783, when founder William Allsworth first settled in the area. Allsworth opened a tavern that served the subsequent settlers and travelers. Like many other communities in the region, Dunmore underwent a great change once anthracite coal became a major source of energy used to power our nation. During the Industrial Revolution, immigrants from Europe settled in Dunmore in hope of starting a new life. In the process, they built a strong community that would last for future generations.

Over the years, Dunmore's men and women have defended this nation in times of conflict. In fact, Dunmore resident, Carol Ann Drazba, was the first female casualty of the Vietnam War when her helicopter crashed in 1966. Dunmore's youth need only to look to NASA astronaut, Paul Richards, who graduated from Dunmore High School in 1982, for inspiration to see what is possible when they are determined to succeed. Rising to the occasion is what Dunmore's residents do every day through their hard work and dedication to improve their community.

Although the trolley cars and steam engines may be gone, many Dunmore establishments have stood the test of time. Financial institutions like Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank and the First National Bank of Dunmore have served customers from their locations on Dunmore Corners for more than 100 years. Also, Dunmore High School, though newly renovated, has remained in the same statuesque building since 1937. In addition, Holy Cross High School resides in the former Bishop O'Hara High School and Dunmore Central Catholic buildings, which were built in 1964. The high school continues to educate students from throughout Lackawanna County under the Diocese of Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, today, Dunmore remains an important community in Northeastern Pennsylvania due to both its history and future. I commend Dunmore's residents for their 150 years of being a vital part of our region, and I wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN JOHN SULLIVAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Sullivan upon the completion of his exemplarily service as Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives. For 25 years Parliamentarian Sullivan's unsurpassed knowledge and dedication to the integrity of his office has proven to be an indispensible asset to the work of this institution.

It is clear that Parliamentarian Sullivan cares deeply for this country. Before becoming Parliamentarian, Mr. Sullivan had served in the Office of the Parliamentarian for seventeen years. He also acted as counsel to the Armed Services Committee, as well as Judge Advocate in the U.S. Air Force for seven years.

Parliamentarian Sullivan has earned the admiration of many through his demonstrated ability to provide essential and unbiased advice which few others could provide. In a town often divided along partisan lines, Parliamentarian Sullivan has faithfully served as the rare voice of independence which has garnered respect from both sides of the aisle. His commitment to his post and colleagues has ensured that the office which he is leaving is sufficiently capable of maintaining his high standard of performance.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues please join me in recognizing the career of House Parliamentarian John Sullivan and wishing him and his family all the best in the future.

HONORING THE SISTERS OF LORETTO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary and continued legacy of the Sisters of Loretto upon their 200th Anniversary and Jubilee. With a current global reach in education ministry spanning multiple continents, the Sisters of Loretto and their extended network spend each day on a spiritual mission to promote peace and justice, environmental stewardship, and, above all, high-quality education for children everywhere.

On April 25, 1812, the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross came to fruition through the humble and steadfast commitment of three American frontier women in central Kentucky named Mary Rhodes, Ann Havern and Christina Stuart. With the long-time counsel and support of local pastor, Father Charles Nerinckx, the women dedicated their lives to communal living and prayer. Little did they know at the time, that their lifetime commitment to teaching local poor children and housing orphans would spur a global movement.

The women's selfless work under extreme frontier conditions inspired scores of other women to join the religious order. In a model of faith and service, the Sisters made their special purpose the education and instruction of girls and young women of every faith and economic means, including those still enslaved under the law. Over the next two decades, membership grew to 130 women overseeing nine frontier schools in Kentucky and Missouri. And over the next century, they founded 99 additional schools in territories that would become 13 different states.

The Sisters of Loretto continued to expand the work of education westward, first by steamboat to Missouri and Louisiana. Then, by wagon train to New Mexico, mail coach to Colorado, and by train to Texas, Arizona and California. Ultimately, the order contributed to burgeoning systems of American education in more than 40 states. In one chapter of Sisters of Loretto history from 1898 to 1922, the visionary leadership of Superior General Mother Praxedes Carty SL brought greater emphasis to women's higher education goals. Mother Praxedes was one of the first leaders of her time to insist that Loretto Sisters would need master's- and doctorate-level educational training for their teaching. In 1916, a time when universities were almost exclusively off-limits to women, Mother Praxedes erected Loretto College for women in St. Louis, Missouri (now known as Webster University).

From being among the first invited women participants at Vatican II to moving toward greater, independent social peace and justice efforts in the 20th century, the organization has had a presence in China (as early as 1923), Europe, South and Central America (Guatemala, Bolivia and Peru), as well as in recent years, Uganda, Pakistan and Ghana, where they co-opened Blessed Trinity Leadership Academy in 2009. The Sisters of Loretto have formed amazing partnerships with local organizations on the ground and have galvanized a network of co-member volunteers. To name a few of its many roles, the Loretto Community NGO has consultative status at the United Nations and comprises a Loretto Hunger Fund, as well as a Committee for Racial Justice. The Sisters have also built memorials for victims of slavery as well as those who have died from AIDS.

Clearly, the trailblazing roots of this frontier organization, have persisted and flourished over the last 200 years. Altogether, the Sisters of Loretto and their colleagues have founded nearly 300 U.S. schools, colleges, centers and service programs, supporting the education and growth of close to one million American citizens. And, as a proud former student of the Sisters of Loretto at St. Joseph School in El Paso, Texas, and 2002 recipient of their Mary Rhodes Award for peace and justice, I know firsthand what their movement for quality women's education has done for our nation, and the world. They planted the seeds for my work for peace and justice. And for that, I am deeply grateful.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I salute the Sisters of Loretto and thank them for their immense service. I congratulate all of you upon this incredible milestone, and join you in looking ahead toward centuries' more work from the Sisters of Loretto in pursuit of education, enlightenment, peace and progress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House on April 16, 2012 due to important commitments in my district.

On rollcall 152, had I been present I would have voted ''yea'' on H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act.

On rollcall 153, had I been present I would have voted ''yea'' on H.R. 4040, providing for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Honorable Donald M. Payne, so that we may commemorate his extraordinary life of dedication and commitment to service.

Born in 1952 in Newark, New Jersey, he graduated from Seton Hall University and pursued post graduate studies at Springfield College. A former English and social studies teacher, he also coached football at Malcolm X Shabazz High School, which was then called South Side High School. He was Vice-President of Urban Data Systems Inc. as well as an executive at Prudential Financial. In 1970, he became the first African-American president of the National Council of YMCAs.

Representative Payne entered public life in 1972 when he was elected to the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Ten years later he was elected to the Newark Municipal Council where he served three terms. In 1988, Donald became the Representative of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, and the first African-American to represent New Jersey in Congress. As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, he was a relentless defender and supporter of education related issues. He was an inspiration and a friend.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Hazel Johnson, and is succeeded by son Donald Jr., daughters Wanda and Nicole, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues please join me in sending our condolences to the family and friends of Donald M. Payne who so faithfully cared for and served his community.

HONORING THEODORA J. KALIKOW

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Theodora J. Kalikow on the occasion of her retirement as President of the University of Maine at Farmington.

Since Dr. Kalikow's arrival at the University of Maine at Farmington in 1994, the university has gained national recognition as one of America's top public liberal arts colleges and is a superior model of educational excellence and academic opportunity.

As President, Dr. Kalikow has overseen the addition of many new degree programs and has presided over the construction of new campus facilities, including a community arts center, an education center, and a residence hall. She has also focused on expanding student opportunities for internships and undergraduate research.

Another of Dr. Kalikow's notable accomplishments at UMF has been her tireless pursuit of high environmental sustainability standards. Under her leadership, the University of Maine at Farmington is now recognized as one of America's ''Top Green Colleges'' by the Princeton Review. Dr. Kalikow's environmental efforts earned her the Green Building Leadership Award from the Maine Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council in 2007.

Dr. Kalikow has received recognition within the state of Maine for her contributions to the community of Farmington and to the state at large. In 2001, she was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. She has also been the recipient of the University of Maine's Maryann Hartman Award and the University of New England's Deborah Morton Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Theodora J. Kalikow for her many years of dedication and service to the state of Maine.

HONORING THE 11TH ANNUAL AMERICA'S YOUNG HEROES CONTEST

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 11th annual America's Young Heroes contest, which honors students who have created visual art, film, poetry and essays to promote self-empowerment and combat bullying. These students have undoubtedly fostered more tolerant communities in South Florida as well as across the country, and I applaud their efforts.

Last year in the United States, nearly 5.7 million middle school and high school students were bullied. Even more tragic is the fact that almost one in five teens who were victims of bullying contemplated ending their own lives. America's Young Heroes provides a vital platform for teens to address these problems in a way that helps promote positive change.

I congratulate the organizers and participants of the America's Young Heroes contest for operating under the shared belief that in America, no child should be afraid to go to school because he or she is experiencing bullying. It is my hope that because of their efforts, we can work towards a future where all schools are a safe place for students to learn and grow.

RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTENNIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's birth. Raoul Wallenberg continues to be one of the most respected and courageous humanitarians to have sacrificed his life to save thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.

Born on August 4, 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden, Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat and a true humanitarian who creatively and courageously came up with measures to protect Hungarian Jews from persecution and death during the German invasion of Hungary during World War II. He hung Swedish flags in front of nearly 30 houses, declaring them Swedish territory—turning these ''Swedish houses'' into protected territory in which Hungarian Jews could seek shelter. He also distributed thousands of Swedish ''protective passes,'' even as some were in the midst of being deported, prompting their release from German authorities and saving their lives.

Posthumously, Mr. Wallenberg has been honored by countries throughout the world in numerous capacities. There are awards, streets, parks and schools named after him, countless memorials erected in his honor, and in 1981, Congress passed legislation to make him an Honorary Citizen of the United States. His life is celebrated annually on October 5th in more than a dozen states. His bravery continues to be an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the birth of Raoul Wallenberg; may his courage serve as a guide to all of us who are committed to the protection of human rights.

REGARDING THE BEHAVIOR OF GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn reckless spending by a group of employees from GSA, the General Services Administration, whose actions are now the subject of multiple hearings in both the House and Senate.

The misuse of taxpayer dollars by these GSA employees is truly deplorable. And it comes at a time when families in Nevada and across our Nation are tightening their belts. The lesson from this outrageous incident is clear: government must spend every penny in ways that serve the American people's interests, not the interests of those entrusted with overseeing the use of these taxpayer resources.

President Obama has acted swiftly in demanding accountability from top GSA officials who failed in their leadership roles and I commend his response to the reckless GSA spending that has been revealed.

Unfortunately, some of the comments that have been made surrounding the GSA scandal are meant to create the impression that Las Vegas itself is part of the problem.

I want to make one thing clear to those looking to use these events as an opportunity to bash Las Vegas or to point fingers in our direction—Las Vegas is not to blame.

Mr. Speaker, it's not where GSA went, it's what GSA spent.

And the issue is not Las Vegas, it's the actions of certain GSA employees who must be held accountable for their stunning lack of good judgment, blatant disregard for cost and for thumbing their noses at the rules.

There is no better destination on Planet Earth for meetings, conferences, or conventions than my hometown. No city does it better than Las Vegas.

And the problem is not the men and women in my community who work in the tourism industry and who provide hospitality to tens of millions of visitors from around the globe each year. These moms and dads bring home paychecks from an industry that is vital to the economy of Las Vegas—the community I represent—and to cities all across Nevada.

So, while I join my colleagues in calling for a thorough investigation into this incident, I hope the focus will remain on the actions of GSA employees and their behavior, and not on the location where these misdeeds took place.

WORLD CIRCUS DAY—APRIL 21, 2012

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 21, 2012 as World Circus Day, a day of celebration when children of all ages celebrate the art, culture, and laughter of the circus. With over 40 countries celebrating, we recognize an art form that not only amazes and entertains, but also builds bridges between cultures and people across the globe.

In 2008, the World Circus Federation was created and established World Circus Day as an opportunity to celebrate circus culture and heritage.

The circus in America is a beloved and enduring art form. For over 200 years, the circus has entertained generations with amazing feats of physical skill, comedy, theater, and music, while exposing us to the cultures and wonders of the world.

Today's circus continues to amaze and inspire children of all ages by bridging generations and cultures in the pursuit of the very best in circus arts and skill. From St. Louis's own Circus Harmony working with urban youth, to the Galilee Circus which uses circus arts to bring Jewish and Arab children together, social circus exemplifies the very best of the circus culture as a means of creating friendships and understanding that transcends borders, economics, politics, and religion.

The great state of Florida is home to many of the best-known and longest-operating circuses in the country, including the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. and Circus Sarasota. Many of these famous circuses and the artists who perform with them call the 13th District of Florida ''home.''

Known as ''Circus City USA,'' Sarasota boasts the world-renowned John and Mable Ringling Museum, the legacy of famed circus impresario John Ringling, whose vision for establishing Sarasota as a thriving cultural center is still alive today. Now under the stewardship of Florida State University, the Ringling Museum is home to a vast collection of European art and sculpture as well as its famed Tibbals Learning Center, home to the Howard Bros. Circus model—the largest miniature circus in the world.

