

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED WAY

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the United Way.

In 1887 in Denver, Colorado, a local woman, a priest, two ministers and a rabbi came together to work to solve the poverty facing their community. The first United Way formed a network of organizations to support local charities as well as to coordinate relief services, counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and make emergency assistance grants to those most in need. The group of networks rose from humble beginnings and became the United Way, a united movement committed to improving communities around the world.

What they began 125 years ago now comprises nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 41 countries and territories. Today the United Way is the world's largest privately-sponsored nonprofit.

Today, United Way continues the spirit of service to move toward a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives. Every year the United Way raises nearly \$5 billion dollars for the simple purpose to advance the common good. Working collaboratively, the United Way brings together the actions of millions of individuals to resolve pressing community issues. As a worldwide organization, it is remarkable how effective the United Way is at targeting local initiatives and bringing tangible services to our communities.

We must also attribute 125 years of United Way's success to the imaginative, passionate group of leaders, community volunteers, and partners on the local and state level. Today, United Ways in Iowa's 2nd District are working diligently to ensure the scope and depth of United Way's vision is applied to the specific needs of individuals and local charities in our community. United Way of East Central Iowa, United Way of Johnson County, Inc., United Way of Wapello County, and Burlington/W. Burlington Area United Way continue to give, advocate, and volunteer to help people in need. On United Way's 125th Anniversary, we commend our local United Ways' commitment and contributions that effectively make a difference every day in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA FLOWER MARKET

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th Anniversary of a place filled with vibrant colors, tantalizing fragrances, delicate shapes and magic—the California Flower Market in San Francisco. The market is flowers galore and it's impossible to be there without feeling uplifted. I'm a proud and frequent customer at this special place that is also a great boost to our local economy.

The California Flower Market, spanning a block between 5th and 6th Streets on Brannan Street, was established by Japanese-American flower growers a century ago. The growers needed a place to sell their products and founded one of the first Japanese-American corporations in California to do so. The pioneering Issei—the first Japanese immigrants to North America, South America and Australia—honed their growing and flower arranging skills and made significant contributions to the development of the community.

Today, over 50 vendors sell their flowers to 4,000 trade buyers, which include retailers, whole sellers, party planners and interior decorators, and to the public directly. The California Flower Market is an oasis in the South of Market area of San Francisco. I personally welcome any opportunity I have to stroll through the market and pick out a perfectly grown Phalaenopsis, a blossom-covered Christmas cactus or an Ikebana arrangement.

But history wasn't always bright at the California Flower Market. During the shameful era of World War II's internment of Japanese-Americans, flower markets throughout California went from Japanese control to non-Japanese control in a matter of months.

The United States sent 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry to internment camps along the Pacific Coast. Most of them were American-born citizens and hard-working, law-abiding people. The majority of them remained silent about their experiences in the camps and later picked up the pieces of their broken lives and built new communities. The flower growers were among them. While in the camps, the flower growers association worked hard to remain organized and give growers hope for the future. In the 1950's Japanese-Americans rebuilt their prominence in the floricultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the California Flower Market on its 100th Anniversary. It is a symbol of lasting and resilient beauty that cannot be suppressed, only enjoyed.

COUNTERFEIT DRUG PENALTY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3668, the Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act. I have worked with Representative MEEHAN, worked for quite a while on this issue and it's rewarding to see that bipartisan, practical ideas still have a place in this body.

H.R. 3668 will raise the penalties for counterfeit medicines, a unique consumer health and safety problem. This legislation is needed, bipartisan, and non-controversial.

Counterfeit drug enterprises jeopardize the public's safety and I believe perpetrators should be held accountable.

Unlike other consumer goods, counterfeit medicines pose a significant public health and safety threat to the innocent, sick patients who receive them.

H.R. 3668 will help protect seniors and children, who are uniquely vulnerable, as well as anyone who could be harmed by fraudulent medicines.

We must have tougher penalties for crimes that are a threat to public safety.

H.R. 3668 ensures this and I encourage my colleagues to support this straightforward, reasonable approach.

HONORING KENDRA HAYWOOD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable valedictorian, Ms. Kendra Haywood. Kendra is the daughter of Mr. Kenneth Haywood Sr. and Mrs. Jacklon Haywood and resides in Shelby, Mississippi. Kendra is a member of Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as the Sunday School Secretary and volunteers with various auxiliaries in the church. She is a senior at Broad Street High School in Shelby, Mississippi and graduated on May 26, 2012.

Kendra acknowledged early on that it would take self-discipline and motivation to achieve her academic goals. So during the last three semesters of high school, she participated in Coahoma Community College Dual Enrollment Program, which allowed her to take college courses while still in high school.

Ms. Haywood is co-founder of Students Involved in Community Change (SICC), an organization that strives for both community and educational excellence. Students work with citizens in their community on beautification

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

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

projects, hosting weekly community discussions to address littering, drug use, gang activity and the importance of community involvement.

Ms. Haywood's sense of obligation to improve her community and educational opportunities for others led her to tutor her peers after school. Her philosophy is, "knowledge is power and the more you know the more power you have." She participates in various school activities including the Alpha Kappa Alpha Bolivar County Community Humanity Involvement Club, Coahoma Community College Tr-County Workforce Job Shadowing Program, and other civic organizations.

After completing her Bachelor of Science degree, Kendra has plans to pursue a professional degree in Clinical Psychology at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ms. Haywood has expressed a desire to become part of Teach for America as a way of giving back to a rural community and inspiring youth, because Teach for America has had a profound impact in her education.

Ms. Kendra Haywood has three siblings, Kenneth Jr., Darius, and Jarvis. She says they, along with her parents, had a positive impact on her desire to reach for the stars in life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Kendra Haywood as the valedictorian of Broad Street High School Class of 2012.

IN HONOR OF THE CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER OF MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS, THE SGT. MICHAEL A. DIRAIMONDO CHAPTER OF MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, AND THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE BALL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Conejo Valley Chapter of Military Order of the World Wars, the Sgt. Michael A. DiRaimondo Chapter of Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Red, White and Blue Ball.

For 27 years, the Military Order of the World Wars has presented its Red, White and Blue Ball to perpetuate the spirit of patriotism. This year, the Conejo Valley Chapter is joined by the Sgt. Michael A. DiRaimondo Chapter of Military Order of the Purple Heart. Army Sgt. DiRaimondo was Ventura County's first casualty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 22 years old.

I did not know Michael, but I have become close friends with his exceptional family.

Each year, the Ball honors an individual who has demonstrated exceptional patriotism and who has made significant contributions to the community.

The U.S. Navy will be honored at this Saturday's event. This is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Navy SEALs and Captain Jason Ehret, USN SEAL, will be the honorary chair. The 2012 Patriotic Citizen of the Year is Colonel John Fer, who served in the U.S. Air Force for 28 years.

It is fitting that the Ball will be held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. It will

start with an open reception followed by a formal opening ceremony. Dinner, dancing to music of the Harry Selvin Band, and silent and live auctions will round out the evening.

It is a festive affair, with military personnel—active, reserve and retired—wearing dress uniforms. Civilian men wear dark suits or tuxedos and civilian women wear formal or cocktail dresses.

Auction proceeds will support activities such as Ventura County and Thousand Oaks Veterans Day ceremonies, Conejo Valley Memorial Day ceremony, Thousand Oaks Youth Leadership Conference, Junior ROTC awards, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

Mr. Speaker, I attended the first Red, White and Blue Ball 27 years ago and am proud to have been presented the Gold Patrick Henry Award at the 1989 Ball.

I am leaving Congress at the end of this session, which will change my relationship with the Military Order of the World Wars and the Sgt. Michael A. DiRaimondo Chapter. I am confident, however, that the relationship will remain strong and grow in the coming years.

I am equally confident that my colleagues join me now in honoring the Conejo Valley Chapter of Military Order of the World Wars, the Sgt. Michael A. DiRaimondo Chapter of Military Order of the Purple Heart, Captain Jason Ehret, the U.S. Navy SEALs, and the Ball's 2012 Patriotic Citizen of the Year, Colonel John Fer. Thank you all for your service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF SAN MATEO'S ADOPTION A COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION.

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the City of San Mateo for its adoption in 1968 of A Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

In 1967 a soldier in Vietnam named Sgt. Joe Artavia wrote a letter to his sister, Linda, asking her to convince the City of San Mateo to adopt his company. He thought an adoption would lift troop morale "as high as the sky." Linda rallied the community to support her brother and his comrades. Within three months the San Mateo City Council passed a resolution to adopt the company.

Tragically, Artavia was killed three weeks later rescuing a fellow soldier, and the people of San Mateo joined together in mourning. Artavia's death solidified San Mateo's commitment to its adopted company and, in fact, in 1972 San Mateo was the only city in the United States to hold an official homecoming parade honoring Vietnam veterans.

Since that time the city has continuously supported A Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, visiting them in peacetime, establishing pen-pals and sending care packages. The city has served as a model for other towns, cities or counties to adopt individual military units throughout the country.

San Mateo's adopted company has recently returned from a 12-month tour of duty in Af-

ghanistan and will be redeployed for a third tour. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the welcome-home parade for the veterans returning to San Mateo, the city is holding another welcome home parade and festival to honor past and present soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division who have put their lives on the line for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the city of San Mateo for supporting A Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and its brave men and women who filled it ranks, especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MUSCOGEE RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the members and supporters of the Muscogee Retired Educators Association (MREA) as they commemorate its 50th anniversary this year. A celebration luncheon will be held on Friday, June 22, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

MREA was established as the Muscogee Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) in 1962 when Mr. Boyd B. Littlejohn and a small group of other retired Muscogee teachers decided to organize themselves in order to better attend to the needs and concerns of retired teachers in the area. Mr. Littlejohn, a retired principal who served St. Elmo, Clubview, and McIlhenney schools, became the first president before going on to serve as president of GRTA from 1965–1967.