Internationally recognized, our hometown Circus Sarasota is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and continuation of circus arts in our community. Founded by circus great Dolly Jacobs, daughter of famous Ringling Bros. clown Lou Jacobs, and partner Pedro Reis, Circus Sarasota's ''Laughter Unlimited'' program exemplifies the notion that ''laughter is the best medicine,'' reaching out to hospitals and senior centers to bring joy and comfort. Its annual circus performances showcase some of the finest circus talent in the world today.

Circus Sarasota is also home to the Sarasota Sailor Circus, in operation since 1949 and the oldest continuously running youth circus in America.

From the iconic Ringling Bridge across Sarasota Bay to the main thoroughfare Ringling Boulevard, the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey legacy is also ever present. Beginning with John Ringling's decision to relocate

his annual winterquarters rehearsals to Sarasota in 1927, Ringling Bros. remains in many ways synonymous with our area. John and Charles Ringling—two of the five original Ringling brothers who turned a small traveling circus into an international entertainment empire—wielded incredible influence on the economy, development, culture, and character of this same quaint village on beautiful Sarasota Bay.

Now in its 142nd year, and under the stewardship of the Feld family, the Greatest Show on Earth continues to call the Sarasota area home.

Almost everywhere you look in Sarasota, our circus heritage is evident. The ever popular Circus Ring of Fame, established in 1988 at St. Armand's circle, pays tribute to the greats of the circus world, including such Sarasota notables as famed animal trainer, Gunter Gebel-Williams, clowns Lou Jacobs and Emmett Kelley and great artists such as the Flying Wallendas and the Zacchinis.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the generations of circus artists, producers, and animal trainers that call the 13th District of Florida home, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy World Circus Day!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Ohio Chapter.

CAIR is a nationwide, nonprofit organization whose mission is to ''enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.'' For the past ten years, CAIR Ohio has played an instrumental role in helping to bridge the divides between Greater Cleveland's diverse communities.

CAIR Ohio's Tenth Annual Banquet will provide a platform for vibrant discourse led by this year's distinguished speakers: Mr. Faisal Kutty, of Valparaiso University School of Law, Osgoode Hall Law School of York University and KSM Law and Imam Abu Farah of the American Muslim Youth Leadership Council and CAIR-Tampa. I commend these speakers for their efforts to promote civil liberties and social justice.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Council on American-Islamic Relations Ohio Chapter for their tenth years of outstanding achievement. May their efforts to promote dialogue and create a more inclusive world continue to endure.

HONORING THE CHESHIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as a Cheshire resident, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Cheshire Fire Department.

Following a devastating fire at the old Waverly Inn the citizens of Cheshire came together on the 13th of February, 1912 to discuss how to protect their community from the threat of fires. This first community meeting would lead to the organization of the Cheshire Fire Department on February 27th of that year and the chartering of its first twenty-seven members a month later. The Department's first call would come that April to respond to a chimney fire at the home of one of the Department's trustees, Mr. A.S. Bennett.

Over the past century the Cheshire Fire Department has grown from its original hand-drawn Chemical Cart and Hook and Ladder Truck (the Department wouldn't have a motorized Fire Truck until 1916) to a modern force with seven engines and several other vehicles across three stations. Throughout its history the Department has remained an organization deeply connected with the community it serves. The 100 firefighters of the Department are all volunteers who dedicate their time, and risk their lives, for the safety of their neighbors. In fact, Fire Chief Jack Casner is the first paid career fire chief in the Department's history.

The volunteers and professionals of the Cheshire Fire Department continually strive to provide the utmost level of safety and security to their community. As the north side of Cheshire has seen a dramatic growth in business development, the Department has initiated plans to open a fourth fire station in north Cheshire to improve response times and quality of service. This ability to adapt and expand while remaining focused on the needs of the community has characterized the Cheshire Fire Department throughout its now 100-year history and is why the Fire Department is the oldest continually operating municipal department in Cheshire.

In reflection of the 100 years of tireless dedication to community and public safety in Cheshire, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring this 100 year anniversary of the Cheshire Fire Department, the lives and properties saved by its efforts, and the daily risks its volunteers take to protect the town of Cheshire.

CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIAM HENRY ''BABE'' WOOLARD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send warm regards to Mr. William Henry ''Babe'' Woolard who celebrated his 90th birthday on February 29, 2012. Babe is in the very unique position of being born during a Leap Year and on Leap Day. In fact, he celebrates his birthday only every four years so he has only experienced 23 actual birthdays.

Babe was born to Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ida Woolard on February 29, 1922 in Williamston, North Carolina and is one of six children. Like many in eastern North Carolina, Babe went in to farming and was a farmer for the Lilley Families in the Lilley's Quarter section of Williamston. Later, he inherited the Woolard family farm located in the Farm Life Community of Williamston and Babe and his son Willie continue to farm the land today.

Like many Americans of his generation, Babe was called to serve his country during World War I. He bravely defended the United States and its allies against the tyranny perpetrated by the Axis of Evil by serving in the U.S. Army with the all Black 3,685th Trucking Division. I commend him for his bravery and thank him for his selfless service to this great country.

When he returned from his service in Europe with the U.S. Army, Babe married Ms. Verna Mae Brown. The two reared seven children together—Hattie, Verna, Dianne, Mary, Doris, Angela, and Willie—and they settled back in Babe's hometown of Williamston. Babe and Verna Mae were married for 70 wonderful years filled with love, caring, and compassion until she passed away on June 20, 2011.

Babe is many things, but above all else he is a man of God. He has attended Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Williamston most of his life. The fellowship and community provided by his church has sustained Babe through the highs and lows of life. I admire his faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. William Henry Woolard on his 90th birthday—or his 23rd birthday. No matter how you add it up, Babe has always lived his life to the fullest. May he celebrate this and many more birthdays in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE LILLIAN W. BURKE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the Honorable Lillian W. Burke, the first African American female judge in the State of Ohio.

Judge Burke was born in 1917 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1946, she graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in education and subsequently began working as a teacher in Cleveland Public Schools. While teaching, Judge Burke also attended Cleveland Marshall College of Law. She graduated with her law degree and passed the Ohio Bar in 1951.

Soon thereafter, Judge Burke served as the assistant attorney general for three years before being appointed to the Ohio Industrial Commission. Judge Burke was appointed to the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1969. She served on the bench until her retirement in 1987.

In addition to her trailblazing career as a judge, Judge Burke was deeply involved in the Greater Cleveland community. She worked with the Cleveland Restoration Society, City Planning Commission, Cleveland Foundation African-American Outreach Advisory Committee, National Council of Negro Women, City Club and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Judge Burke also set up the Lillian Walker Burke Scholarship for students of John Marshall College of Law.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of the Honorable Lillian W. Burke. Her career will continue to serve as an inspiration for years to come.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, I am pleased to recognize April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. It is critical that we raise awareness of this debilitating disease and continue to work towards discovering treatments and eventually, a cure.

As the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, it's estimated that there are between 500,000 and 1.5 million Americans living with Parkinson's and as the baby boomer generation ages, this number will only increase.

Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease that debilitates those living with Parkinson's and affects their families, as well. There is no therapy or drug to slow its progression and a cure has yet to be found. As the loved one of someone afflicted by Parkinson's disease, I witnessed personally the toll that Parkinson's disease took on my father. As a result, I know firsthand that we must provide support to the loved ones, caregivers and researchers attempting to improve the welfare of those living with Parkinson's.

I call for continued research funding to identify treatments and a cure. I also applaud the many advocates, medical staff, volunteers, and organizations who work tirelessly to advance the quality of life for those living with Parkinson's disease and their loved ones.

STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE (STOCK) ACT

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Representative LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER to note the end of a successful journey in good government reform. Six years ago, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act was introduced for the first time in the House of Representatives. We reintroduced this bill for the fourth time on March 17, 2011 and a little over a year later, we are proud to see the language we introduced to ban insider trading, signed into law.

Since the President signed the bill (S. 2038, 112th Congress; P.L. 112–105) on April 4th, 2012, we would like to submit for the record our intent in regards to banning Congressional insider trading with the STOCK Act. This overwhelming bipartisan legislation is a significant accomplishment for Congress, and we would like to have the record state our original intent.

Though Members of Congress and their staffs, executive branch employees, and federal judges and other federal judicial employees were not exempt from the insider trading prohibitions at the time, we deemed it important to affirm explicitly that no such exemption existed and that these individuals do in fact owe a duty of trust and confidence to the U.S. government and the American people. [See, e.g., Statement of Robert Khuzami, SEC Director of Enforcement, to Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (Dec. 1, 2011); SEC v. Cheng Yi Liang, et al., Exchange Act Rel. No. 21097 (March 29, 2011 (bringing insider trading charges against a FDA employee alleging that he violated a duty of trust and confidence owed to the federal government under certain governmental rules of conduct when he traded in advance of confidential FDA drug approval announcements); United States v. Royer, 549 F.3d 886 (2d. Cir. 2008) (affirming a conviction of an FBI agent for tipping information about ongoing investigations and information on law enforcement databases); SEC v. John Acree, Litigation Rel. No. 14231, 57 SEC Docket 1579 (Sept. 13, 1994) (announcing a settled action with a former employee of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency for trading on the basis of material non-public information concerning banks); United States v. Rough, Crim. No. 88–425 (D.N.J. 1988) (indictment of former New York Federal Reserve Bank member for revealing highly sensitive nonpublic information regarding changes in the Fed's discount rate); SEC v. Saunders, Litigation Rel. No. 9744, 26 SEC Docket 75 (September 2, 1982) (announcing settled action with the former Director for Communications for a division of the Naval Electronics Systems Command for purchasing securities while in possession of material nonpublic information concerning a contract award); Code of Conduct for United States Judges, Canon 4(D)(5) (stating "A judge should not disclose or use nonpublic information acquired in a judicial capacity for any purpose unrelated to the judge's official duties"); Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees, Canon 3(D) (stating "A judicial employee should never disclose any confidential information received in the course of official duties except as required in the performance of such duties, nor should a judicial employee employ such information for personal gain.").]

In affirming that the insider trading prohibitions applied to these individuals in the same way they apply to everyone else, we made it perfectly clear that nothing in the Act—not the affirmation of the duties, nor the instructions to issue interpretive guidance, nor the interpretive guidance that may be issued as a result—can be construed to limit or impair the construction of the antifraud provisions of the securities laws or the authority of the SEC under those provisions. We included an unambiguous rule of construction applicable to the entire Act, as well as unambiguous savings clauses in the amendments being made to the Exchange Act, that make that clear.

Thus, when the Act instructs the Ethics Committee, Office of Government Ethics or Judicial Conference of the U.S. to issue interpretive guidance to clarify that government officials cannot use nonpublic information as a means for making a "private profit", this is not intended to—and in fact does not—limit or more narrowly define any insider trading requirements that currently exist in the law, nor limit or more narrowly define any ethical prohibitions that may currently exist. Similarly, when the Act says that nothing in the Act shall be in derogation of the obligations, duties or functions of Members or employees of Congress, this is not intended to permit Members or staff to use this provision as a shield to forestall liability for insider trading.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. TYRONE "HAWK" HAWKINS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Tyrone "Hawk" Hawkins, who worked for over two decades at the Parmadale Institute, a facility that provides a modern, safe, and secure residential and behavioral health treatment environment for adolescents.

Mr. Hawkins was born on April 21, 1952 as the fourth child to Thomas and Ethel Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1971. In 1976, he earned a degree in Social Work from Cleveland State University.

Mr. Hawkins had a passion for working with children, which led him to begin a career at Hillcrest School in Cincinnati. In 1990, Mr. Hawkins began working at the Parmadale Institute, helping thousands of children with their behavioral health needs. Mr. Hawkins' compassion and understanding were a constant at Parmadale, where he often stayed long past closing time talking to the children and staff.

I offer my most sincere condolences to his wife, Jacqueline; daughter, Tanisha; and his grandchildren. Mr. Hawkins will be dearly missed by his family and friends, especially the staff and children of Parmadale.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Tyrone Hawkins, who served the children of his community with love and devotion.

HONORING MARIA ANTONIA "TONI" JUAREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Maria Antonia "Toni" Juarez, a devoted teacher and friend to the community in South Texas. Ms. Juarez modeled the virtue of charity throughout her lifetime and the impact of her care for children and those in need will resonate even after her passing.

As a Laredo native, Ms. Juarez was active in the community. At the young age of six, she was already involved in assisting her parish, San Jose Church by teaching catechism. Her Saturday mornings were dedicated to cleaning the Church and her evenings were spent practicing choir or participating in meetings devoted to Saint Theresa. She graduated from Saint Augustine High School in 1953 where she met her husband, Beto Juarez and married a year after graduation.

Ms. Juarez resumed her education at the University of Texas between 1967 and 1969 while serving as Preschool Head Teacher in

the City of Austin Child Development Program. Her family, including her six children and husband spent another academic year, 1969–1970, in Guadalajara. While in Mexico, she continued to catalogue archival materials and to serve as preschool consultant and trainer at the American School of Guadalajara and completed Montessori training by correspondence. The couple and their six children then moved to Davis, California from 1970 to 1975 where she was offered the job of Preschool Head Teacher. In 1975 she was appointed Regional Education Coordinator at Woodland for the Butte County Schools. Even though she was working full-time, she managed to obtain her Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development from Sacramento State University in 1974.