In its early existence, members of MRTA would meet in their homes or in churches. Ms. Ruth Plumb and Mrs. Rex Lavender served as presidents until MRTA became inactive for a short period. In 1972, J. Zeb Morris, retired principal of Waverly Terrace and jazz pianist, became president. After this, MRTA began to grow in membership and was able to improve its service to retired teachers.

Throughout the years, the association has been led by distinguished retired educators such as Lucile David, Lyda Hanna, Nathan Hunter, Brice Carson, Jack Shepard, Laura Haygood, L.B. Hickson, Sumter Blackmon, John Little, O'Neal Hendricks, Kathryn Hunt, Esto Smith, Anita B. Walters, Dr. Jeanette Marshal and its current president, Diane Boss, among others.

Mr. Nathan Hunter also served as GRTA President from 1979–1980 and Mrs. Lucile Hunter, his widow and an MRTA member, presented his GRTA gavel to the MREA. The gavel is a treasured keepsake and is passed on to each succeeding MREA president.

In 1998, the GRTA changed its name to the Georgia Retired Educators Association to include all those who work in the field of education and are under the Teacher Retirement System of Georgia. MRTA followed suit, changing its name to the Muscogee Retired Educators Association (MREA), as it is called today.

In addition to having served as teachers, mentors, and role models throughout their career, members of MREA continue to serve the

community in retirement by volunteering their time to help out at schools, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, museums, libraries, health screening venues and other places. A number of members also volunteered at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Columbus for fast pitch baseball.

In past years, MREA has consistently been presented with competitive Membership awards from GREA. Also, MREA strives to help active teachers by awarding scholarships to those seeking graduate degrees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the exceptional efforts of the Muscogee Retired Educators Association for all they have done and will continue to do to address the needs of our retired educators. Not only did MREA members provide a great service during their careers teaching our young people, but they have continued that legacy of service in the community in retirement and for that, I thank each and every one of them.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAPHAEL
KAUFFMANN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Raphael Kauffmann, an outstanding teacher who serves as a role model for students and teachers alike. It is only fitting that he has been named San Mateo County Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Kauffmann graduated Cum Laude from San Francisco State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast and Electronic Communications in 1995. Since 2005, Mr. Kauffmann has taught at Carlmont High School in Belmont. He was promoted to Chair of the English Department in 2009. He is a member of the National Education Association, the National Council of Teachers of English and he won a PTSA Award of Excellence in 2010.

Under Mr. Kauffmann's leadership Carlmont High School adopted the Expository Reading and Writing Course, a school-wide reading and writing program. The program sparked a fruitful collaboration among the teachers within his department. The program helps prepare students for college and advances students' writing skills.

Mr. Kauffmann did not always know he wanted to teach. Starting at age 12 or 13, he was most passionate about music. He played bass in his high school band and also started a band with friends. In college he learned audio production, which helped him apply his passion for music to his professional life. His dynamic career has spanned the music, recording and software industries.

These experiences taught him the skills and qualities necessary for survival in the professional world. They also taught him that he could meld together academic, professional and creative interests while navigating a career path. He brings these lessons into the classroom and offers his students a broad perspective.

Instead of creating an authoritarian atmosphere, he makes students his partners in the process of learning. He promotes an environ-

ment of mutual respect and uses his musical background to connect with at-risk youths. He uses music as a tool to communicate with young people who the educational system has left behind. For example, when Mr. Kauffmann met one student who was nearly ready to drop out of high school, Mr. Kauffmann connected with this young man about music, took him under his wing and helped him graduate on time.

Mr. Kauffmann is a devoted husband and father; he is married to Chandra Kauffmann and they have a son, Rami.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the outstanding service of Raphael Kauffmann to the residents of San Mateo County. For many more years to come he will serve as an inspiration for other teachers, and a beacon for his students.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TITLE IX LEGISLATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the momentous Title IX legislation. Forty years ago, on June 23, 1972, it was established that educational institutions receiving federal funding were barred from discriminating against anyone on the basis of sex. That decision applied to student admissions, recruitment, scholarship awards and tuition assistance, housing, access to courses and other academic offerings, counseling, financial assistance, employment assistance to students, health and insurance benefits and services, athletics, and all aspects of education-related employment.

This landmark legislation led to gains for women in all fields, from academics to business to science and technology. The law is probably most well known for its impact on women in athletics. Since Title IX was enacted, the number of women competing in college sports has soared by more than 600 percent, and the number of high school girls competing in sports has increased by over 1,000 percent.

This is important because we know from scientific research that student athletes graduate at higher rates, perform better in school and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol, smoke, or develop mental illness or obesity later in life. Furthermore, I have heard from countless female athletes, like Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes, that without athletic scholarships made possible by Title IX, they simply would not have been able to attend college. Imagine the vast intellectual, cultural and athletic opportunities that would have been lost to these young women had they not been able to pursue their goals of furthering their education.

In the years since the law was passed, we have had to fight for improvements to the legislation and fight against other attempts to weaken it. In 2003, I led a hearing in the basement of this very Capitol building when Title IX was being threatened by Commission for Opportunity in Athletic recommendations that ignored the continuing lack of participation

opportunities and funding that women's and girls' athletics were facing. I clearly recall watching a line of little girls in their soccer uniforms enter the room accompanied by their fathers. These dads spoke eloquently about the importance of coaching their daughters in sports, and how it meant just as much to them as coaching their sons. Although bad policy was enacted that limited the effectiveness of Title IX, I am proud to say we were able to reverse significant parts of that in 2010.

The fight for fairness continues. Today we still face disparities in opportunities for girls in sports, particularly at the high school level. Girls make up half of the high school population, yet receive only 41 percent of all athletic participation opportunities. This translates to 1.3 million fewer opportunities for young women to play high school sports than young men. Worse yet, this gap is actually increasing.

How is it that one law can have such a dramatic impact at one age level and yet be less successful for our young women who are just four years younger? The answer can be found in public transparency and accountability. As is true elsewhere in life, sunshine can be the best of disinfectants.

At the collegiate level, colleges and universities are required to publicly account for how their athletic opportunities, resources, and dollars are allocated among male and female athletes. No such transparency requirements are found at the high school level. Not surprisingly, where there is no public accountability, there is a growing gap in athletic opportunities for young student-athletes.

Currently, high schools are required to submit annual reports of their athletic participation numbers by sport and gender to their state high school athletic associations. Additionally, school bookkeepers already keep records of all school expenditures—including those made within the athletic department. Despite doing all the work of collecting this data, none of it is required to be made public.

To make a simple, but profound, change to high school reporting requirements, I have authored H.R. 458, the High School Athletics and Accountability Act. This bill would require high schools to make public vital data on the participation of girls in high school sports. Schools already collect this data. Making the information public would be a small change for school administrators—estimates are that it would take just three to six hours of time once a year to produce a report—and would have a huge impact on the opportunities available to our young girls.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the passage of this landmark legislation, we must recommit ourselves to continuing the fight for equity for women and girls. I ask my colleagues to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Title IX with me, and pledge to keep pressing forward until opportunities are equal for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROGER
ANDREY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer Robert Andrey for his 27 years of service at the Burlingame Police Department.

Officer Andrey joined the Burlingame Police Department in 1984 and has served in a variety of capacities, such as patrol officer, field training officer, police inspector and evidence technician. In each role he demonstrated integrity, professionalism and honor. He has been recognized for his effectiveness in DUI enforcement and his compassion for donating stuffed animals to children in the Mills Peninsula Hospital Emergency Room.

Officer Andrey is an outstanding detective who is skilled in solving fraud cases. His secret to success is that he takes time to listen and pays attention to details. He says he was taught to "never leave a call unless you feel comfortable leaving." For example, he responded to a call from Child Protective Services and arrived at a Burlingame home on a hot summer day. The young girl answering the door was wearing a long-sleeved heavy sweater. Officer Andrey spent some 20 minutes talking to her and gaining her trust until she eventually told him that she had been cutting herself. Due to his keen observations, the girl received help. He humbly adds that being a police officer is not rocket science, it's about developing relationships and trust with people.

Before I ever met Officer Andrey, I heard about him in the early '90s when he recovered construction materials from local pawnshops that had been stolen from my brother. A few years later I had my own—and very memorable—encounter with him. While I was in the California State Senate, I reported a suspicious envelope under my car's windshield wiper and he responded to the call. This incident put him in the "entirely uncomfortable" situation where he had to take my fingerprints.

Robert Andrey was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and went to Allis Central High School. He earned his B.A. in marketing management from Milton College in Wisconsin. He moved to the Bay Area in 1982.

In his well-deserved retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Lona, family, friends and their two dogs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the outstanding service of Officer Robert Andrey to the people of Burlingame. For almost three decades, he made our community a safer and better place every single day. He will be deeply missed by his colleagues and residents alike.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
EDWARD ROBINSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Edward Robinson. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Dr. Robinson dedicated his life to the welfare of people in Philadelphia and will be sorely missed.

Dr. Robinson was a true renaissance man as he excelled as an attorney, entrepreneur, educator and mentor. His accomplishments are not limited to a position as the first African American on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Additionally, Dr. Robinson served as the Executive Deputy Secretary of Pennsylvania and the Assistant Managing Director of Philadelphia.

Dr. Robinson's most esteemed work were his efforts on behalf of Africans and African Americans for minority rights and inclusion. He spearheaded the African Genesis Science Curriculum which was adopted in schools throughout the Philadelphia School System. Dr. Robinson's cultural influence and scholarship will not be forgotten.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me to honor the life of Dr. Edward Robinson. He was committed to enriching the lives of Philadelphians as a teacher, mentor and activist. Dr. Robinson's selfless dedication to others leaves a legacy that will continue to uplift and inspire others for years to come.

HONORING JALISA ALLEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable young woman Ms. Jalisa Allen, the 2012 Salutatorian at Coahoma Agricultural High School.

Jalisa is the daughter of Janette Allen, and has two siblings. Together they proudly reside in Friars Point, Mississippi. She is a senior at Coahoma Agricultural High School. At the age of seven, Jalisa decided that she was going to get the best education possible. While pursuing this goal, she has achieved the award of being placed on both the Principal List and the Superintendent List. Jalisa is also active in many school organizations such as, Future Business Leaders of America, Math Club, Science Club, and Youth Leadership.

Jalisa plans to attend the University of Mississippi in Oxford and become an Anesthesiologist. After obtaining a degree, Jalisa intends to use her education to help her local community in Friars Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Jalisa Allen, Coahoma Agricultural High School Salutatorian of the Class of 2012.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
LANTY MOLLOY, SR.

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Lanty Molloy, Sr. who passed away June 11, 2012 in South San Francisco at the age of 79. Mr. Molloy leaves behind a legacy as an extraordinary family and business man.

Mr. Molloy is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Blandid Doyle, seven of their eight children, three of his five siblings and 19 grandchildren.

He was born in San Francisco in 1932 as the son of Frank Molloy of Ardara, County Donegal in Ireland, and Martha Loftus of San Francisco. His father Frank Molloy came to the United States in 1901 as a 18-year-old who pursued—and realized—the American dream. After spending a few years in the Pacific Northwest, Frank came to California shortly after the big earthquake in 1906. He

tended bar in San Francisco and in 1909 opened his first pub, "Molloy's" on Lafayette Street. In 1927, he relocated Molloy's to a building he bought in Colma and started the family history of three generations of tavern owners.

Lanty Molloy attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Daly City and graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in San Francisco in 1950. He served in the U.S. Army as an MP. While stationed in Germany he made many lifelong friends and developed a love for history.

In 1955, Frank turned the bar over to Lanty, his youngest son. He and Blandid raised their family in South San Francisco and at age 21, their youngest son Owen started tending bar at Molloy's. Owen picked up the family tradition and to this day is managing the tavern.

Located in Colma, Molloy's has seen thousands of patrons toasting those who passed away. Posted on the wall is a fitting quote from the Irish Herald which reads: "Though the Molloy's dwell in the valley of death, at the very gates of the marble orchard, the lights are always twinkling in the window and a steady stream of black clad mourners duck in for a soothing pint after bearing the drunken cousin or the elder aunt. You should drop by and get your drink too and get to know Lanty, Owen and the bar."

Lanty is now the one to be toasted and remembered at this landmark in Colma. He was the second generation in a family tradition that I hope will live on for many more generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the memory of Lanty Molloy for the love for his family and friends and his lasting contributions to our community.

IN HONOR OF KEITH RUNYON'S
ACCOMPLISHED CAREER IN KENTUCKY

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of one of Kentucky's most distinguished and long serving journalists, Keith Runyon. Mr. Runyon retired from the Louisville Courier-Journal after 43 years this last April, and it is an understatement to say that Kentucky will miss this giant in the journalism field.

A lifelong resident of Louisville, Keith Runyon joined the Courier-Journal at the age of 18 while he was a student at the University of Louisville. His relationship with the Bingham family left an indelible impression on his career, and I know Keith is proud to be the last serving member of the Bingham-era editorial board. From his early days as an obituary writer, Keith worked his way through the ranks of the paper before quickly joining the editorial board in 1977. Always seeking a greater challenge, he also started attending the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law the same year and later became the editor of the Courier-Journal's book page in addition to his editorial page responsibilities.

Whether tackling education reform or tax referendums, Keith's judgment and talent

shaped the editorial board for more than 40 years. Throughout his esteemed career, Keith has received many awards and accolades but perhaps none as impressive as his most recent. This spring, he received the Society of Professional Journalists' gold medal, one of the most prestigious honors for editorial writing in the country, for his work on the proposed merger of the University of Louisville hospital.

A proud graduate of Leadership Louisville, he is a vibrant participant in the great issues confronting all of Kentucky. He constantly strives to promote equal rights for all and to advance the progressive principles of the New Deal, the New Frontier, and Great Society. Long after his retirement, the work he did both in and outside of the newsroom will continue to have an impact on Louisville and all of Kentucky. Keith Runyon leaves big shoes to fill at the Louisville Courier-Journal, and I wish him, his wife Meme, and his family the best in their future endeavors. I congratulate him on his stellar career and thank him for all he has done for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HONORING COL. GREGORY DRAGOO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Colonel Gregory F. Dragoo upon his retirement after having served this great Nation for 29 years. Colonel Dragoo most recently served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Special Access Program Central Office, responsible for the DOD coordination of programs assigned to the Air Force.

In 1983, Colonel Dragoo received his Second Lieutenant commission from the Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, TX. He completed his undergraduate navigator training and was assigned to B-52Gs at the 46th Bomb Squadron in North Dakota in 1985.

After being selected a part of the initial cadre of aircrew selected to fly the B-1, Colonel Dragoo was selected in 1989, as the first B-1 Weapon Systems Officer to attend the USAF Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, CA.

Following his first flight test tour in the 419th Test Squadron, Colonel Dragoo returned in 1993, to the Test Pilot School as an instructor. From there, he spent the next two years in the B-1 and Tri-Service Standoff Attack Missile Program Offices at Wright-Patterson, OH followed by a year at Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Maxwell AFB, AL.

In 1996, Colonel Dragoo returned to Edwards AFB as Operations Officer of the 419th Flight Test Squadron. There, he was dual-qualified in the B-52 and B-1 and responsible for all B-52, B-1, and B-2 Flight Test operations.

Colonel Dragoo was next assigned in 2000 to the Pentagon as the Headquarters Air Force Plans and Programs bomber programmer responsible for programming the budget and force structure of the B-52, B-1, B-2, and Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles. In 2003, Colonel Dragoo attended the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, AL, and upon graduation was assigned as the Deputy Director and then Director of the Weapons Division of the Secretariat of the Air Force Capability Di-

rectorate responsible for coordinating the programmatic issues of all Air Force weapons acquisition programs.

In 2006, Colonel Dragoo was selected to command the Air Combat Command's Electronic Warfare Group at Eglin AFB, FL. This 450-person group was responsible for delivering and evaluating electronic warfare software for the entire Combat Air Force.

Following his command assignment, Colonel Dragoo was assigned to the Pentagon as Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the Air Force Special Programs Directorate where he served until assuming his current position in the Office of the Secretary of Defense Special Programs office. In conjunction with his permanent assignments, Colonel Dragoo deployed in 2001 as Chief of Staff, Combined Air Operations Center, J-3, Prince Sultan Air Base Saudi Arabia; in 2004 as Air Liaison Officer, C3 Plans, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad; and in 2007 as Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Combined Air Power Transition Force, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Colonel Dragoo is married to the former Teresa K. Wisner. They have two happily married children, three incredibly adorable grandchildren, and will celebrate 31 years of marriage this year.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 29 years, Colonel Dragoo has faithfully served our nation as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. As he enters the next phase of his life with his beloved wife Teresa, their two children Melissa and husband Shawn, and Matthew and wife Lauren, and their three wonderful grandchildren, Mackenzie, Carson, and Daisy, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, excellence.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Gregory F. Dragoo upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING THE HUMAN COST OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the human cost of the war in Afghanistan. Last Thursday, June 14th, Marine Corporal Taylor Baune, of Andover, Minnesota, was killed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 21 years old, and had married his high school sweetheart just three months ago. Corporal Baune was the 2000th American killed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

We often speak of the financial cost of the war in Afghanistan, which has grown to \$289 million per day. Although this is a staggering figure, the human cost of the war is beyond measure.

Just last month, a young man from my district, Travis Morgado, was killed in Kandahar Province. Travis was an athlete who enjoyed basketball and football. He joined the Army after graduating from the University of Washington with a degree in civil engineering, expressing a desire to give back to his country. Second Lieutenant Morgado leaves behind his mother, Andrea, and stepfather, Dean Kessler,

his father, Joe, and stepmother, Nancy, as well as two younger brothers, a stepsister, and a stepbrother. He is remembered as a loving big brother, and a positive role model for his younger cousins.

I would also like to recognize Marine Corporal Kevin Cueto of San Jose, who was killed in action nearly two years ago, on June 24, 2010, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. He was 23 years old. Corporal Cueto grew up in San Jose, and later moved to Campbell to live with his father. At Westmont High School, Kevin served in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and was a member of the football, baseball, and wrestling teams. He was also involved with the debate team. After graduating from high school, determined to serve his country, Kevin enlisted in the Marines. Corporal Cueto served a tour in Iraq in 2009, before being deployed to Afghanistan. Corporal Cueto has left behind his father, Phillip Cueto, his mother, Kelley Greenhaw, and a younger brother.