In 1975, the family returned to Laredo where Ms. Juarez was appointed Child Development Program Director for the city of Laredo. She became a full-time graduate student thereafter and earned her Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and Reading from Laredo State University in 1987. Her work as a kindergarten teacher at United Independent School District in 1987–1988 was one of the most enriching experiences. Offered a position as adjunct instructor at Laredo State University, she jumped at the chance of training future teachers to carry out the work she loves in child development.

One of Ms. Juarez's greatest commitments was her contribution to the Laredo Children's Museum Board of Trustees, having served as a member of the board since the early 1990s. Simultaneously, she was devoted to teaching religious courses to San Martin de Porres Church and Adult Education and Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Laredo until her passing.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Antonia "Toni" Juarez. Her devotion to children, her family and the community have truly impacted many lives.

HONORABLE RICHARD CONABOY AND MRS. MARION CONABOY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Honorable Richard Conaboy and Mrs. Marion Conaboy, two of the 2012 recipients of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service. This award is presented annually by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County and given for a person's contributions to the region throughout the years. The Neighborhood Housing Services serves individuals and families through homeownership education and promotion, property rehabilitation and affordable lending.

For more than half of a century, Judge Conaboy served as a fair jurist and an extraordinary community leader. The Conaboys, as a couple, have mastered the public-private partnership. While Judge Conaboy served on the bench, Mrs. Conaboy served as the matriarch of a large and loving Scranton family. They are the parents of 12 children and grandparents of 48 grandchildren.

Judge Conaboy earned his bachelor's degree in 1945 at the University of Scranton and graduated from the Catholic University of America in 1950 with a law degree. In addition, he is a former chairman of the Board of Directors of the University of Scranton, Marywood College, and the Scranton School District. During his six decade career, Judge Conaboy has serviced clients at the local, state, and federal level.

Furthermore, Judge and Mrs. Conaboy are both deeply admired for their strong faith and continual devotion to family. Together, they have served our community loyally as they continue to serve their family.

Mr. Speaker, today, the Honorable Richard Conaboy and Mrs. Marion Conaboy stand as leaders in northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend them for their years of admirable service to our community and country, and I wish them continued success in the future.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE SHENOUDA III

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Orthodox Church, who was a religious and spiritual leader.

His Holiness was born Nazeer Gayed on August 3, 1923, in Egypt. Actively involved in the Church throughout his entire life, Pope Shenouda III joined the Coptic Orthodox Seminary after graduation from Cairo University.

On July 18, 1954, His Holiness became a monk, and later a monk priest, and was known as Fr. Antonious El-Syriani. He then became a hermit and lived in a cave for a period of six years. On September 30, 1962, he was consecrated Bishop of Christian Education and President of the Coptic Orthodox Theological Seminary.

On November 14, 1971, His Holiness was consecrated as the 117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark. During his tenure as Pope, His Holiness worked tirelessly on behalf of the youth of the Church. He also published 101 books throughout his life spreading the message of the Coptic Church worldwide.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the tireless work and life of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, and his dedication to the Coptic Orthodox Church.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS A. GLAZE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Thomas A. Glaze, a retired Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, who died on March 30, 2012, in North Little Rock, Arkansas, surrounded by his family.

Judge Glaze served a total of 30 years on the bench, 22 of them on the Supreme Court of Arkansas. He was an advocate for fair elections, for legal assistance for the poor, for foster children, and for all children. He taught law and coached young boys' baseball teams, gaining inspiration from the boys he coached. He was a champion of the underdog, the underserved, and his community, and his family was always his first love.

The per-curiam order memorializing his judicial career which was adopted by his colleagues on the Court upon his retirement sums up Justice Glaze's career.

> Justice Glaze is known by his colleagues in the legal community as a defender of those unable to protect themselves. A voice for children in need, he was an early proponent of foster care reform in this state. Justice Glaze advocated for the establishment of full-fledged courts for children's issues and has long encouraged the appointment of attorneys ad litem to represent children. John F. Kennedy said, ''let the public service be a proud and lively career''. It has been so for Justice Tom Glaze. To analogize his legal career to the game of baseball, which has always been close to his heart, Tom Glaze pitched a ''complete and perfect game''.

Judge Glaze leaves his wife Phyllis, his daughters, Julie Glaze Houlihan (John), Amy Glaze, and Ashley Glaze (Brett), and his sons Mike and Steve. I'm privileged to know Steve, who is married to my Washington Chief of Staff, Terri. Judge Glaze was also the devoted grandfather of eight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest and most sincere sympathy to Steve and Terri Glaze and the entire Glaze family. Our nation has lost a man of justice who loved his country and its Constitution, and whose public life and service stand as a national model of a true patriot.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 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 $15,654,638,525,397.64. We have added over 5 trillion dollars to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PEACE AND PROSPERITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on tax day, remember the ramifications of waging wars abroad. In 2011, thirty-nine percent of our income tax dollars went to the Pentagon and war; only 9% for trade, commerce, education and employment programs.

The Center for Arms Control-Proliferation estimates that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost the average family of four almost $13,000. National unemployment rates continue to be between 9 and 10%, while our families struggle to pay their mortgages, send their kids to school and feed their families.

Compared to the approximately $159 billion budgeted in Fiscal Year 2011 for wars, the $6 billion Congress budgeted for the Workforce Investment Act—primary federal program supporting workforce development—is paltry.

We have nearly 23 million Americans either unemployed or underemployed, and about 5.5 million who are who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or more. Wake up America, wars are ruining our economy.

On tax day, remember our government has a responsibility to use our money wisely, not to waste hard-earned tax dollars on unnecessary wars.

The answer to war and economic decline is peace and prosperity.

SUPPORTING PROTECT YOUR PHARMACY NOW! WEEK

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the fifth annual Protect Your Pharmacy Now! week. With pharmacy crime on the rise, it is important to acknowledge this problem and reflect on ways to improve safety measures.

The Protect Your Pharmacy Now! initiative offers resources to help pharmacies protect themselves and deter criminal activity. I applaud the National Community Pharmacists Association for making these resources available and for engaging and educating local pharmacies on this important issue.

As we have seen most recently with the tragic incident in my district, it is essential to protect pharmacies and the general public from these dangerous situations. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach to eradicating these crimes, I am committed to working with pharmacies, law enforcement and my colleagues to address and eradicate this growing problem.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Andrew Ryan McKelvey for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Andrew organized the collection and distribution of thousands of pairs of socks and underwear for men, women, and children in need. Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Andrew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDRIA CITY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE, YOM HASHOAH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Alexandria City's 25th anniversary of Days of Remembrance, Yom HaShoah, for the victims of the Holocaust. We are reminded by the words of Elie Wiesel, that ''for the dead and the living, we must bear witness.'' Bearing witness means standing by the victims of the monstrous event that was the Holocaust, and doing everything possible to ensure it doesn't happen again.

There is a moral imperative for those of us who, but for the luck of birth, benefit from peace and prosperity. Thus we also have the responsibility to speak out for those who face the atrocities of starvation and oppression. In honoring the victims, and by lifting up the survivors, we bear witness to all victims of genocidal aggression and violence by states or transnational agents of terror.

Unfortunately, genocide has not been eradicated. In the Sudan, the crisis continues. Sudan President Omar al-Bashir is currently blocking humanitarian and food aid to the South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei regions along the border of South Sudan. Military action in the region has prevented the Sudanese people from growing and planting food, threatening starvation.

The Government of Sudan's serious human rights violations have continued across different parts of the country over the last decade. It is a tragedy, and an atrocity, and we must stand together to stop what is occurring.

''Never again'' is a declaration of personal commitment. We can do nothing, and nothing will change. Likewise, we can stand up, to fight back—to make things better. On this, the 25th Anniversary of Alexandria's Days of Remembrance, let us rededicate our resolve to ending this modern day genocide, as one of the best ways to honor those who perished decades ago from the inhumanity of their fellow man.

RECOGNIZING MS. LUVENIA BREAUX

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Luvenia Breaux, a New Orleans resident and a member of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps during World War II. Today, I wish to publicly pay tribute to Ms. Breaux's service to our country as her family celebrates her life and mourns her passing at the age of 94.

Members of the Women's Army Corps were the first women other than nurses to serve within the ranks of the United States Army. Their contributions to the war effort are widely heralded. After completing her service in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, Ms. Breaux returned to Louisiana and dedicated her life to serving the children of New Orleans. Described as ''the kind of person who saw a need and was aggressive enough to act on it,'' as the cafeteria manager in the 1950s, Ms. Breaux instituted a free breakfast program for students at Mcdonogh No. 24 Elementary School because she realized that a proper breakfast would increase the students' ability to learn. She also went to the homes of students who were falling behind academically to encourage and support their academic development. Ms. Breaux was a member of the Second Free Mission Baptist Church for 90 years. Family and friends fondly remember her striking hats that she wore to church.

Ms. Breaux successfully raised and mentored five children, ten grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her powerful legacy will live on in each of her surviving relatives and will continue to inspire the many members of the community whose lives she touched.

I wish to join with Ms. Breaux's family in celebrating her exemplary life.

A TRIBUTE TO NICK A. KELLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nick Keller of Ames 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 past century.

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. Nick's project was to build a covered shelter along Ada Hayden Lake's highly traveled pedestrian trail on the outskirts of Ames. The work ethic Nick 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 Nick 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.

TRIBUTE TO ERLEEN DIDIER

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of Mrs. Erleen Didier, a beloved community leader, wife, mother, great grandmother, great-great grandmother, and friend to all in my Congressional district of Lancaster, California.

On March 13, 2012, the community of Lancaster, and the greater Antelope Valley, said goodbye to a member of ''our greatest generation.'' She passed peacefully and now resides in the hearts and minds of her family and the people that she touched throughout her life.

Mrs. Didier is survived by her eight children: Mary, Joe, Katie, Pat, Ruth, Annie, Clete and Mickie, 18 grandchildren and four great grandchildren that will miss her dearly. Mrs. Didier is reunited with her husband, Cletus, who passed in June 1992.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the lifelong achievements of Mrs. Erleen Didier. Without question, in her lifetime, the community of Lancaster has been made better by her contributions and are worthy of recognition by the House of Representatives today.

CONGRATULATING PAUL GRESKY

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Paul Gresky on reaching the 15,000 mark in teaching the Hunter Education Certification. His lifelong commitment to safety instruction is an invaluable contribution to Colorado citizens and the responsible upholding of our 2nd Amendment rights. We are grateful for the countless hours he has dedicated and the leadership Paul has exhibited to better Coloradans.

Since 1974 Paul has educated our community in the safety necessary for firearm owners. In 1983 Paul began serving Coloradans as a Master Instructor, receiving Instructor of the Year in 1985. Now Paul has successfully reached the 15,000 mark. All of these are impressive feats. I commend Paul for his service, not only because of his work teaching the Hunter Education Certification, but also because of his work in educating the Boy Scouts of America who are involved in the National Rifle Association's marksmanship and home firearms responsibility programs

Colorado is greatly indebted to individuals like Paul who continue to promote the safe and responsible use of firearms. I commend him for his work and wish him the best as he continues to make Colorado a safer place.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BRYAN GRAVELINE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Graveline of Ames 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 past century.

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. Robert's project transformed an unused grassy area into a prayer garden for the St. Cecilia Church in Ames. The garden required a great deal of landscaping mastery and includes a walking path among the various plantings. The work ethic Robert 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 Robert 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. Thank you.

SUPPORTING THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, some of my distinguished colleagues claim that we must cut spending to protect the future of our country and our children. But what costs are we willing to incur with reckless cuts to a critical program that has helped 46 million Americans stay fed? If we cut SNAP, we will be throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Children make up nearly half of the Americans who rely on food stamps. SNAP continues to play an instrumental role in our nation's economic recovery, helping millions of struggling American families to feed their kids. With SNAP, students across the country can start each day well-fed and ready to learn.

There's no question that SNAP works. The best way to shrink the program is not through funding cuts, but by making the American dream a reality for all Americans once again. If we truly want to protect our children's future, we cannot steal food off their dinner tables. To protect our future, we must protect SNAP.

DR. FRANK A. BUCCI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Frank A. Bucci, one of the 2012 recipients of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service. This award is presented annually by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County and given for a person's contributions to the region throughout the years. The Neighborhood Housing Services serves individuals and families through homeownership education and promotion, property rehabilitation and affordable lending.

Dr. Frank A. Bucci is an internationally recognized expert in refractive and cataract surgery. After completing his residency at the Albany Medical Center and the Jersey Shore Medical Center, he graduated medical school in 1985 from New Jersey Medical School in Newark, New Jersey. Dr. Bucci is a pioneer in refractive surgery, having performed the first RK, AK, PRK and LASIK procedures in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania. He performed almost 8,000 refractive surgeries, in addition to performing almost 25,000 other microsurgical ophthalmic procedures. Additionally, Dr. Bucci's peers voted him as one of the top 50 ophthalmologists in the United States, as published in Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today.

In May 2003, Dr. Bucci founded the Hospice of Sacred Heart, which seeks to bring peace and joy to those facing their end-of-life journeys. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for this non-profit organization.