Finally, many mourned the loss of Pat Tillman. Pat grew up in my district. He was a star football player at Leland High School in San Jose, and earned a scholarship to Arizona State University. He helped lead ASU to the Rose Bowl in 1997, and was selected as the team's most valuable player as well as the Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year. As a student, Pat also excelled, earning the Clyde B. Smith Academic Award, the Sporting News Honda Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and the Sun Angel Student Athlete of Year awards during his time at ASU. Pat was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in 1998, and began a promising career as a professional football player. However, when the United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001, Pat and his brother, Kevin, decided to enlist. Pat married his high school sweetheart, Marie, and became an Army Ranger, serving tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Corporal Tillman was killed in Afghanistan. He left behind his wife, Marie, his father, Patrick, his mother, Mary, and two younger brothers.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to these brave young men and their families as we mark this solemn milestone. Two thousand American soldiers have paid the ultimate price in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Countless others have suffered wounds, both physical and mental. The human cost of the war in Afghanistan has been immense, and I urge my colleagues to support a safe, immediate, and orderly withdrawal of our troops, and to ensure that our veterans, who have sacrificed so much, are given the care and benefits that they deserve.

IN HONOR OF THE OLD MISSION CHURCH OF SAN JUAN BATISTA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the dedication of the "Mission of Music," the Old Mission Church of San Juan Bautista. On June 23, 2012 the Mission celebrates the anniversary of its dedication and an unbroken succession of pastors since its founding by the Franciscan order in 1812.

The Mission, the fifteenth and largest of California's twenty-one missions, was established by the Franciscan friars and dedicated in 1797 by Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén to its patron, St. John the Baptist. For the last two centuries, the Mission has served mass daily to parishioners and visitors, including the Amah Mutsun and other native California Indians who first inhabited the surrounding area.

Today the Mission continues to function as an active parish within the Catholic Diocese of Monterey. The Mission has been included in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Historic Register. With three naves it is the largest and one of the tallest missions in California. It also features the only Spanish Plaza in its original configuration remaining in California.

The bi-centennial dedication of the Mission honors the influence of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and American settler influence on the California Central Coast. The 200th Anniversary will be marked with a spectacular fiesta and procession from the Mission to downtown San Juan Bautista. Funds earned from the celebrations will go toward unearthing a newly discovered chapel site in the area as well as for maintenance and restoration of the Mission basilica and its associated buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I am not alone in recognizing the continuous work of the mission church in supporting the community of San Juan Bautista, including its role as a significant visitor destination in the region. For all the Mission has managed to contribute to the community and for all that it will undoubtedly continue to do I extend my most sincere thanks to it and wish it the best as it moves into a third century of service to the community of San Juan Bautista.

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF
2012, PART II**

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, more than three and a half years ago an impoundment holding disposed ash waste broke open, creating a massive spill in Kingston, Tennessee. The spill covered entire neighborhoods and the Clinch River with over one billion gallons of coal fly ash—displacing residents and resulting in \$1.2 billion in clean up costs.

The accident underscored the need for strong rules to ensure structural stability and the safety of coal ash impoundments. Yet, as of today, no national rules have been put into place to prevent another Kingston spill.

Two years ago the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first-ever regulations to ensure the safe disposal and management of coal ash from power plants under the nation's primary law for regulating solid waste, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

EPA presented two regulatory options: regulating coal ash as hazardous waste under Subtitle C or regulating coal ash as a non-haz-

ardous waste under Subtitle D. But the EPA's proposal has stalled creating uncertainty for businesses and families.

As I said when the House of Representatives considered this issue last October, I have concerns that designating fly ash as a hazardous material will have major impacts on the recycling and reuse of fly ash to manufacture wallboard, roofing materials and bricks, and especially concrete.

In 2008 alone, the concrete industry used 15.8 million tons of fly ash in the manufacturing of ready mixed concrete making it the most widely used supplemental cementing material. When combined with cement, fly ash improves the durability, strength, constructability, and economy of concrete.

It also has huge environmental benefits. Using coal ash—an industrial byproduct—in concrete results in longer lasting structures and reduction in the amount of waste materials sent to landfills, raw materials extracted, energy required for production, and air emissions, including carbon dioxide.

A “hazardous” designation of fly ash could put these benefits in jeopardy. It could make fly ash storage and transportation more expensive, and create a legal environment that would deter cement manufacturers from recycling fly ash in cement production.

The result would not only be devastating for the cement manufacturing industry and American jobs, it could also divert millions of tons of coal fly ash from beneficial uses to surface impoundments like the one that broke open in Kingston, Tennessee—an outcome nobody wants.

I don't think H.R. 2273 is a perfect bill. And, to be clear, I support strong regulations for the disposal and storage of coal ash. But, these regulations can and should be completed without jeopardizing the recycling and reuse of fly ash.

I am supporting Rep. McKinley's motion to instruct because it would move the conversation forward on how to find a reasonable and responsible balance between protecting communities and our environment, while also incentivizing the recycling and reuse of coal ash—goals we can all support.

It is my understanding that my colleagues on the conference are making progress in finding that balance. Meaningful conversations that began more than six months ago between key stakeholders are beginning to bear some fruit on this issue.

We shouldn't ignore this issue—it's too important. We shouldn't wait for an undefined period of time before strong rules are put in place. We shouldn't discourage recycling and reuse of coal ash by unnecessarily labeling it as “hazardous waste.”

Let's pass this motion and get back to work on a long-term bill.

**U.S. SHOULD REMAIN OPTIMISTIC
FOR POLITICAL RECONCILIATION
IN THAILAND**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. Poe of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the events over the past six years in Thailand have left the country deeply divided. A military coup

overthrew an elected government in 2006. Violent protests demanding new elections in 2010 led to the deaths of at least 90 people. Rich and poor, military and civilian, politician and voter—all have had differences over the years.

But, the newly elected party of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra promised to bridge those divides and lead Thailand towards a more stable and democratic future. For this country to move forward towards a more free and fair society, its leaders must push for political reconciliation between differing parties despite any opposition it may face today. The Thailand legislature is currently working its way through a political reconciliation bill. As it continues this process, the United States should be encouraged and hopeful in our ally's path to democracy and reconciliation. And that's just the way it is.

**INTRODUCING THE “SYRIA NON-
INTERVENTION ACT OF 2012”**

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Administration is marching toward another war in the Middle East, this time against Syria. As with the president's war against Libya, Congress has been frozen out of the process. The Constitution, which grants Congress and only Congress the authority to declare war, is once again being completely ignored.

The push for a U.S. attack on Syria makes no sense, is not in our interest, and will likely make matters worse. Yet the Administration, after transferring equipment to the Syrian rebels and facilitating the shipment of weapons from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, has indicated that its plans for an actual invasion are complete.

This week there are even press reports that the Central Intelligence Agency is distributing assault rifles, anti-tank rocket launchers, and other ammunition to the Syrian opposition. These are acts of war by the United States government. But where is the authority for the president to commit acts of war against Syria? There is no authority. The president is acting on his own.

Today we are introducing legislation to prevent the administration from accelerating its plan to overthrow the Syrian government by assisting rebel forces that even the administration admits include violent Islamic extremists.

The bill is simple. It states that absent a Congressional declaration of war on Syria:

“No funds available to the Department of Defense or an element of the intelligence community may be obligated or expended for the purpose or which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Syria by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.”

This legislation is modeled after the famous Boland Amendments of the early 1980s that were designed to limit the president's assistance to the Contras in their attempt to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. Congress has an obligation to exercise oversight of the president's foreign policy actions and to protect its constitutional prerogatives. This legislation will achieve both important functions.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing this country needs is yet another war particularly in the Middle East. Even worse is the president once again ignoring the Legislative Branch and going to war on his own. I hope my colleagues will join me in standing up for our Constitutional authority and resisting what will be another disastrous war in the Middle East.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY COSTA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Costa on the occasion of his recognition by the Grower Shipper Association with its prestigious E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement in Central Coast Agriculture. The Ag Leadership Award is presented to the individual, company, group, association, or agency that has made a significant contribution to the agricultural community in the Salinas Valley.

Anthony Costa, or Tony, as he is known by most, was born in Wakefield Massachusetts and is the oldest of seven children. He came to California on a train with his aunt and uncle when he was eleven years old, settling in the San Joaquin Valley town of Los Banos. He graduated high school in 1946, and later served our nation in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After leaving the service, he found his way to Salinas, California, where he met and married Salinas Valley native Elsie Bassi. Elsie was born and raised in the Soledad Mission District, graduated from San Jose State University, and was a school teacher.

In 1956, the young Costa couple began farming on a ranch outside of Soledad. As their family grew, so did their farming operation. For over fifty-six years, the Costa Family has dedicated itself to being quality growers of more than twenty different vegetable row crops in the Salinas Valley. Their original small operation has grown to encompass strategically owned and leased ground up and down the Salinas Valley. The family also runs year-round harvest operations, field-to-cooler trucking, joint ventures in Huron, Yuma and Imperial Valley crops, and partnership interests in cooling and processing operations. Their farming operation has been a key supplier to several shippers and processors in the area for many years.

The Costa Family Farms is a family farm in every sense of the word. And while the award singles out Tony for recognition, it is really a recognition of the whole Costa family. The family continues to farm the original ranch which they leased for many years. Their business now involves three generations of family members including their children David, Michael, Diane, and JoAnn, who are joined by their grandchildren Colby Rubbo and Peter Dossche. Several other grandchildren are pursuing agricultural degrees. They have built a remarkable operation that bridges the old produce world of trust and handshakes and the new modern world of food safety and product traceability.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in offering Tony and Elsie Costa and their whole family our heartfelt congratula-

tions on their recognition by the well deserved honor of E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement in Central Coast Agriculture.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL MARINE
WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Marine Week so that we may join in a celebration of the individuals who dedicate themselves to the service and defense of this great country.

Each year a city is chosen to host National Marine Week and to serve as a venue to showcase the achievements of our most elite service members. This year Cleveland, Ohio was chosen to bring together technology, history, Marines and the public they serve. Cleveland is a fitting location as currently more than 9,000 active duty or reserve Marines hail from the state of Ohio. By highlighting the community, country and Corps, National Marine Week is both an educational and civic event which fosters awareness and connection between the military and civilian communities.

A week including Marine sporting events, speakers, and bands demonstrates the wide array of talents which fuel the Corps forces both at home and abroad. Various demonstrations will showcase the Expeditionary Forces in Readiness. The week is a unique exchange of thanks and respect for soldier and citizen alike. By remembering the sacrifices of the past, as well as the missions which continue to require our forces in the future, National Marine Week is a sign of the gratitude and honor which these heroes deserve.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues please join me in honoring National Marine Week 2012 to show our appreciation to those who give so much in service to their country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
WAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize a special organization that is near and dear to me, The United Way.

The United Way Worldwide is the leadership and support organization for the network of nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 45 countries and territories. In East Alabama, we are home to three different United Way locations—The United Way of Lee County, The River Region United Way and The United Way of East Central Alabama.

United Way focuses on helping people reach their full potential in education, income and health while also encouraging volunteerism and service. June 21st is United Way's Day of Action and June 28th is the official United Way Founders Day.

The United Way of East Central Alabama, in particular, is a special organization to me be-

cause I had the honor of working there from 1982 to 1986 as the Director of their Dislocated Worker Program. I saw and participated first-hand in the organization's efforts to help laid-off workers go back to school for re-training.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to this organization that has touched so many lives and offer a very happy 125th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN BURROUGHS
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR STATE OF
AMERICA CHAPTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the John Burroughs High School Junior State of America Chapter (JBHS JSA), from Burbank, California, upon being announced as the winner of the fifth annual National Civic Impact Award.

The concept for the Junior State was envisioned in the 1930s by Professor E.A. Rogers, who strongly believed that teaching youth the fundamentals of good government is one of the central needs of a democracy. When he introduced this idea to his students, a recommendation for a junior government was proposed by a student, where students would not only learn about democracy, but practice it as well. Formerly known as the Junior Statesmen of America, this project has spread to many high schools in California and across the nation. Since its inception, over 500,000 students have gained the skills and knowledge essential to be informed and active citizens and leaders.

Today, the Junior State of America (JSA) and the Junior Statesmen Foundation, strive to prepare and educate high school students for continuing involvement and participation in a democratic society. It encourages students to advocate their personal opinions, develop respect for opinions that oppose their own, think critically, and exchange ideas through problem solving, talks and debates. This experience also allows students to understand the responsibilities and challenges of leadership.

Every year, the top JSA chapters from across the U.S. compete for the National Civic Impact Award. This award is presented to the JSA chapter that makes the most prevalent impact at their school, by raising the degree of civic engagement and awareness. Ten finalists, who had all been announced winners of the "Chapter of the Year" award in their respective regions, advanced to be considered for the National Civic Impact Award. A panel of judges reviewed the materials the finalists had submitted, and announced John Burroughs High School as this year's winner. In addition to this prestigious title, the JBHS JSA will receive a grant towards maintaining the school's civic engagement programs, a stipend reward for the Teacher/Advisor as well as a plaque highlighting their achievement. The JBHS JSA is also incredibly active in their school and community. They have raised money for the Ronald McDonald House Charity, attended City Council and School Board meetings and hosted guest speakers.

I applaud the student participants and all the supporters of JSA for your unwavering commitment to civic engagement, and I ask all

Members to join me in congratulating the JBHS JSA Chapter for their noteworthy achievement.

CANDLES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center located in Terre Haute, Indiana.

CANDLES is the only Holocaust Museum located in the State of Indiana, the only Holocaust Museum in the world focusing on forgiveness, and the only one focusing on the stories of twin children who were used as subjects in medical experimentation at Auschwitz. CANDLES is an acronym for Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors.

The mission of CANDLES centers on the elimination of hatred and prejudice from our world. The Museum was founded in 1995 by Eva Mozes Kor who, as a twin, survived the genetic experiments of Dr. Josef Mengele in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

I was honored to be invited to tour CANDLES earlier this year and to meet Eva Mozes Kor and her husband, Mickey Kor. Their moving account of their experiences during the Holocaust and their willingness to forgive make their stories truly remarkable. I encourage all Hoosier and anyone who has the opportunity to visit CANDLES and to learn from Eva's powerful message of forgiveness.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY MACLAINE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 7th, 2012, the American Film Institute bestowed its prestigious 40th Lifetime Achievement Award upon actress Shirley MacLaine. I was privileged to speak at the event in tribute to my dear friend. I submit my remarks for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

"I met Shirley MacLaine 33 years ago, with Congresswoman Bella Abzug at Elaine's Restaurant in New York City, the beginning of a magical friendship. She is my daughter Jackie's godmother. Seven years ago Shirley officiated at Elizabeth's and my wedding.

The Shirley MacLaine I know has an uncommon intellectual curiosity, borne of a courageous approach to life. She has the capacity, in an instant, to go very deep into human experience, into the cosmos, into herself. Her gift to her friends is her ceaseless call for authenticity, the challenge to take off the mask, and compassion for those who journey towards the inner truth.

"The poet, Walt Whitman, may have anticipated Shirley when he wrote "I contain multitudes." Shirley brings an extraordinary emotional coloration to the Art of Life and to the performing arts that is so vivid that she has the ability to light up a character, light up stage and screen and light up our lives.

"In a world where most people play it safe, Shirley pushes the envelope, to pierce the veil which covers reality itself, to explore and to guide us to other dimensions. She has lived a life out on the limb, picking apples that most would fear to reach, and tonight, Shirley, you are harvesting an orchard."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating Shirley MacLaine's extraordinary career and her attainment of the AFI's 40th Lifetime Achievement Award.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES ARMY MISSION AT TOBYHANNA

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the U.S. Army Mission at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their 100th year of service to our nation.

Originally used as an artillery training field, Tobyhanna Army Depot has housed the United States Army since 1912. The current supply depot was built in 1953 and has served the U.S. Army ever since.

In its 100-year history, the U.S. Army has found numerous uses for the Army Depot as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, tank and ambulance center for World War I, prisoner-of-war camp during World War II, and storage point for gliders used in the D-Day landings at Normandy in 1944.

Tobyhanna Army Depot itself has been a leader in the design, manufacture, and repair of many integral and state of the art U.S. Army systems and tools for nearly 60 years. Currently, it is the largest, full-service electronics maintenance facility within the Department of Defense.

Tobyhanna serves not only the U.S. Army but also the people of northeastern Pennsylvania by providing the single largest number of jobs and employment in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S. Army Mission at Tobyhanna Army Depot, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to country and community.

HONORING EMILY E. RANDLE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emily E. Randle. Emily is Raymond High School's Valedictorian at Raymond High School for the Class of 2012. She is the daughter of David and Ruth Randle of Utica, Mississippi.

Ms. Emily Randle has a 4.2 GPA and is enrolled in both advanced performance and accelerated classes. She has appeared numerous times on the Principal's List while in high school. Emily is also involved in extra-curricular activities. She is the President of the Senior Class, a member of the Beta Club, and a member of the Student Council.

Emily is very serious about continuing her education and has received several academic

scholarships from colleges and universities in the United States. She has also been selected as a National Achievement Scholarship Finalist, Clinton Alumni Chapter Scholarship Recipient, Rho Lambda Omega Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarship Recipient, 2012 MS Scholars Award, and Outstanding Young Citizen for the Loyal Order of the Elks 2011.

Emily is also actively involved in extra-curricular activities such as, playing the trumpet in the Raymond High School Band, serving as the drum major for the 2011-2012 school year, and participating in both the Mid-South Honor Band for 2011 and the Capital District Honor Band. Emily is also a member of the Young People's Department at her church, Pearl Street AME Church.

After high school, Emily plans to attend Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. She intends to pursue a career in Intelligence Securities with hopes of becoming a research analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigations or the National Security Agency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Emily E. Randle, Valedictorian of Raymond High School Class of 2012.

DOMESTIC ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4480) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in response to a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, the bill that the House is considering contains a very troubling provision. It would place a \$5,000 fee on anyone who wants to protest a lease of federal lands.

The language in this legislation is very clear: it refers to this as a "protest fee" and it costs \$5,000. Clearly, a \$5,000 fee places a higher burden on citizens who might seek to delay or prevent oil and gas development.

Mr. Chair, my colleagues are well aware that the first amendment says that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

This fee violates that most basic freedom and it violates the spirit of the first amendment. My amendment, Number 13, offered by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia as my designee, would fix that.

I am not a lawyer Mr. Chair, but I have experience in non-violent protest. I have experience in petitioning the government over a grievance. And I believe this provision is unconstitutional.

I have seen firsthand the power of the first amendment—The power of protest. My experience has taught me that this is our sacred right as Americans. It is a protection from oppression. It is a protection from tyranny and injustice. On more than one occasion, my

friends and I put our lives in its care for what we believe. We must protect that right.