Mr. Speaker, today, Dr. Frank A. Bucci stands as a role model in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend him for his years of committed service to his patients, community, and country, and I wish him continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO TYLER CONLON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Conlon of Sheffield for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Tyler is the first Eagle Scout honored by Troop 24 of Sheffield, Iowa since 1948.

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 past century.

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. The work ethic Tyler has shown in his Eagle 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 Tyler 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. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF SARAH RANGEL GUTIERREZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a role model, loving wife, mother and grandmother, Sarah Rangel Gutierrez. Sarah passed away on April 3,

2012, she was nearly eighty-seven years old. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to her family, especially Jimmy who has been a friend.

Sarah was born in Santa Ana, California, and raised in Pomona along with her three brothers and sister. Their childhood was shaped by the Great Depression, which brought the family together and taught Sarah valuable lessons about the importance of a strong family. Sarah attended public school in Pomona through the ninth grade. At school, she learned to speak English fluently, which allowed her to be a lifelong translator for her mother, who only spoke Spanish.

At the age of 18, Sarah married Jesse Gutierrez, who, at the time was a soldier in the U.S. Army, fighting during World War II. Her husband contracted tuberculosis during the war, leaving him hospitalized and unable to care for their children until 1948. During this time, Sarah raised her children by herself. Sarah's strong Catholic faith helped her through these tough times. Although life was not easy for Sarah, she had a unique way of keeping her family together and their spirits high.

Even after raising her children, Sarah selflessly devoted her life to caring for others. While Sarah was raising her family, her mother and brothers lived within blocks. She was able to visit her mother daily, and watched as she took care of her mentally ill sister. Sarah followed the example of her mother when her own daughter, Teresa was born with down syndrome. Sarah cared for her daughter until she was no longer able. Her selfless giving has taught her children and those around her the important lesson of loyalty, which stays with them to this day.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to a wonderful woman. Let us celebrate the wonderful life she led. Although she is no longer with us, her legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone she has touched.

Sarah was preceded by the death of her husband Jesse, her eldest son, David, and her youngest daughter, Teresa. She is survived by her son, Jimmy and his wife, Mona, as well as her daughter, Christina, and her husband Marc. She leaves with cherished memories a loving family of 7 grandchildren, Monica Gutierrez, James Gutierrez, Sonia Dombroski, Cai Steffler, Tres Steffler, Annette Gutierrez and Josephine Gutierrez. May we all be so lucky to live a life full of love for her family. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto City Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Sarah's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Sarah Rangel Gutierrez.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NATHAN BENDERSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Nathan Benderson, the Chairman of the Benderson Development Company, who recently passed away at the age of 94.

Born in Buffalo in 1917, Nathan Benderson was a true visionary who leveraged a bottle-salvaging company he created in the midst of the Great Depression as a teenager into one of the Nation's largest privately held real estate companies. Mr. Benderson personified the American ideal of ingenuity and coupled that with an unwavering commitment to charity.

The Benderson Development Company, founded six decades ago in Buffalo, is now among the largest and most diverse developers in the Nation. During that time, Nate Benderson helped transform the real-estate landscape in western New York, constructing many retail plazas and office buildings that still exist today. The company's holdings include shopping centers and malls, office buildings, industrial space, hotels, and raw land. In all, the company owns and manages roughly 500 properties—35 million square feet in 38 States—and employs more than 8,000.

Even with all of his achievements and successes as a real estate magnate, Nathan Benderson will be remembered for his indelible commitment to philanthropy. In addition to his work at the development company, Mr. Benderson was a tireless humanitarian who supported an array of causes, including Jewish-related charities, those that helped the poor and the frail elderly, and animal rescue organizations in Florida and New York.

Mr. Benderson created a $2 million endowment for programs at Buffalo's Johnnie B. Wiley Amateur Sports Complex and was a major benefactor for Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo Zoo, SPCA Serving Erie County, Variety Club, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Food Bank of Western New York and Center for Hospice and Palliative Care.

The breadth and depth of Mr. Benderson's generosity are on a scale that is unmatched in western New York. Even after his death, Mr. Benderson's charitable work will continue through the Benderson Family Life Insurance Legacy Initiative, a foundation he created which has in excess of $130 million in assets to support numerous organizations well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me and with members of the House to express our deepest condolences to the family of the late Nathan Benderson, and join with me in lauding the many good works Mr. Benderson performed during his long and full life.

A TRIBUTE TO BRADY BRINKMEYER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brady Brinkmeyer of Ames 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 past century.

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. Brady's project involved an extensive landscaping renovation of the chapel entrance at Riverside Bible Camp near Story City where he has spent several past summers himself. The work ethic Brady has shown in his Eagle 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 Brady 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. Thank you.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the prestigious Engineering Inspiration Award as well as the Website Award at the Pittsburgh Regional ''For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (F.I.R.S.T.)'' Robotics Competition on March 8 and 9. I also want to congratulate them for winning the Innovation in Control Award at the Queen City Regional F.I.R.S.T. competition in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 5 through 7.

As the founder of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I am a proud supporter of F.I.R.S.T. and the tremendously important purpose it serves in introducing young people to the fields of technology and engineering. Through its mentor-based programs, F.I.R.S.T. will inspire nearly 300,000 students this year while providing them with confidence, leadership, and communication skills. It is critical that we continue to encourage young people to get involved in these fields if our country is to remain competitive in the global economy in the future. The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition instills a sense of pride in the individuals who participate in it and allows them to apply their natural creativity in the demanding and competitive field of robotics.

The Engineering Inspiration award is given to the team that best advances appreciation and respect for engineering through recruitment and outreach within their community and is the second highest team award F.I.R.S.T. bestows. It also qualifies the Girls of Steel to compete in the National competition in St. Louis at the end of April. The Website Award is presented to the team that best demonstrates excellence in a student-designed, built, and managed F.I.R.S.T. team website. The Innovation in Control Award celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components to provide unique machine functions.

The Girls of Steel beat over 40 other robotics teams in receiving the two awards in Pittsburgh, and they beat over 50 other robotics teams in receiving the Innovation in Control award in Cincinnati.

I would like to mention each of these dedicated young women by name. They are Christina Ambrosino, Sonia Appasamy, Katie

Ashwood, Jaden Barney, McKenna Barney, Tammy Bevilacqua, Elizabeth Bianchini, Claire Brunson, Dakota Calvert, Abby Ceraso, Rachel Clapper, Ananya Cleetus, Claudia Contreras, Kaylie Cullison, Maureen Deken, Laurel Donatelli, Mackenzie Ferris, Kiran Gaulee, Naoka Gunawardena, Grace Handler, Heather Harrington, Rosanne Harrison, Kathryn Hendrickson, Erin Higgins, Samantha Holland, Imani Horton, Natalie Janosik, Campbell Konrad, Elizabeth Kysel, Sylvie Lee, Shana Leshko, Murong Li, Serena Mani, Mansi Mann, Pragna Mannam, Elise Medeiros, Grace Mitro, Sruthi Muluk, Lindsay Myer, Remy Niman, Raina Oravec, Olivia Parks, Jennifer Rickens, Kaylyn Rocher, Alex Roth, Rachel Round, Chelsi Sayti, Katelin Shreve, Amrita Singh, Jessica Slain, Nancy Soliman, Lauren Spence, Lynn Urbina, Bryce Volk, Rebecca Volk, Molly Walsh, Giulia Watkins, and Melanie Young.

Pittsburgh is proud of the Girls of Steel for their hard work and dedication to the fields of robotics and engineering and for inspiring others within their community to get involved in this important industry. I wish them the best of luck in St. Louis in April and congratulate them once again on their continued success in the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition.

RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest award that can be bestowed by this body—to Raoul Wallenberg on the centennial of his birth.

The story of Raoul Wallenberg's work as an official with the Swedish Embassy in Hungary working in conjunction with the American War Refugee Board is one of bravery, heroism, and ultimately, self sacrifice.

Though Raoul Wallenberg's fate remains a mystery to this day, his legacy can be seen in the tens of thousands of people who survived the war by virtue of his efforts—including my late colleague and friend Tom Lantos and his wife Annette.

Of the 120,000 Hungarian Jews that survived the Holocaust, Raoul Wallenberg, acting under the War Refugee Board, is credited with saving an estimated 100,000 of them in a six-month period.

This year, both Sweden and Hungary celebrate "Raoul Wallenberg Year" to mark the 100th anniversary of Wallenberg's birth.

These nations will pay tribute to Wallenberg's courageous work by holding conferences, concerts, exhibitions, and other events to commemorate and educate people about the role he played helping to save the remainder of Hungary's Jewish community.

I hope my colleagues join me in honoring the memory of Raoul Wallenberg and the innumerable individuals and their descendants that he helped save.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members of the House to vote for this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO DEAN A. VANEVERY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dean VanEvery of Ames 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 last century.

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. Dean's project was to renovate a nature trail at Brookside Park in Ames, which required serious rehabilitation after flooding had left the trail covered with large amounts of debris. The work ethic Dean 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 Dean 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. Thank you.

OBSERVANCE OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in recognition of Equal Pay Day, a day that spotlights the financial struggles that women must endure because of wage discrimination and the need to close the gender-based wage gap once and for all.

The answer is simple. Women should be paid equal wages to their male counterparts: pay discrimination is unfair, unwarranted and costly.

Equal pay is not only a fight for women, but for the families that depend on them. Women are the primary or co-breadwinners in six out of ten households; yet earn only 77 cents to every dollar paid to men. With smaller paychecks, women are forced to stretch limited dollars even further to provide healthcare, food, and shelter for themselves and their families.

According to a report by the National Partnership for Women & Families, women across the country are collectively losing tens of billions of dollars annually because of wage inequity. Over a 40–year working career, the average woman loses $431,000 as a result of the wage gap. This picture is even worse for African American and Hispanic women, who earn 71 cents and 62 cents respectively for every dollar men are paid.

In the 21st century, it seems unbelievable that equal pay is controversial. Yet, just last week, Wisconsin signed into law legislation to repeal provisions of the 2009 Equal Pay Enforcement Act. This Congress has the opportunity to build on the progress made by the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—legislation to strengthen pay discrimination lawsuits and the first bill ever signed into law by President Obama. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act clarified that each paycheck resulting from a discriminatory pay decision would constitute a new violation of the employment nondiscrimination law and restart the clock for filing a claim.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation currently being considered in this Congress, would go even further to fight pay discrimination and improve wages for women. The Paycheck Fairness Act, sponsored by my friend and colleague Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, would strengthen the Equal Pay Act by requiring an employer to prove that a difference in pay between a man and a woman for the same position is not sex-based. The legislation would also bring the equal pay law into line with all other civil rights law by increasing the available remedies to include punitive and compensatory damages. As a cosponsor, I believe the Paycheck Fairness Act is essential legislation to address the lingering injustice of pay inequity.

As our economy shows signs of revival, women and their families must not be left behind. We must send a strong message that pay discrimination should not stand.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES NATHANIEL RICHARDS, 2012 MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize James Richards of Jamul. James was named the recipient of the 2012 Military Child of the Year Award, which honors military children who stand out among others in their community.

The candidates must demonstrate good character, and excel within both military and civilian communities. James embodies all of the qualities and more.

Each year, more than 1,000 nominees are considered for this award. The recipient is chosen by a committee including those currently in the military, Family Readiness Support Assistants, teachers and others. After choosing the winner, the award is given to one military child from each branch of service.

Anyone who knows James is aware that he is extremely involved in his community. He started a blog to help deal with members of his family being deployed. Currently 87 military children follow his blog daily. James also started the anti-bully committee at his school, which meets once a week to discuss ways to prevent bullying in schools.

James is one American who is making a difference by lending a helping hand to others. Last year, James volunteered over 200 hours during Christmas season at the USO collecting toys for less fortunate children and wrapping stockings to send to the troops. After

collecting gifts he would assist with babysitting for those parents while they picked out gifts.

I cannot say enough about James. He is a truly admirable young leader. Without question, he is setting a good example and is a role model to others. I want to thank James for his continual dedication and congratulate him on the Military Child of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing James Richards and wishing him continued success in all future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JOEL H. UHLMEYER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joel Uhlmeyer of Ames 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 past century.

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. For his project, Joel chose to make various improvements at the Ames Izaak Walton League. He felt this unique project was an important way to give back to the Ikes for supporting Scouting and outdoor activities. The work ethic Joel 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 Joel 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. Thank you.

MR. SHERMAN WOODEN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Sherman Wooden, one of the 2012 recipients of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service. This award is presented annually by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County and given for a person's contributions to the region throughout the years. The Neighborhood Housing Services serves individuals and families through homeownership education and promotion, property rehabilitation and affordable lending.

Mr. Wooden grew up in Montrose, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Elk Lake High School, and went on to receive both a bachelor's and master's degree from Howard University in Washington, DC. Additionally, he attended the Catholic University of America for doctoral studies and pursued graduate work at the University of North Carolina, University of Maryland, New York University, and Harvard University.

Before joining the faculty at the University of Scranton as the Director of Multicultural Affairs, Mr. Wooden worked as a public school teacher and a lecturer at Howard University and the Catholic University of America. In 2010, Mr. Wooden retired from the University of Scranton and now dedicates his time to serving his community. Currently, he is the principal resource for information about the role of the Underground Railroad and the African-American population in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Furthermore, Mr. Wooden serves on several boards, including the Board of Trustees of Lincoln University, Friends of the Weinberg Library Advisory Board, and the Board of Friendship House in Scranton. In the past, he served on the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission for African-American Affairs and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, and he served as president of the Council on Community Affairs and the Old Mill Village Museum.

Mr. Speaker, today Sherman Wooden stands as an icon in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend him for his years of remarkable service to his community and his country as an educator, author, and lecturer, and I wish him continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO TANNER MICHAEL KNOWLTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tanner Knowlton of New Hampton 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 past century.

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. The work ethic Tanner has shown in his Eagle 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 Tanner 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. Thank you.

HONORING DR. ROBERT A. CORRIGAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert A. Corrigan and recognize his contribution to higher education, civic engagement and the application of university expertise to community issues. Dr. Corrigan is retiring as the President of San Francisco State University.

One of our nation's leading public urban universities, under Dr. Corrigan's leadership, San Francisco State University has become acclaimed for its diversity and is known as a "college with a conscience." With nationally recognized programs in a range of fields, the more than 212,000 graduates have contributed to the economic, cultural and civic fabric of San Francisco and beyond. Dr. Corrigan has been a dedicated supporter of the partnership between San Francisco State and the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, located in my district. Through research, education and outreach, and with a focus on San Francisco Bay, the Romberg Center works to advance the understanding of the world's complex marine environments.

A graduate of Brown University in Rhode Island, Dr. Corrigan earned his master's and doctoral degrees in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania. During a 54-year career in academia, Dr. Corrigan has held faculty positions at the University of Iowa, Bryn Mawr College, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. He was a provost at the University of Maryland and Dean at the University of Missouri, before becoming chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Starting at San Francisco State University in 1988, during a period of transition, Dr. Corrigan restructured the management of the university to build a better rapport between administration and faculty. A leader with considerable collaborative skills, he has worked hard to keep the campus competitive through careful management of funds during difficult budget cuts. A well-respected colleague and administrator, Dr. Corrigan presided over a major overhaul of the campus, funded with a $120 million facilities bond measure, student fees and private fundraising. Recently, the university opened its newly renovated library and there are plans to build a new performing arts center as well as a student wellness center.

A champion of diversity in higher education, Dr. Corrigan is credited with building a model multi-cultural campus focused on social justice and equity. Where people of color constitute 70% of the student body and 41% of the faculty, Dr. Corrigan nurtured a culture of tolerance where differences are respected and debated peacefully on campus. He is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the 2009 San Francisco Business Times "Most Admired CEO" award and the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League.

A keen advocate of civic engagement, Dr. Corrigan has served on the boards of a variety of organizations, such as the Mayor's Children, Youth, and Families Policy Council, two

terms as chair of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, the San Francisco Economic Development Corporation, and the California Historical Society Board of Directors. Among several active memberships, he is currently serving on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Anchor Institutions Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Corrigan is a man of remarkable talent and considerable commitment, he will be missed in the community and at the university, but we honor him today and wish him well in his next endeavor. Congratulations, Robert Corrigan, and thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO R. LUCIA RIDDLE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of R. Lucia Riddle as the Vice President of Federal Government Relations for the Principal Financial Group.

Ms. Riddle joined Principal in 1974 as a management trainee in the health division and quickly began rising through the company. By 1997, Lucia had obtained her M.B.A. from Drake University and had officially assumed her role as Principal's Vice President of Federal Government Relations in Washington D.C.

Principal Financial Group is a well-respected, worldwide company that has called Des Moines its home since 1889. More than 8,000 Iowans are employed by Principal Financial Group and thousands more do business with this great company renowned for its honest and professional reputation. As Vice President of Federal Government Relations, Lucia expertly assumed the responsibility of directing legislative and advocacy efforts with a focus on the company's life and health, privacy, tax and financial services issues. Every day, Ms. Riddle played the important role of representing thousands of Iowans, and the company itself, as a valuable and effective spokesperson to members of Congress.

In addition to her role at Principal, Lucia is a member of several insurance and financial service industry related technical and policy committees for numerous organizations, as well as serving on multiple boards across the country, from the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art to the Des Moines Art Center. Recently in 2011, Ms. Riddle received the President's Award from the Washington Government Relations Group and this year has been named as one of Savoy Professional Magazine's ''Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America'' for the second time since 2008.

Over her 38 year career with Principal, Ms. Riddle has embodied the ideals of leadership and dedication by assuming several roles above and beyond the call of duty. Lucia is a testament to the high quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans. I invite the members of the House to join me in wishing Lucia a long, happy and healthy retirement. Thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN KEACH, SR.

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, John Keach Sr. Led a Consequential Life.

John Keach Sr. was many things. He was a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. But I rise because John Keach Sr. led a consequential life and by his actions he left this community and this state better for having been here.

The life of John Keach, Sr. has been marked by accomplishments over decades that have brought about a greater quality of life to Columbus and the surrounding areas. Though he will be missed by his family and friends, John will long be remembered for his tremendous impact.

A native of Seymour, Indiana, John was born to Glenn and Lucile Kessler Keach on July 7, 1927. Before serving in the United States Navy during World War II, John graduated from Shields High School. In 1950, John graduated a Bulldog from Butler University and then married his beloved Elaine. After working under his father as a teller at the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association in Seymour, John and Elaine moved from Seymour to Columbus where John helped develop the Columbus branch of the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.

John held many positions at what is now known as the Indiana Bank and Trust Company, serving as a teller, branch manager, president, CEO, Chairman of the Board, and Chairman Emeritus. John also held positions in the Indiana League of Savings Institutions, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, and the Family Financial Life Insurance Company.

Outside of his business ventures, John sought to make Columbus and Bartholomew County a better place to live, and his efforts are felt to this day. John was a member of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and received the Distinguished Service Award in 1960 and the Community Service Award in 1969. John also served as a Trustee and President of the Bartholomew County Library and played a crucial role in the development of the Cleo Rogers Memorial County Library.

John served on the Bartholomew County United Way, the Columbus Economic Development Board, the St. Columba Catholic Church Council, the Columbus Elks Lodge #521, the Knights of Columbus and the Columbus American Legion Post #24, among others.

Blessed with a loving family, John is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elaine, their four children, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, as well as his sister Kathe Caplinger.

It is written, ''the Lord is close to the broken-hearted,'' and that will be our prayer for his beloved wife, family and all those who mourn the passing of John Keach, Sr.

The people of Columbus have lost a true giant from our community and our family has lost a friend. The life of John Keach, Sr. has come to an end but his legacy of leadership and character will endure and inspire for generations to come.

HONORING ROEHL TRANSPORT FOR 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND GROWTH

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization called Roehl's Transport, which is celebrating its 50th year in business in 2012. I congratulate them for this historic achievement.

Their extraordinary growth since 1962 exemplifies what can be achieved through teamwork and the American spirit. The Roehl Way of Protective Driving has won the ATA President's Award in both 2008 and 2011, and their initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has earned the EPA's ''Smartway Award for Excellence'' multiple times.

I am honored to congratulate Roehl Transport on their 50th anniversary and extend my thanks for efforts to improve our nation by making our highways safer and advancing our air quality.

TRIBUTE TO NADINE BERG ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a long-time member of my staff, Nadine Berg, who recently retired from a career of service on the Hill. Nadine started with my office as a legislative assistant in 1995 and then served as my Legislative Director from 2004 until this year. During her entire time in my office, she served as a constant source of cheerfulness during many long and difficult days. Despite her many responsibilities, she always took the time to give assistance and a kind word to other members of the staff, interns, and constituents.

Nadine's service in Congress did not start in my office, but rather when she started working for former Congressman Bill Lehman of Florida less than a month after graduating from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1975. She began her career on the Hill as a Legislative Correspondent in Congressman Lehman's office and worked for him until he retired from Congress at the end of 1992.

Nadine was not only a great asset to my office and the other offices she worked in, but she was also a great asset to the people of the South Bronx and Southern Florida, for whom she worked for so long. Her knowledge of Congress and dedication to working long hours until every detail was resolved ensured that every issue, no matter how large or small, was properly addressed.

In particular, her expertise in appropriations issues and the appropriations process was vitally helpful in my work on that committee. This expertise along with her passion for the environment helped to clean up the Bronx River and many other places in my district. When she began working on the Bronx River it was a neglected urban waterway, and no one believed that it could be cleaned up. However, her dedication and belief in improving

the environment led to it becoming a beautiful urban waterway, one that can be enjoyed by all its neighbors as a ribbon of green, recreational space. It has been so transformed that it is now home, in the center of the Bronx, to a beaver. Overall, her dedication to her work meant that my constituents were well represented in Congress and that federal money was well used in the Bronx.

Nadine will be greatly missed in my office and her departure will be felt in my district. However, I know that she has a loving family at home, and will be happy taking care of her grandchildren. I am sure that her commitment to public service will continue and that she will make a difference in whatever else she decides to turn her hand to next. In closing, I would like to again thank her for her service, and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING VILLAGE OF SISTER BAY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Village of Sister Bay in Door County, Wisconsin. Settlers first arrived in 1857, and the village was incorporated in 1912.

That same year, the village suffered from a drought, a heavy hailstorm, a grasshopper invasion, and a severe fire that consumed most of the businesses at the center of the village. The Village of Sister Bay not only endured these challenges, but also sought new opportunities. The community became a major shipping location for early steam and sailing vessels, and commerce thrived year round.

Mr. Speaker, the Village of Sister Bay embodies all of the finest qualities of Door County. In the early days, the community stood out as a tourist destination. Today, tourism continues to flourish in the Village of Sister Bay with small storefronts, restaurants, art galleries, and a beautiful marina that gives visitors a reason to keep coming back to this wonderful community.

Again, I congratulate the Village of Sister Bay on its 100th anniversary, and encourage all residents in northeast Wisconsin to celebrate this community's history and heritage on June 8–9, 2012.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO EDNA ECKLUND

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Edna Ecklund on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which was on April 14, 2012. Edna celebrated with family and friends on Friday, April 13, 2012, at the Kindred Healthcare facility in Dyer, Indiana.

Mrs. Ecklund was born on April 14, 1912, in Crete, Illinois. She is the oldest of three children born to Henry and Clara Reichert. Her family later moved to Indiana and lived on a farm between Crown Point and Lowell. On June 5, 1931, Edna married Clarence Ecklund, and they lived in various locations throughout the region over the years. In 1962, Clarence and Edna moved to Schererville, Indiana, where Edna remained until relocating to her current residence. Edna worked most of her life as a millinery salesperson for the Edward C. Minas department store in downtown Hammond, Indiana, before moving to the store's River Oaks location in nearby Calumet City, Illinois. Edna, who retired in 1974, has always been known as an outstanding saleswoman with an exquisite fashion sense.

In addition to her successful career, Mrs. Ecklund was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for many years. She is also a member of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Highland, Indiana. Edna has many friends and family who share a common respect for her commendable qualities, including her vigor, sense of humor, and kindness. Edna, an avid musician, has played both the organ and the piano for many years. A truly remarkable woman, Edna's dedication to her career and her involvement in her community is exceeded only by her devotion to her amazing family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Edna Ecklund on this special day and in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday!

HONORING MR. JOHNNY BARNES UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ACLU OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Johnny Barnes, who, after ten years as the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area, is retiring. Johnny's tireless advocacy and his outstanding leadership, passion, and integrity during his service with the ACLU have brought about a more fair and just society.

Johnny's advocacy efforts also include strong support for DC Statehood and working to get the residents of Washington, DC, a true vote in Congress. Washington, DC, residents pay the second highest per capita federal income taxes in the United States but have no vote on how the Federal Government spends their tax dollars and no vote on important issues such as health care, education, Social Security, environmental protection, crime control, public safety, and foreign policy. Johnny is determined to educate citizens everywhere about taxation without representation for the more than 600,000 Washingtonians who live in the shadow of the United States Capitol Building.

Since joining the ACLU of the National Capital Area, Johnny has led several successful efforts to promote the rights of all people. People expect and deserve a fundamental right to privacy. Johnny fought the proliferation of video surveillance cameras in majority-minority communities in Washington, DC. He also fought for the rights of honest people against warrantless searches police checkpoints. Throughout his time with the ACLU, Johnny has given a resounding voice to those who could not be heard.

Before joining the ACLU, Johnny enjoyed a distinguished career supporting several Members of Congress in senior positions. From 1984–1990, Johnny served as the Chief of Staff to Washington, DC, Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy. From 1992–1995, Johnny served as Senior Counsel and Legislative Director to Congressman Lucien E. Blackwell from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and from 1995–2000, Johnny served as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton who represented the First Congressional District of North Carolina; the same Congressional District that I have the distinct honor of representing today.

Johnny graduated Cum Laude from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and from the Georgetown University Law Center. He has shared his passion, understanding and expertise in law with countless students as Law Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, the Potomac School of Law, and Antioch School of Law.