In the past three years there have been members of this body who have protested the policies of the administration. While I disagree with them on many issues, I deeply respect their right to peacefully and non-violently protest. Some of them may be new to protest but I know that every member of the Tea-Party Caucus will support my amendment.

Mr. Chair, the ability to protest was the foundation of our country. Protest has shaped and reshaped our society. Again and again. If the courts review this policy, we should make clear that this provision should not stand. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this amendment.

IN HONOR OF AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
OWENS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot who died in service to this great country. On February 17, 2011, Airman 1st Class Corey C. Owens, USAF, died of a non-combat related incident at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

Airman 1st Class Owens, 26, of San Antonio, Texas, was assigned to the 47th Security Forces Squadron, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, and was on his second deployment to southwest Asia. His father resides in Story, Arkansas.

Although I never had the honor of meeting Airman 1st Class Owens, it is clear by the outpouring of praise from his colleagues, friends, and family that he was well liked and well respected by all who knew him. In fact, local news reported that when Laughlin Air Base held a memorial service on Feb. 28, they had trouble finding a space large enough.

Airman 1st Class Owens is survived by his current wife, Misty Owens; his two daughters, Xiya and Xoe Owens from his first marriage; his father, Steve Owens of Story, Ark.; his mother, Chris Owens of Springfield, Ill.; two sisters, Ann Kusterbeck of Princeton, Tex., and Sandra Owens of Springfield, Ill.; two uncles, two aunts, two nieces, one nephew and several cousins.

When we think of true heroes, we think of brave Americans like Airman 1st Class Owens who risk everything to defend freedom and serve this great country. We will always be grateful for his selfless sacrifice and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to his parents and the rest of his family and friends during this very difficult time. We are who we are as a nation because of patriots like Airman 1st Class Owens.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Airman 1st Class Corey Owens and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM A.
KRUPMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William A. Krupman of Purchase, NY, who is being honored for his dedication to at-risk youth and their families upon his retirement as Chair of the Children's Village, a New York-based multi-service, not-for-profit agency.

Mr. Krupman was elected to the Board of the Children's Village in 1974. In 2004, he was elected as Chair of the Board. Through his tireless efforts as Trustee and eventually Board Chair, Mr. Krupman helped the Children's Village to become a leader in the child welfare and juvenile justice fields. He also successfully created nationally recognized, evidence-based models of care that lead to real social impact.

During his almost four decades on the Children's Village Board, Mr. Krupman has provided guidance to approximately 10,000 children and their families. He has not only motivated guardians to lead by example and teach their children the importance of social, educational, and economic skills, but has also provided guidance to orphans, an especially vulnerable group. The Children's Village's Dobbs Ferry campus includes long-term residential treatment programs, a short-term crisis intervention center, temporary placement for youth awaiting a court disposition, and a public school that educates all of these children as well as day students from around the region. The Children's Village also has offices in Harlem and the Bronx and program sites around Westchester County.

Mr. Krupman's work has also had a profound impact abroad. Through his commitment and strong will, Mr. Krupman has succeeded in expanding literacy programs around the globe. In 2009, at the invitation of the Government of Iraq, Mr. Krupman traveled to the country as part of the Children's Village delegation to help train NGO's working with orphans. In Iraq, Mr. Krupman, along with a team of professionals, assessed the needs of the locals and offered suggestions on how to apply local feedback into the curriculum to ensure that the needs of Iraqi families and children were being met. The information they gathered helped Iraq's non-government service organizations develop programs for family foster care homes, social workers, and short-term crisis stabilization facilities similar to the one run by the Children's Village. Additionally, they established a team of Iraqi social service leaders to continue and develop the outstanding work started by Mr. Krupman and the team.

Mr. Krupman currently serves as Chief Advisor to Litworld, an organization that strives to make the dream of world-wide literacy for children a reality. LitWorld teams work with teachers, community members, parents, and children to establish communities that will grow and expand to harbor literacy leaders. Recently, Mr. Krupman traveled to several African countries, including Kenya and Rwanda, bringing with him his enthusiasm and energy to share the gift of literacy with children by reading to them.

Mr. Krupman's many outstanding achievements in providing assistance to children and youth, both here and around the world, are inspirational. I urge you to join me in honoring William A. Krupman.

HONORING DEBORAH J. MAGGS

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Deborah J. Maggs, on the occasion of her retirement.

Deborah was hired in May of 1975 as a Caseworker 2 for the Lycoming County Children and Youth Services. She has served for 37 consecutive years, 34 of which were full time. She worked part time for three years from 1979 to 1982 in order to raise her two children.

In 1985, she was promoted to Casework Supervisor 1 in the General Protective Services Unit, a unit she led until 2005. Deborah's extensive training, experience and skills helped her develop expertise in the area of Child Protective Service investigation.

In 2005, Deborah was instrumental in the development, implementation, and supervision of the County's Integrated Assessment Units, composed of caseworkers cross-trained to perform Child Protective Services, General Protective Services and Mental Health Assessments.

Throughout her career, Deborah has supervised and mentored over 30 staff, many of whom have gone on to become supervisors themselves.

Deborah has dedicated a significant part of her life to service casework, having either supervised or conducted over 21,000 investigations and assessments protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of well over 38,000 children. In 2010 she was recognized with the "Excellence in Human Services" award as nominated and selected by her staff and peers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deborah J. Maggs, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising her commitment to Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

H.R. 1756, THE NATIONAL OILHEAT
RESEARCH ALLIANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress debates measures to address our nation's energy independence, economic growth, and job creation, I rise in strong support of the National Oilheat Research Alliance Reauthorization Act of 2011 (H.R. 1756).

Oilheat safely and efficiently heats 9.5 million American households, keeping an estimated 24.5 million individuals comfortable when the temperature drops. As the American cost of living continues to rise, vital advances in this industry can save consumers money. With the goal of improving heating efficiency

and technology, we have introduced H.R. 1756, legislation to reauthorize this vital program and have the support of 70 bipartisan and geographically diverse cosponsors.

Since its inception in 2001, the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) has made significant progress in improving the efficiency and reliability of oilheating equipment, thus lowering costs to consumers and reducing the use of oil. NORA is a collaborative program established by the oilheat industry aiming to strengthen the industry by improving education and training for employees, providing information to customers, and developing new products for consumers. From an ecological standpoint, NORA is working on the development of sustainable biofuels as part of heating oil, and improving emissions controlling technology.

NORA is funded by a fee of 2/10th of 0.01 cent per gallon paid for by oilheat distributors only if 85% of the industry agrees that it is wanted. This fee does not affect consumers, but rather is an initiative by members of the industry to improve their product and save customers money.

Since the authorization of NORA the industry has:

Improved residential oilheat efficiency by 30 percent or 120 gallons per home. Based on the U.S. average heating oil price in the 2009/2010 winter season, the volume reduction over this period has reduced oilheat consumer's energy costs by about \$335 per household at a cost of \$7.50 per household heated with oil.

Reduced foreign oil imports by 185,000 barrels per day.

Reduced CO₂ emissions by 30 million tons. The adoption of NORA's best practices resulted in reduced claims and less severity for industry participants. This yielded a significant reduction in the cost of insurance for companies. For a typical company utilizing NORA's best practices, insurance costs per customer will be reduced by 1.0 cent per gallon.

The authorization of NORA merely provides the mechanism for the oilheat industry, should they choose to work cooperatively, develop programs, and ensure that solutions are found systematically and resourcefully. By reauthorizing NORA, we will help ensure the continuation of research that has helped lower consumer costs and improved heating efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues and the staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee for the work they have done on this legislation and urge its consideration and passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF A SAFE PLACE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize A Safe Place, its Board of Trustees, its counselors, and its volunteers as the organization celebrates its milestone of twenty-five years of service to the community.

A Safe Place is an organization on Nantucket that helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault as they start over and rebuild their lives. They were founded in 1987 by five members of the Nantucket Wom-

en's Bar Association and, since then, have continued to provide free and confidential services to these survivors. Over the years, the organization's outreach has expanded to also include specialized assistance to children whose lives have been affected by violence in the home.

Today, A Safe Place provides a 24-hour hotline that people can call when they are in immediate need of assistance, and its counselors often will meet with survivors in the local hospital or police station as soon as the need arises. It has even organized a network of "safe houses" on the island through its Safe Home initiative, a program through which volunteers offer emergency accommodation in their own homes to those leaving an abusive situation. The organization provides assistance with relocation as survivors work to rebuild their lives. When a survivor must confront her abuser in court, a counselor from A Safe Place is often right by her side. A Safe Place offers comfort and assistance to hundreds of people each year, and it is considered to be an invaluable service to the Nantucket community by local law enforcement and healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to honor A Safe Place, its Board of Trustees, its counselors and its volunteers as the organization celebrates twenty-five years of service. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of this organization to the Nantucket community and its significance to those whose lives have been changed by its support.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE OF OHIO IN CARING FOR OLDER AMERICANS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, as we work to re-evaluate our country's health care delivery and payment system, I rise in recognition of the great success my home state of Ohio has had in caring for our senior citizens. Ohio Governor John Kasich realized not only the cost savings but also the quality of care that could be achieved through caring for seniors in their own homes. He dramatically increased the availability of home health services for Ohio's senior populations, and according to the Ohio Department on Aging, the state will save an additional \$300 million per year by 2020 because of that decision.

When seniors are paying their own room and board, sleeping in their own beds, and doing their own laundry and cooking, they end up having more personal investment in their own health care decisions—covering costs that taxpayers would otherwise pay in increased Medicare and Medicaid spending. Giving seniors, and all Americans, more control over their medical choices and health care dollars will help promote high-quality, cost-effective health care.