Johnny's work as a professor, seasoned Congressional staffer, and leader of the ACLU of the National Capital Area deserve recognition from this august body. I am confident that he will continue to be a strong advocate for civil rights wherever his interests and dedication to the community lead him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Johnny Barnes on his retirement from the American Civil Liberties Union.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF NWIHRC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHRC will celebrating its 10th Anniversary by hosting a gala dinner and banquet on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

The Indian American Cultural Center, which opened on March 9, 2002, was established with the following goal in mind: to foster peace and harmony amongst the people of Northwest Indiana by showcasing their cultural heritage and creating spiritual awareness in both young people and adults, as well as to engage in various charitable events, both nationally and locally. Since its inception, the Indian American Cultural Center has been instrumental in educating Northwest Indiana's citizens on the traditions and customs of the Indian heritage.

The members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHRC are to be commended, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their commitment to making improvements that benefit all mankind. Proceeds from this year's gala will go to support The Arc of Northwest Indiana, located in Hobart, Indiana. The Arc of Northwest Indiana

works diligently to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. In the past, proceeds from the gala have gone to such noble causes as cancer research, educational scholarships, the American Red Cross, tsunami relief, and to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Kashmir, India, and most recently, the Carmelite Home for Girls.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the board and members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHRC for their outstanding contributions to society. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

HONORING TADASHI YAMAMOTO

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Tadashi Yamamoto. At the age of 76, Mr. Yamamoto died from cancer on April 15, 2012. He left behind four sons, four daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren. He left behind a legacy and enduring partnership with his friends in the United States.

As Japan rose in world influence in the 1960s and '70s, Tadashi Yamamoto created one of his country's first nongovernmental organizations in the field of international affairs. In 1967, he organized the first Shimoda Conference, designed to bring together U.S. and Japanese leaders to discuss issues of mutual interest to both countries. Out of that conference, he founded and became president of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). Since 1970, JCIE has enabled more than 1,000 U.S. and Japanese political leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue and problem-solving, strengthening our relationship and paving the way for decades of productive endeavors.

In February 2011, Mr. Yamamoto, recognizing the necessity for continued bilateral cooperation, decided to revive the concept of a frank discussion between political, business, and media leaders. He convened the New Shimoda Conference in Tokyo. I was pleased to lead the bipartisan, bicameral U.S. delegation to that historic event. Less than one month later the depths of the U.S.-Japan relationship were affirmed by the outpouring of assistance in the wake of the devastating earthquake in March 2011.

Tadashi Yamamoto was a pioneer. In the decades before the Internet brought together people from diverse cultures to connect and exchange ideas, inspired individuals like Tadashi Yamamoto built bridges that made our world stronger. At a time when both countries were in the midst of change and protest, discovering post-war identities and ideals, Tadashi Yamamoto made our world safer. He led us to a brighter future. The United States and Japan has a distinct partnership today because of his vision, and those like him, who work tirelessly and optimistically toward peace and security for all of humanity.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me and the House delegation to the New Shimoda Conference, Congressman TOM PETRI, Congresswoman NITA LOWEY, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS and Steve Davis, and Congresswoman MAZIE HIRONO, in remembering Tadashi Yamamoto. May his work and his legacy live on in continued cooperation between the United States and Japan and the open exchange between our leaders.

JOE LYLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joe Lyle for his distinguished service to the Savannah Rural Fire Protection District in Missouri. Joe is one of the founding board members for the district, and has served 32 years as the board's chairman.

During Joe's tenure as chairman, the district has overseen the construction of three new fire houses and purchased numerous fire trucks and fire equipment. The district has also acquired top of the line safety equipment to assist in the protection of the residents of the district. Joe's leadership and vision have been instrumental to the district's efforts to expand service and protection to the community. Joe has also been heavily involved in organizing fire protection services to the communities surrounding the City of Savannah.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Joe Lyle, a dedicated volunteer, whose service to the Savannah Rural Fire Protection District is to be commended. I wish to congratulate Joe on his contributions accomplishments and I am honored to serve him in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY GUAM CORPS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salvation Army Guam Corps for their 20 years of community service to the island of Guam. Since their establishment on Guam in 1992, the Salvation Army has built a strong network of services to individuals and groups in need of assistance in our island community.

The Salvation Army is an international nonprofit organization that provides non-discriminatory humanitarian support throughout the world. In 1992, the Salvation Army Guam Corps was started by Lieutenants Ted and Debby Horwood. Since then, several Corps Officers have assumed the leadership of this organization on Guam. From July 1995 to June 2006, Captains Dave and Linda Harmon were instrumental in expanding the Salvation Army's size and services. After the Harmons relocated from Guam in June 2006, Captains Brian and Leticia Saunders served as Corps Officers for Guam until June 2007, and were succeeded by the current Corps Officers, Captains Thomas and Christina Taylor.

The Salvation Army has offered a variety of humanitarian services to the people of Guam. Its Family Services Center provides emergency assistance to families in need of food, clothing, rent or utilities, and donates toys to more than 1,500 children on Guam during the Christmas season. The Salvation Army also runs the Lighthouse Recovery Center, which began as a 16-bed residence for substance abuse recovery in 1998 and has since expanded to a state of the art facility with a bed capacity of 30. The Lighthouse Recovery Center facility is also utilized for after school activities, day camp, summer camp, youth councils, and the annual Community Thanksgiving Feast, which feeds more than 1,100 people in need. The Salvation Army also actively participates in the Guam Homeless Coalition's annual island-wide Homeless Count and Passport to Services programs, which assists our island's homeless community as well as those at risk of becoming homeless. Further, the Salvation Army Thrift Store offers clothing, furniture, and other household goods to the community at a low price.

Over the last 20 years, the Salvation Army has coordinated with federal and local officials in providing disaster recovery and relief assistance through its Emergency Disaster Services Team. This team has assisted Guam residents whose homes and belongings were destroyed as a result of natural disasters, by donating thousands of dollars of food, clothing, and supplies. Further, the Salvation Army provided humanitarian services to Kurdish refugees who were evacuated from Iraq to Guam as part of Operation Pacific Haven in 1996, and also supported Burmese refugees who were seeking political asylum in 2000.

The Salvation Army has worked with many local community organizations and businesses in their charitable efforts, including the Guam Symphony Society, the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, the Guam Women's Club, the Guam Council of Women's Club, the Soroptimist International of Guam, the Guam Naval Officers' Spouse Connection, the Andersen Officers Souses Club, Chinese Ladies Association, Korean Women's Association of Guam, KUAM Care Force, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Guam, Marine Corps Toys for Tots, the Guam Homeless Coalition and the Council on Homelessness, Bank of Hawaii, Citibank, First Hawaiian Bank, and Wells Fargo Financial.

I congratulate the Salvation Army Guam Corps on their 20th anniversary, and I commend them for their years of providing humanitarian services to the people of Guam and the Micronesia region. I also commend the efforts of the Corps Officers, Advisory Board Members, and all volunteers, for their commitment to the mission and vision of the Salvation Army. I look forward to the continued growth and expansion of this organization for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING POLICE CHIEF WILLIAM VILLANOVA FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 POLICE CHIEF OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief William Villanova for receiving the

2012 Police Chief of the Year award from the Illinois State Crime Commission and for his thirty-five years of exceptional service to the citizens of Oak Lawn.

Chief Villanova first joined the Oak Lawn Police Department on March 22nd, 1977, and quickly earned the respect of officers and village officials alike with his caring, methodical, and unselfish work. In his first year alone, Chief Villanova made 7 felony arrests and 11 misdemeanor arrests, and issued 52 traffic and 74½ village ordinance citations. Continuing his record of excellence, Chief Villanova went on to earn several awards of distinction including the Police Club Officer of the Year in 1991 and the Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Award of Merit in 1997.

In addition to his many achievements, Chief Villanova has also bravely served in times of great danger. In 1978, Chief Villanova negotiated with an estranged spouse to diffuse a hostage situation which resulted in the victim being released unharmed. Also, in 1980, Chief Villanova persuaded a suicidal subject to surrender. And in 2005, Chief Villanova successfully prevented an armed robbery of an Oak Lawn jewelry store. I speak not only for myself, but also the community, when I thank Chief Villanova for all of his hard work and dedication to the Village of Oak Lawn.

Chief Villanova has touched countless lives as a police officer, leader, and mentor. It is fitting that such an upstanding member of society should receive the high honor of Police Chief of the Year. This prestigious award is cause for celebration for Chief Villanova and his family, including his wife Linda, three children, and five grandchildren. Please join me in congratulating Police Chief William Villanova for his outstanding achievement and career of service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDING TAX BREAKS FOR DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2012

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, while the Augusta National Golf Course is known as a premier golf course and for hosting the Master's tournament, the club is also known for its discriminatory policy of denying women membership. Yet Augusta is not the only 'boys club'—over 20 other clubs throughout the country prohibit women from joining.

In addition to these unfair and unjust policies, Augusta and other clubs around the country are benefitting from federal tax breaks that allow deductions of business-related entertainment, business meals, and business expenses associated with travel and meetings. The government currently indirectly subsidizes discrimination by allowing tax deductions when individuals and corporations do business at private clubs that discriminate. It is simply outrageous that taxpayers barred from joining these clubs are forced to pay for business expenses associated with them. This is why I am reintroducing the Ending Tax Breaks for Discrimination Act of 2012 so that clubs that discriminate will not be subsidized by the government. This legislation would deny all deductions for business expenses associated with the use of a club that discriminates on the basis of sex, race, or color. Discriminatory clubs will have to state on their receipts that their expenditures are nondeductible.

It's time to end tax breaks for discrimination—plain and simple.

MRS. LOIS KELLY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LOU BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Lois Kelly, one of the 2012 recipients of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service. This award is presented annually by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County and given for a person's contributions to the region throughout the years. The Neighborhood Housing Services serves individuals and families through homeownership education and promotion, property rehabilitation and affordable lending.

After creating a legacy of community service in her own family, Mrs. Kelly worked with the Country Day Nursery School. The school has been serving the community for over 40 years. During this time, Mrs. Kelly provided guidance and encouragement to generations of children in northeastern Pennsylvania.

In addition, Mrs. Kelly was the first woman elected to the Dunmore Borough Council. She passionately advocated for community spirit and spent her career trying to encourage women to engage in the political process and community service.

Mr. Speaker, today, Mrs. Lois Kelly stands as an example of selflessness to her family and community in northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend her for years of dedicated service to our children, community, and country, and I wish her continued success in the future.

WISHING EUGENIA MUROS MALLIS OF SUMMIT A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eugenia Muros Mallis who will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 2, 2012. Known as Jennie to her family and friends, Mrs. Mallis has been devoted to children's bilingual education in Summit, Illinois for many years.

Born in Slimnitsa, Greece on May 2, 1912, Mrs. Mallis immigrated to the United States in September of 1927. Becoming an American citizen on February 19, 1928, she immediately kindled a strong relationship with her neighborhood Greek-American community. She married her loving husband, Constantine J. Mallis, on April 22, 1934. After settling in the Chicago suburb of Bedford Park with her three daughters, Jennie's love of children led her to seek employment with the local area school district. As a teacher's aide in an English-as-a-second language program at Walsh Elementary School in Summit, Illinois, she helped children translate their native languages into English. Mrs. Mallis worked with hundreds of immigrant students from countries such as Albania, Greece, and Yugoslavia to help them overcome a challenging educational barrier.

A devout Christian and active member in the Chicago-area Greek Orthodox community, Mrs. Mallis is one of the founders of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Justice, Illinois. She is active in many fellowship and philanthropic organizations including the Brotherhood of the Grammos, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Philopticos, and the American Legion. She also enjoys classical music, reading, baking, and spending time with her three daughters and her granddaughter.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois and the students who have benefited from her dedication, it is my honor to wish Eugenia "Jennie" Muros Mallis a happy and healthy 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GABRIEL BERHANE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today joined by my colleague, Congressman JAMES MORAN, of Virginia's 8th District, to recognize Command Sergeant Major Gabriel Berhane for his 29 years of exemplary service to our nation in the United States Army and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary dedication to country and sacrifices exhibited by our men and women in uniform. CSM Berhane possesses each of these qualities in abundance.

Since enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1983, CSM Berhane has consistently excelled while honorably serving in every position in the Armor and Cavalry field from Dismounted Scout to Command Sergeant Major. Other than Sergeant Major of the Army, there is no higher rank; a soldier who attains the rank of Command Sergeant Major is the epitome of success and professionalism. And while it is impossible to detail each of the remarkable events in CSM Berhane's illustrious career, let us highlight some of his more recent achievements and actions that should serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

Between August 2000 and June 2002, CSM Berhane served as a Sergeants Major Course Instructor, in which he provided pivotal instruction and mentorship to more than 750 Senior Noncommissioned Officers. In this role, he provided invaluable insight into the management of the academy and implemented an in-depth Standard Operating Procedure that was a critical component of the accreditation of the academy and the continued professional development of our military leaders.

From June 2002 to March 2004 CSM Berhane served as Squadron Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry

which consisted of more than 900 personnel assigned to four ground and three air troops. He ensured the overall readiness of more than 400 vehicles, helicopters, and equipment. While deployed, CSM Berhane led a task force of 1,241 personnel during Operation Iraqi Freedom without losing a single soldier. CSM Berhane was commended for establishing and enforcing standards of combat readiness, training, morale, and discipline for the unit during eight months of intense combat operations.