Last month was Older Americans Month, and this year's theme was Never Too Old To Play. Older Americans were encouraged "to stay engaged, active and involved in their own lives and in their communities." What better way for seniors to do this than to receive

needed care in the comfort of their own homes? I applaud the state of Ohio for the quality and cost-effective care we are offering our senior citizens and encourage the federal government to do the same.

CONGRATULATING USCG CAPTAIN STEVE POULIN ON PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer congratulations to USCG Captain Steve Poulin for his much-deserved promotion on June 25, 2012, to the rank of Rear Admiral. His unwavering dedication to duty, combined with his impeccable service record, is a credit to the United States Coast Guard.

For the people of the Gulf Coast, Captain Poulin has been a good friend and protector of our shores as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Alabama, from 2009 to 2010.

During his command of Sector Mobile, Captain Poulin demonstrated a level of professionalism in keeping with the finest traditions of the Coast Guard. He was not only the leader of one of the largest operations in the Coast Guard but also a visible and respected member of our community.

Prior to assuming the command of Sector Mobile, he served in Mobile during earlier assignments as Deputy Commander, from 2007 to 2009, and as Law Enforcement Officer and Assistant Operations Officer from 1986 to 1989.

On July 9, 2010, Captain Poulin left the command of the USCG station in Mobile to assume sole duties as local incident commander for the Unified Command. In this capacity, Captain Poulin marshaled Coast Guard resources in the federal response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill which threatened our coastline for much of 2010.

Captain Poulin's extensive service record also includes assignments as Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Group Galveston, Texas, from 1996 to 1999, and Special Adviser for Border and Transportation Security for Vice President Richard Cheney from 2005 to 2007. From 2003 to 2005, he was Coast Guard liaison to the State Department's Office of Oceans Affairs. He also served as Legal Counsel for the Coast Guard's Port Security Director from 2002 to 2003, and Legislative Counsel in the Coast Guard's Office of Congressional Affairs from 1999 to 2001.

A 1984 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Captain Poulin was awarded his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from the Miami School of Law in 1992.

After leaving the Gulf Coast, Captain Poulin assumed the position as the Coast Guard's director of Congressional Affairs in Washington, DC. He currently serves as the Coast Guard's Maritime and International Law Office Chief.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to congratulate Rear Admiral Poulin on his promotion. I also would like to extend my very best wishes to his lovely wife, Sherry, and their two children, Steven and Erin.

TRIBUTE TO MS. SUZANNE GOSS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ms. Suzanne Goss, Government Relations Specialist for JEA (Electric, Water & Sewer) on her recent election as the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Ms. Goss is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward who plays a prominent role in seeking a sound direction for the implementation of the Clean Water Act. Throughout her career in the water industry, Ms. Goss has exemplified what it means to be a public servant. Ms. Goss will continue to ensure that Florida's, and the Nation's, clean water agencies are sustainable, that the environment continues to improve, and that public health is protected.

At JEA, Ms. Goss works for an advanced publicly owned water, electric, and sewer utility, providing invaluable services to approximately 420,000 people in Northeast Florida. Ms. Goss effectively engages in complex state and federal legislative and regulatory issues involving wastewater and drinking water with an in-depth knowledge of the affordability concerns of her community and the need for a partnership between all levels of government. She also manages JEA's Grant Program.

A member of NACWA's Board of Directors since 2007, Ms. Goss has served as the organization's Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President, and has been a member of many NACWA committees and workgroups. She has played a leading role in NACWA's pretreatment program and is also one of the drivers behind the organization's funding efforts. In 2005 she received the President's Award for her work as Vice Chair of the Clean Water Funding Task Force.

In addition to her work with NACWA, Ms. Goss is an active member of local, regional, state and national professional organizations. These include the American Water Works Association, the New Water Supply Coalition, the Florida Municipal Energy Association, the Florida Water Environment Association, the Florida Energy Coordinating Group, the Pinellas County Sewer System and the Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology Sustainable Infrastructure.

Ms. Goss has selflessly shared her time, passion, energy and ideas to carry out the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Suzanne Goss on becoming President of NACWA. I am certain her actions will ensure continued water quality progress for the Jacksonville area, the State of Florida and the Nation.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL BERNARD
P. CORPUZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Corporal Bernard P. Corpuz,

and to join the U.S. Army in recognizing his service to our nation by dedicating the military's newest language training facility in his honor. Corporal Corpuz was a native to California's Central Coast, and represented his community with pride during his service in the Army. He was killed in action in Ghazni, Afghanistan, on June 11, 2006 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Bernard Corpuz was born on August 16, 1977, and grew up near Watsonville, California. He graduated from Palma High School and attended Hartnell College, both in Salinas, California. In July 2004, Corpuz joined the U.S. Army. After completing basic training, he was sent back to California's Central Coast to study at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLI) in Monterey, California. DLI is the nation's largest and most rigorous language education center. Corpuz completed a rigorous six-month French basic course and graduated on April 28, 2005. His instructors at DLI described him as an extremely dedicated student of French, who studied the language with passion and read French literary and religious books with zeal.

Following DLI, Corpuz trained as an Army interrogator. In December 2005, he deployed with the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, part of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, to Afghanistan. On June 11, 2006, Corporal Corpuz was fatally wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated while he traveled in a convoy of vehicles conducting a village assessment. He died in the arms of a Catholic chaplain at the age of 28.

Our nation's need for military linguists has grown dramatically in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks. DLI has grown in an equally dramatic way to meet this demand. Congress and the Department of Defense have helped by funding the expansion and modernization of DLI's teaching facilities. The newest facility, a 47,000 square foot state of the art building will be formally dedicated and named in honor of Corporal Corpuz on Friday, June 22, 2012. The new Corpuz Hall will house DLI's Multi-Language School, which educates students in the critical languages of Dari, Pashto, Urdu, Uzbek, Punjabi, Turkish, and Hindi. Every time these future military linguists enter the building they will be reminded of the passion and determination Corporal Corpuz brought to the classroom and to his service to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of the entire House, in expressing our nation's gratitude to Corporal Bernard P. Corpuz. Also, may his mother, Peggy Corpuz, seek comfort in knowing her son's name is a beacon for higher learning and national service.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALLY BOROUGH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bally Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

While the Borough of Bally was incorporated in 1912, it has a rich history that stretches back to before the American Revolution when present-day Bally was known as

Goshenhoppen in Philadelphia County. The original settlers enjoyed generally peaceable relations with the Indians and worked hard to ensure the survival of their frontier settlement.

After 1855, the town was re-named Churchville, Washington Township, due to the prominence of the Catholic and Mennonite churches that had been in the area since the 18th century. After the death of Father Bally, the Catholic priest in the village, a post office was established in Churchville in 1883 and named for the revered priest. The name of the village was eventually changed to correspond with that of the post office and, in 1912, was incorporated as the Borough of Bally.

Over the years, Bally has grown from a few families in a small frontier town to a vibrant borough of over 1,090 people and 430 households. In times of war, the citizens of Bally have always heeded their country's call, and are commemorated by the war memorial dedicated to their service. The Borough of Bally has been home to many industrial concerns including the Great American Knitting Mill, Bally Case and Cooler, Bally Pants Factory, Bally Ribbon Mills, and Bally Block Company. Throughout its rich history, Bally Borough and its citizens have made great contributions to the quality of the economic and social life of Berks County and the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Bally Borough and its storied history on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and to extend best wishes for the Borough's continued longevity.

MYPIE INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katherine Anne Crouse and Peter Crouse, owners of myPie Inc., for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

myPie opened in 2010 with Katherine delivering pizzas subway style via her bicycle, which she rides to and from work every day. myPie is the first delivery service in the U.S. to sell pizzas in a subway sandwich style. This entrepreneurial eye carries forth in their community outreach as well.

myPie initiated the 31.4% day where it awards 31.4% of all sales to local charitable organizations and schools. So far myPie has donated more than \$3,000 to Wheat Ridge High School and Middle School, the Action Center of Jefferson County, 40 West Arts in Lakewood, and Wheat Ridge 20/20.

myPie is a model for outstanding ethics in business. It is an example for all businesses in America to emulate.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katherine Anne Crouse and Peter Crouse for their well deserved recognition by the Rotary of Golden. I have no doubt Katherine and Peter will exhibit the same dedication and character in all their future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL ENSURE THAT FEDERAL MONEY GRANTED TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that will ensure that federal money granted to state and local law enforcement is used for its intended purpose, and not in violation of our constitutional right to equal protection. As a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud of the service we provide to the American people. Through the Department of Homeland Security, over \$35 billion in federal funds have been granted to local and state governments for counterterrorism programs that have kept our homeland safe since 9/11.

Unfortunately, not every dime of federally granted money has been used wisely. Troubling reports demonstrate that DHS grants have been used to fund biased training activities that are inaccurate, surveillance programs that target members of neighborhoods simply because of their religion, and other activities that are overbroad and compromise our security. Aside from being unconstitutional, these programs fail to narrowly target individuals that are actual security threats.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that secures our homeland, while maintaining the integrity of federal grants. This legislation will require that DHS counterterrorism grants are used to fund training programs developed by the Department of Homeland Security, or training programs that are pre-approved by the Department's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and its Privacy Office. Additionally, the bill will require that the Department's Inspector General regularly review DHS funded programs to ensure that they are not used to support civil rights violations, including racial, ethnic, and religious profiling.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the often quoted statement from Ben Franklin, one of the authors of the Constitution, that "anyone who trades liberty for security deserves neither liberty nor security." Today, we need both security and liberty, and can ill-afford to sacrifice either. These two concepts—security and liberty—are national interests that work hand-in-hand; when one is dismissed, the other is inherently discarded. This legislation is as much about the liberty of a few, as it is about the security of this whole nation.