From March 2004 to January 2009, CSM Berhane served as Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. He oversaw command and control, planning, training, maintenance, deployment and combat readiness of the Brigade, ensuring the overall readiness of more than 1,230 vehicles and managing the deployment of more than 3,800 personnel to Iraq as part of the surge initiative. While deployed during this time, CSM Berhane personally led more than 300 combat patrols and increased retention standards by 40%, earning the Commanding General's Top Brigade Retention Award for the Division.

Most recently, in 2009, CSM Berhane was assigned to USAG Fort Belvoir as the Garrison Command Sergeant Major, and he has skillfully assisted in the execution of one of the largest BRAC missions within the Department of Defense. He has provided direct leadership and management to a staff of 120 soldiers and 558 civilians to ensure the effective operations, installation management and base programs and services that provide support to 9,500 soldiers, 27,000 family members, 100,000 military retirees, and 50,000 DoD employees of 145 partner agencies. CSM Berhane has worked closely with Garrison Commanders to maintain and enhance the excellent relationships that exist between Fort Belvoir and local communities and governments that have been impacted by BRAC.

CSM Berhane is a highly decorated officer; his awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal (w/"V" Device); Bronze Star Medal (w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster); Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal (w/6 Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Achievement Medal (w/6 Oak Leaf Clusters); Good Conduct Medal (8th Award); National Defense Medal (w/Bronze Star); Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Services Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon (w/Numeral Four); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Ribbon (w/Numeral Five); United Nations Medal; Presidential Unit Citation Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal; Parachutist Badge; Drill Sergeant Badge and Combat Action Badge. CSM Berhane is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and also a recipient of the Order of Saint George.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in commending Command Sergeant Major Gabriel Berhane for his unwavering dedication to duty in peacetime and in combat. CSM Berhane's accomplishments and expertise have contributed immeasurably to our national defense and security, and he has earned the admiration, respect, and gratitude of all Americans. We also thank CSM Berhane's wife, Connie, and their children, Jasmin, Michael and Rashawn, for their support and sacrifices over the years. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement filled with continued success.

ON THE BIRTH OF TALLON WILLIAM LENIHAN

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my Legislative Director, Brian Lenihan and his wife Keagan, on the birth of their son, Tallon William Lenihan. Tallon William was born at 3:15 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012, in Washington, DC.

Tallon William Lenihan is nine pounds and one ounce of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Michael and Marilyn Lenihan of Seminole, Florida, and Barclay and Lorita Resler of McLean, Virginia.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Lenihan family and wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LITERARY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Literary Council of Northern Virginia.

Founded in 1962, the LCNV is the oldest literacy program in the state and one of the largest literacy councils in the nation. Throughout its 50 years of service, the LCNV has adapted to the growing needs of the Northern Virginia community to serve adult learners at the lowest literacy level. By empowering approximately 1,600 adult learners to better participate in their communities, the LCNV is ensuring the economic success of hundreds of local families for a lifetime.

With the help of more than 1,000 volunteers, the LCNV has become one of the more efficient and effective community-based literacy organizations in the country. In FY2011, these trained volunteers provided more than 31,000 hours of service, which amounts to an average of 84 hours of volunteer service per day. Their longstanding partnerships with community organizations such as Crestwood Elementary School, Woodlawn Elementary School, and the Lorton Senior Center, ensure neighborhood ties that foster educational growth for the whole family.

Following an economic downturn, adult education becomes a low priority for many low-level literacy adults. Even in the face of this, the LCNV's programs saw improved retention and attendance rates. This last year, it also added a credentialed Special Education teacher to its staff to ensure a learner-focused education for any adult with learning differences.

Recognized for the second time as "One of the Best Small Charities in the Washington, D.C. Region" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy, the LCNV is continually lauded as a successful and valued partner in the community. It has been acknowledged for its leadership in human rights and cultural diversity through numerous awards, including the Virginia State Reading Association's Annual Literacy Award, the Virginia Foundation's Award for Volunteering Excellence, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission's James B. Hunter Human Rights Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. Its values of Integrity, Innovation, Respect, Collaboration, and Excellence have propelled it to success for the past 50 years and will continue to carry the Council through the next 50 years. I also want to express my gratitude to the LCNV staff, Board of Directors, and countless volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to empower neighbors of our community to develop basic skills of reading, writing, and speaking English.

HONORING GUARIONE DIAZ ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CUBAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great south Floridian and a dear friend, Guarione Diaz, who after 34 years as President and CEO of the Cuban American National Council is retiring. He leaves behind an immense legacy of service. Fleeing Castro's tyrannical regime in 1961, Guarione left his native Cuba and immigrated to the United States. While working odd jobs, he graduated with a degree in sociology and philosophy from St. Francis College in New York. He later received his masters in social work from Columbia University. Guarione first worked for New York City's Department of Employment and the Community Development Agency, where he held numerous management positions. In 1972, Guarione was invited by Father Mario Vizcaino to join CNC. Initially named the Cuban National Planning Council, the Council was the first non-profit organization conducting research on the socio-economic needs of Cuban Americans in the United States. In less than a decade, the Council transformed itself to address the educational, housing, employment needs of all Hispanics.

I have had the privilege to have worked with CNC on numerous occasions. From preschool programs to internships to employment services and low-income housing, CNC has helped prevent so many in our community from slipping through the cracks. It has been a tremendous asset and support system for so many in our south Florida community. Not only has CNC assisted those who have fallen on hard times, they have also nurtured the next generation of Hispanic leaders.

Even though his public persona has been as head of the Cuban American National Council, I consider Guarione a part of my extended family. Given that he has been friends with my dad for nearly 50 years, he has been a dear part of my life for as long as I can remember. His life has always been marked by a sense of responsibility towards those most vulnerable in our society. Guarione's entire professional career has been centered on this mission.

Whether it's his work with community organizations, such as the National Association for the Hispanic Elderly, National Council of La Raza and the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability, Guarione has never forgotten his roots or commitment to provide help for those who most need it. In many ways, his experiences as a Cuban exile have informed so much of what he has done. As a fellow Cuban-American, I know the indelible mark that is left by the struggles of leaving one's homeland and fighting against tyranny. The desire to give back to this great Nation that welcomed so many of us with open arms, as we fled Castro's totalitarian grip, is something Guarione has never forgotten. Even though Guarione will be an irreplaceable voice as he retires from CNC's leadership, his legacy will be the foundation for what I am sure will be CNC's continued success.

TO RECOGNIZE THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna for its many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna provides services to assist older adults to continue living independently and offer programs which supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

2011 has been a year of continued growth for the Shepherd Center. Volunteer drivers provided more than 500 round-trip rides for medical appointments and prescription pick-up, a 10-percent increase from 2010. There were 295 round-trips rides for non-medical errands, a 28-percent increase. In addition, hours contributed to Friendly Visits increased 68 percent, ensuring that seniors can stay connected to the community. The Shepherd Center's many other services include assistance with downsizing and decluttering, minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable, and a range of programs designed to encourage active lifestyles and community integration, including Lunch 'n' Life, Adventures in Learning, and various trips and outings.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for the services which enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. Their extraordinary contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Equal Pay Day to highlight the persistent wage gap between women and men. April 17th marks how far into 2012 a woman has to work in order to make what her male counterpart made in 2011. This is a travesty, and a milestone we should not still be forced to mark in the 21st Century.

In the 111th Congress, we passed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which reinforced the ability of women to sue for pay discrimination. This was a crucial victory, but we must continue the fight and finish the job by passing into law H.R. 1519, the Paycheck Fairness Act. As in past Congresses, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would narrow the wage gap between men and women and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which makes it unlawful for an employer to pay unequal wages to men and women that have similar jobs within the same establishment.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would allow women to sue for wage discrimination and receive punitive damages, as well as compensatory damages. Currently, women who seek compensation for unequal pay can only recover back pay, or in some cases, double back pay. While this bill would increase penalties for employers who pay different wages to men and women for equal work, it also provides incentives such as training programs for employers to eliminate pay disparities and grant programs to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

Some may argue that these changes are not necessary, but the numbers speak for themselves. Despite greatly increased commitment to the labor force over the past 45 years, women working full time make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man—less than a 20-percent increase since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963. In Rhode Island, the median pay for a woman working full time, year round is $40,532 per year, while the median yearly pay for a man is $50,567. This means that women are paid 80 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to a yearly gap of $10,035 between full-time working men and women in the state.

Even more troublesome, nationally, African-American women earn 66 cents to the dollar and Latina women earn 55 cents to the dollar compared to men. According to a Census Bureau study, male high school graduates earned $13,000 more than female high school graduates in 2006. Women with a bachelor's degree employed year-round earned $53,201, while similarly educated men earned an average of $76,749. This same study also noted that the pay difference between men and women grows wider as they age.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Paycheck Fairness Act to protect the fundamental right of women to earn equal pay for equal work, to support mothers who just want to be treated fairly by their employers while they provide for their children, and to ensure that daughters still in school can reach their full potential when they graduate.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL JOHN K. CARNEY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Colonel John K. Carney, who dedicated his life to the service of our nation. Colonel Carney passed away on March 17th. He was born on October 31, 1913 in Braxton County, West Virginia. He joined the military in 1941, serving with distinction in the U.S. Air Force in World War II, and for a total of 24 years before retiring in 1966. Colonel Carney supervised an array of management and logistics programs both in the United States and overseas, in South America, Trinidad, Saudi Arabia, and twice in the Philippines. He completed his military service at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he headed the joint service planning and negotiating groups to consolidate major logistics functions for the Department of Defense.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Colonel Carney continued his national service, working for the General Services Administration for 14 years. He helped institute a government-wide national supply system to improve efficiencies and eliminate duplicative functions. Colonel Carney retired from GSA in 1980 as the Director of Supply Policy in the Federal Supply Service, having spent almost four decades of his life in service.

Colonel Carney displayed the same enduring devotion throughout his private life. He was a former Divine World Seminarian who graduated from the Jesuit-run Springhill College in Mobile, Alabama during his military career under "Operation Bootstrap." Upon moving to Springfield, Virginia in 1960, Colonel Carney was dedicated to his local community. He was a founding member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and a member of the Air Force Association, The Retired Officers Association, and the National Association of the Uniformed Services. Colonel Carney is survived by his wife, the former Adelle Wright, their four daughters, Constance Bedell, Bernadine O'Hare, and Deborah Fowler, all of Virginia, and Catherine Carney of West Virginia, their two sons, Daniel Carney of Georgia and Patrick Carney of Virginia, their 16 grandchildren, and their 19 great grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering our sincerest condolences to his relatives, and in honoring the life and example of Colonel John K. Carney for his dedicated service to his country, his community, and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following rollcall vote No. 152 on April 16, 2012.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 152—H.R. 3001—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act, "aye."

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2012

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Days of Remembrance as our Nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. As you know, Congress designated this week-long observance in honor of the victims of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to serve as a permanent living memorial to them.

This year's Remembrance week is April 15th through the 22nd, and communities throughout the country will observe this occasion with educational programs and other activities. I am pleased to share with my colleagues that the Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors, in my district, is proclaiming April 22 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

It is important that we pause annually to reflect on the systemic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. More than six million Jews were murdered during that period and countless others were targeted for oppression or destruction based on factors of race, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, disability or sexual orientation. The atrocities of that era serve as a reminder for current and future generations about the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies and governments. This year's national theme, as selected by the museum, is ''Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue'' and seeks to capture that sentiment.

Confronted with the cruelty against humanity taking place in front of them, many witnesses faced a choice of whether to intervene. Of course, doing so brought the risk of severe punishment, and, in some cases, death. Fear drove many to idly stand by, but there were many ordinary citizens who carried out extraordinary acts of courage on behalf of their fellow man, whether it was a government official who forged identity papers or the housewife and her daughter who hid a family in their attic. Ultimately the United States and the Allies, which later became the United Nations, prevailed over the Axis powers, preventing the further spread of their tyranny and evil.

Mr. Speaker, commemorative events marking the Days of Remembrance are taking place here in our Nation's capital and in communities throughout the country. I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to take part in one of these observances. This is a time to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors, the nation of Israel, and our allies across the globe to once again rekindle awareness of this terrible tragedy in world history and to rededicate ourselves to never allowing such acts to happen again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday (Monday, April 16th) and missed rollcall votes 152–153. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on both rollcall votes 152 (H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act) and 153 (H.R. 4040, which would provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus).

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 100 individuals are receiving much deserved awards in a variety of categories including: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze or Silver Medal of Valor.

Two members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2012 Bronze Medal of Valor Recipient: Private First Class Naftali Jacob

2012 Certificate of Valor Recipient: MDS Kathleen Holohan

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2012 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

H.R. 4134

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 4134, which I introduced on March 5, 2012. This legislation will curtail a tax abuse involving the mass production of cigarettes through ''roll-your-own'' machines at retail establishments. Currently, so-called ''pipe tobacco'' is taxed at rates dramatically less than ''cigarette tobacco'' and ''roll-your-own tobacco.'' That has had the effect of forming an industry of retailers that put RYO machines in their stores that allow customers to manufacture cigarettes for far less than the cost of name-brand cigarettes.

My legislation will require that RYO cigarettes are produced on a level playing field with all other cigarettes. In doing so—and this is very important—H.R. 4134 should be read as applying prospectively only—neither retailers nor consumers of RYO cigarettes before the date of enactment of my legislation should be forced to pay any taxes on cigarettes manufactured in these machines and sold before the date of enactment. I understand that there is litigation pending in this regard brought by the Department of the Treasury. My legislation should end that litigation and settle this issue once and for all.

I also want to note that H.R. 4134 is not intended to affect small, hand-operated devices used by customers at home to assemble roll-your-own cigarettes. These small devices, which customers take away from the retail establishment in original packaging and use for personal convenience and not for commercial purposes, have been sold for many decades without giving rise to the tax avoidance abuse my legislation seeks to address.

I am very pleased that Senator MAX BAUCUS amended the Senate-passed highway transportation bill with language very similar to my bill. I look forward to working with him and others in order to enact this law, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4134 in the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 ASIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the recipients of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber Awards.

The Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving the economic development for Asian Pacific American owned businesses in the Washington, D.C. region. The 11th District of Virginia is blessed by its diversity; 1 in 4 residents are foreign born and more than 40% are minorities, with Asian Americans representing the largest ethnic group. Northern Virginia has a robust international business community and is home to the largest concentration of minority-owned technology firms in the nation. The AACC and its members contribute greatly to our economic strength and stability; Asian-American businesses generate more than 52% of total revenues generated by all minority owned businesses in this region.

Each year, the AACC recognizes businesses and non-profits in the Asian American community for their outstanding contributions to the Metropolitan Washington community and economy. I congratulate the following individuals and businesses for receiving one of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber of Commerce Awards:

Asian Business Leader Award (Posthumous): Mr. Jay Chen, Asian Fortune.

Volunteer of the Year: Mr. Vance Zavela, Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships.

Small Business of the Year: Analee's Prom, Bridal, Special Occasion & Tuxedo.

Outstanding Corporate Partner: Dominion Virginia Power.

Community Service Award: Asian Community Service Center.

Public Service Award: Grace Han Wolf, Herndon Town Councilmember.

Asian Business Excellence Award: Information Management Consultants (IMC) Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the honorees of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber of Commerce Awards and in commending the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce for its work to support Asian- and Pacific Islander-owned businesses throughout our region.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. NORMAN MEADOR

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Norman Meador for his dedicated service to Boy Scout Troop 890 in Lake Highlands, Texas.

Chartered in 1961, Troop 890 was organized to help shape the lives of boys in Dallas by teaching them the principles of Scouting. Over the past forty years, Mr. Meador's love of Scouting has led him to serve Troop 890 in a variety of official and unofficial roles. During this time, he has taught and instilled in many young men the values and knowledge necessary to mature and become leaders in their communities and our country. Among the hundreds that benefited from Mr. Meador's servant leadership are my sons, Bill and Alex; both were active in Troop 890 and attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout under his tutelage.

In 2011, as Troop 890 celebrated its 50th Anniversary, Mr. Meador was recognized for his dedicated service and received the prestigious Scoutmaster Emeritus Award. On April 28, 2012, Boy Scout Troop 890 will hold a special ceremony at Camp Constantin where a new pavilion will be named in honor of Mr. Meador. The Meador Eagle Pavilion will serve as a testament of his faithful service to Troop 890 and his commitment to Scouting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Meador on this great honor. I wish him all the best. May God bless him and his family.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 100 individuals are receiving much deserved awards in a variety of categories including: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze or Silver Medal of Valor.

Fifty members of the Fairfax County Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following Valor Award Recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2012 Silver Medal of Valor Recipients: Second Lieutenant Kevin D. Barrington, Police Officer First Class Jessica R. Kane, Captain Ronald P. Novak, Police Officer First Class Ali Sepehri, Police Officer First Class Nathan D. Sloan, Police Officer First Class Federick R. Yap.

2012 Bronze Medal of Valor Recipients: Second Lieutenant Michael E. Johnson, Police Officer First Class Kenyatta L. Momon, Master Police Officer Patrick M. Nolan, Jr., Master Police Officer Peter L. Norris, Police Officer First Class John A. Parker, Police Officer First Class Daniel K. Perdue, Police Officer First Class Edward S. Rediske.

2012 Certificate of Valor Recipients: Police Officer First Class Rockie Akhavan, Sergeant Garrett G. Boderick, Police Officer First Class Terence G. Bridges, Police Officer First Class Brooks R. Gillingham, Police Officer First Class Ronald J. Grecco, Police Officer First Class Christoforos D. Mamalis, Police Officer First Class Brendan T. McMahon, Officer Gary Moore, Jr., Police Officer First Class Jose R. Morillo, Police Officer First Class Carl L. Parsons, Second Lieutenant Matthew W. Pifer, Police Officer First Class Philip C. Stone, Jr., Police Officer First Class Thomas D. Thompson, Police Officer First Class Leanna D. Wilson, Police Officer First Class Courtney K.Young.

2012 Lifesaving Award Recipients: Police Officer First Class Carolina M. Bennett, Police Officer First Class Brian T. Buracker, Nancy C. Burke, Master Police Officer Rudolph V. Coffield, Police Officer First Class Christopher L. Coleman, Master Police Officer Crystal J. Gray, Police Officer First Class Ronald J. Grecco, Second Lieutenant Brian E. Hall, Police Officer First Class Timothy M. Henderson, Police Officer First Class John C. Keenan, Police Officer First Class Jason J. Mardocco (2 Lifesaving Awards), Second Lieutenant Shawn C. Martin, Master Police Officer Maureen M. McKeon, Police Officer First Class Michael D. Mittiga, Master Police Officer Joseph A. Moore, Police Officer First Class Camille S. Neville, Police Officer First Class Richard Pearl, Police Officer First Class Scott M. Richards, Police Officer First Class Stacy L. Sassano, Master Police Officer Stephen M. Selby, Police Officer First Class Ali Sepehri, Master Police Officer William W. Stewart, III, Police Officer First Class David Trelinski, and Master Police Officer Dennis E. Vorbau.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2012 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF MRS. MARIANA ''MIMI'' IACONO

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career of Mrs. Mariana ''Mimi'' Iacono as she retires after 25 years of Air Force Civilian Service.

Mimi Iacono began her civil service career with the Department of Defense in 1987, starting as a Protocol and Management Assistant in the Military Airlift Command and Air Mobility Command. For 17 years, she has served as a legislative counsel for the Commander of the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM).

USTRANSCOM, located at Scott Air Force Base, was established in 1987, coincidentally the same year Mimi began her civil service career. It is one of ten U.S. unified commands and is the single manager of the United States' global defense transportation system. Because of Mimi's efforts, each TRANSCOM commander has enjoyed productive engagement with Members of Congress, enabling those commanders to communicate effectively about their mission, their needs and their value to the nation.

Mimi's effectiveness has been enhanced by her thorough understanding of all aspects of USTRANSCOM as well as the legislative process. She has developed solid working relationships with Congressional staff and her work directly with my office has always been appreciated. She is truly a valuable resource who will be sorely missed, but whose legacy will endure.

Mimi and her husband, David, reside in O'Fallon, Illinois, and have two sons, Michael and David.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mariana ''Mimi'' Iacono for her years of dedicated service to the United States Air Force and to wish her the very best in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their

commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 100 individuals are receiving much deserved awards in a variety of categories including: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze or Silver Medal of Valor.

Fifty-one members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2012 Silver Medal of Valor Recipients: Lieutenant Thomas L. Flint III and Technician Robert E. Pickel, Jr.

2012 Bronze Medal of Valor Recipients: Technician Thomas R. Barnes, Lieutenant Kenneth L. Coffelt, Technician Rolando E. Contreras, Lieutenant Aron J. Corwin, Master Technician Anthony E. Doran, Firefighter Brendan M. Downing, Technician Michael L. Frames, Technician Richard D. Gundert, Master Technician William F. Kight, Jr., Master Technician John P. McDonell, Technician Lawrence G. Mullin, Firefighter Cory S. Parry, Technician John M. Smith, Lieutenant Rodney S. Vaughn, Master Technician Reginald L. Wadley, Lieutenant Erick L. Weinzapfel, Master Technician Christopher H. Williams, Technician Eric M. Wyatt, and Lieutenant Earl J. Burroughs

2012 Certificate of Valor Recipients: Fire Medic Eli A. Bredbenner, Captain I David P. Conrad, Technician Edwin E. Flores, Technician James M. Furman, Technician John C. Guy, Jr., Captain II Glenn A. Mason, Technician Shannon G. Reed, Technician Robert G. Ritchie, and Firefighter Rodney D. Washington

2012 Lifesaving Award Recipients: Technician Mica A. Bland (2 Lifesaving Awards), Firefighter Namaste Bosse, Lieutenant Keith W. Cerzullo, Technician Brian M. Chinn, Technician Robin S. Clement, II, Firefighter/Medic Joseph C. Deutsch, Technician Michael S. Eddy, Technician Edwin E. Flores, Lieutenant Thomas Hyden, Technician Peter C. Kehne, Firefighter Salman F. Khan, Firefighter Timothy D. Kim, Technician Michael T. King, Firefighter Heather J. Lefever, Captain Jeffrey L. Mongold, Lieutenant Michael C. Nelson, Technician Laura E. Pollard, Firefighter Placido Sanchez, Technician Clarke V. Slaymaker, II, Lieutenant John J. Tedesco, Captain I Wayne P. Wentzel, and Firefighter Brandon M. Winfield

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2012 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL IN HERRIN, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, in Herrin, Illinois, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Herrin, Illinois, was founded at the turn of the 20th Century and it quickly was populated by immigrants, primarily from Italy, who came to work in the area coal mines. The first Mass for the growing Catholic population was said in the town hall in 1900 but plans were soon in place for a permanent church. The new church, initially named St. Mary's Church, was dedicated in August, 1901.

As with most Catholic parishes, the members of St. Mary's planned for a school to educate the children of the parish. A three room building was constructed in 1912 to house the first 104 students in grades one through three. Two lay teachers served as the faculty for the first two years at St. Mary's before the Precious Blood Sisters arrived in 1914.

St. Mary's school grew so quickly in its first years that the enrollment peaked at 365 students in 1920 and the 1930 graduating class of 54 remains the largest in the school's history. In 1925, a larger church was completed and the parish was officially named Our Lady of Mount Carmel, although many would continue to call it St. Mary's.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School has adapted through many changes over its 100 year history but it has always remained true to its core values of providing the highest quality of education while rooted in the teachings of the Catholic faith. Their Mission Statement says it best, that they "exist to enable students to become knowledgeable and active in their faith, to educate students academically, and to develop strong moral character."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the administration, faculty, staff and students of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them the very best for many more years to come.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2012 honorees of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Awards Banquet.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is a coalition of civic and homeowners associations from across Fairfax County. Through the Federation, individual communities collaborate with other associations to ensure that their voices are heard and that their communities stay strong.

Each year, the Federation honors a select few individuals for extraordinary contributions to the community that have resulted in tangible improvements in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses and local government. This is the 62nd Annual Awards Banquet, and this year's honorees each have dedicated years of service to their neighbors, their community and all of Fairfax County.

It is my pleasure to recognize the following individuals for their service to the community:

2011 Citizen of the Year: Walter Alcorn for his 14 years of service on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. During his tenure, he has chaired the Tysons Corner Committee since 2008, chaired the Environmental Committee from 1997–2006, and served as Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission since being appointed in 1997. Mr. Alcorn also has been involved in his Reston community through his involvement with the United Christian Parish and also as a little league coach.

2011 Citation of Merit: Ellie Ashford for her professional community journalism, tirelessly working to produce the Annandale Blog (annandaleblog.com), an exceptional local blog that was recently recognized by The Washington Post as a "must read." Ms. Ashford also has received top honors from the Society for National Association Publications, the Association of Educational Publications, the American Society of Association Executives, and the International Association of Business Communicators.

2011 Citation of Merit: Corazon Foley for her efforts to establish the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW). Due to her tireless efforts, the Center has succeeded in providing programs for more than 450 seniors in Fairfax County. Mrs. Foley also was named Lady Fairfax in 2009 for founding the Asian American History Project.

2011 Citation of Merit: Terry Maynard for his work in development issues and planning for the Reston community. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Reston Citizens Association (RCA) and the Reston 2020 Committee. As the RCA representative to the ongoing Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force, Mr. Maynard has been an outspoken advocate for reasoned, balanced, smart growth policies along the Silver Line Metro expansion.

2011 Special Gratitude Award: Suzanne Harsel for her years of service representing the Braddock District on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. First appointed in 1982, Ms. Harsel was reappointed 7 times and served with distinction until her retirement in December 2011. Having served for nearly 30 years, Ms. Harsel had the longest continuous service on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these individuals and in congratulating them on being honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Civic engagement defines a community, and it is thanks to these individuals that Fairfax County residents enjoy such an excellent quality of life. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.