I hope my colleagues join my effort to restore the integrity of taxpayers' dollars; let us provide the appropriate tools to law enforcement so that they may secure our homeland well; nevertheless, let us also protect the American people from unreasonable government treatment by enacting this legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both salute a former staffer who now works for a boss more powerful than any Member of Congress and to celebrate a feat of incredible longevity at his new workplace.

I was honored to employ Brian Sanderfoot, from Appleton, Wisconsin, for many years. He represented the highest values we in Congress want to provide: courtesy, commitment, and a dedication to public service.

A devout Catholic, Brian left Congress to pursue his true calling in the priesthood. After studying both at D.C.'s Catholic University and in Rome, Brian became Father Sanderfoot and entered a new phase of service.

Father Sanderfoot settled in the Archdiocese of Washington which is home to over 600,000 Catholics living in Washington, DC, and five Maryland counties. He now ministers at Maryland's St. Francis Xavier parish and is making a real difference in the lives of his congregation.

In a nation that commemorates the 25th or 50th anniversary of an event, Father Sanderfoot's parish has a special distinction. It recently celebrated its 350th anniversary, making it the oldest Catholic parish in America.

In anticipation of this milestone, Father Sanderfoot initiated two historical discovery projects. The first was a thorough survey of the cemetery at the parish's Newtowne Neck Church to map and index the graves. The second project was an archeological dig to discover the location of the original chapel.

St. Francis Xavier's parish has been a silent witness to a new country coming into being, its expansion across a continent, a civil war that pitted brother against brother, the strength of a people tested by the Great Depression and world wars, and the rise of a superpower. It has been the site of countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, masses, and homilies. For three and a half centuries, this parish has been the place where faith was nurtured, renewed, and embraced.

It is a privilege to consider Father Brian Sanderfoot a part of the extended Lewis family. I celebrate his new life and his lasting faith. Let us honor the durability of St. Francis Xavier's parish, which has been a steadfast source of identity and a pillar of stability for all Catholics in the area.

JEAN KIRSHNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jean Kirshner, co-founder of the Belize Education Project, for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Belize Education Project is responsible for bringing thousands of books and supplies

to students and teachers in Belize, as well as delivering teacher training to Belize educators in Belize and here in Colorado.

Utilizing five focuses of the "lifting lives through literacy project", reading with students, teacher education, family literacy, school supplies and scholarships for both primary and high school students, the Belize Education Project has been able to reach several of their goals.

Since 2007, an education team has traveled annually to Belize to work with teachers, students and families. In addition, a group of educators from Belize are hosted in Colorado to learn from instruction in Colorado classrooms.

I congratulate Jean Kishner for her leadership, and all the individuals of the Belize Education Project for making our world a better place to live.

THE LITTLE ROCK DIFFERENCE

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) and the LRAFB Community Council, both of which are located in central Arkansas, which I represent.

This week, the Community Council was presented with the Abilene Trophy, which recognizes the community that provides the "finest support" to an Air Mobility Command unit.

This is the second time the LRAFB Community Council has received this award, and it's truly a testament to their dedication to military families, to their community, and to their nation.

LRAFB has always enjoyed the support of the surrounding community. In fact, LRAFB was founded in 1952 when community leaders raised \$1 million to buy property from more than 150 private landowners and donated the property to the U.S. Air Force to create LRAFB.

In 2011, when LRAFB was hit by a tornado, the community responded by adopting affected families. Two weeks later, LRAFB was similarly responsive, assisting local families affected by flooding.

This supportive and cooperative relationship goes beyond just "neighbors helping neighbors." Last year, LRAFB's Joint Education Center became a first-of-its-kind partnership between the City of Jacksonville and LRAFB, and, to fund this project, the residents of Jacksonville voted to tax themselves to raise \$5 million to put toward the overall project.

The relationship between LRAFB and the community is unique, and, together, they are one team and responsive to the needs of each other. They serve as examples of excellence. This is how LRAFB and the Community Council differentiate themselves from other communities with air bases and what led to the creation of "The Little Rock Difference."

"The Little Rock Difference" initiative was unveiled this week by the Community Council. It establishes the characteristics of the relationship between LRAFB and the local community, and it is based on the LRAFB mantra "Rock & Role."

"Rock" is for "The Rock," which is the nickname of LRAFB and how the community affectionately refers to LRAFB. "Role" is for the

guiding principles of "ROLE"—"Responsive," "One Team," "Leading," and "Excellence"—which the LRAFB community and the local community embody.

I congratulate the LRAFB leadership and the members of the Community Council for their dedication in creating and implementing "The Little Rock Difference" and for their ongoing efforts fostering strong and positive relations between the people of Arkansas and the men and women who protect our country.

I am proud to be a part of such a fine group of men and women dedicated to their nation and to their community, and I congratulate them on their success.

HONORING PROSPECT HILL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic landmark in Jefferson County, Prospect Hill. Prospect Hill served as the catalyst for freed-slaves to immigrate to a colony known as "Mississippi in Africa". Prospect Hill represents a small, but important part of American history. This landmark, rich in history, contributed extensively to the dispersal of African Americans to Africa.

Prospect Hill was originally founded by Revolutionary War veteran, Issac Rose; in his will he provided funds that would allow freed-slaves to immigrate to the region of Liberia known as "Mississippi in Africa". Although this sparked turmoil in Jefferson County, this action eventually led to the successful immigration of free-slaves to Liberia in the 1830's.

Prospect Hill has long served as a portion of the past that reflects on the abundant history of the South. Its memory recalls the presence of hope and determination that was incessant during the 19th century. As a prominent landmark, Prospect Hill conserves a crucial piece of American history.

In 2011, Prospect Hill was included on Mississippi's list of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places. As a result, The Archaeological Conservancy acquired Prospect Hill to conduct research for educational purposes and preservation efforts. Today Prospect Hill continues to undergo renovation by The Archaeological Conservancy, in an attempt to restore an important element of American history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Prospect Hill as an important Historical Site in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

COMMENDING MONTFORD POINT MARINES AND SON OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two American trailblazers from North Carolina's First Congressional District: Montford Marine veterans Johnny Thompskins and the recently deceased Joe Cobbs. I would also like to recognize the son of a Civil War veteran, Luke Martin, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Thompskins, Cobbs, and Martin will be honored by the Christian Community Charity Workers (CCCW) Inc., on June 24 at the Flame Banquet Center in New Bern, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, recruiting for the "Montford Marines" began on June 1, 1942, following public pressure on President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Black leaders to issue Executive Order 8802, which barred government agencies and federal contractors from employment discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin. The order also required all of the U.S. Armed Services, including the United States Marine Corps, to recruit and enlist African Americans. Despite an era thick with racial discrimination, Black recruits lined up by the thousands to defend the freedoms of people abroad, while still being denied basic unalienable rights at home.

Among the inaugural class of Black Montford Marines were Johnny Thompskins and the late Joe Cobbs. Thompskins, a man of small stature but enormous courage; and Cobbs, who developed a strong work ethic while working his family's farmland, received basic training at the segregated Camp Montford Point in North Carolina because no Black recruit was allowed to enter the main base of nearby Camp Lejeune unless accompanied by a white Marine.

Nevertheless, these two men were unafraid by the onslaught of World War II. They understood that victory in war was only achievable with the talent of its Black citizens. As a result, these men served their country with distinction, charted uncharted territory, and set the bar for exemplary African American servicemen.

Mr. Speaker, on a similar note, at 94 years old, Luke Martin, Jr. is widely known around the state of North Carolina as one of a few living children of Civil War veterans. His father, Luke Martin, Sr. was a slave in Hertford County when he bravely joined the Union Army to fight for the freedoms of his loved ones.

Due to his father's efforts to help gain civil rights for Blacks, Martin Jr. was able to become a distinguished mason who has earned enormous respect for building several structures across Craven County.

Today, Thompskins and Martin both reside in New Bern. Cobbs also lived there until his passing in May.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these men, who will forever remain a cornerstone in American history.

HONORING MATTHEW LEVIN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of my friend Matthew Levin, the Southeastern States Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Matt has shown outstanding leadership in the development and coordination of AIPAC's political and grassroots objectives. It is an honor to commemorate his years of dedicated service in strengthening the United States' relationship with our great ally Israel.

A native of South Florida, Matt graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in political science

from the University of South Florida in Tampa. He first joined the Washington, DC, office of AIPAC in 1987, where he served as a Field Organizer for pro-Israel communities throughout the United States. Matt traveled extensively throughout the Northeast, Midwest and Southwest to speak about the importance of the United States-Israel relationship and encourage citizen involvement in the American political process. From this wealth of experience, Matt has gained an extensive background in politics and foreign policy.

Matt's impact in the Jewish community of South Florida and the United States extends beyond his work with AIPAC. For six years, Matt served in BBYO, one of the world's leading Jewish organizations, where he demonstrated his passion for convening and connecting Jewish teenagers of all backgrounds, while motivating them to make a difference in the world. In 1981, Matt rose to become the Gold Coast Council President of BBYO.

It is an honor to congratulate Matt, his wife Danielle and their sons Jakob, Cooper and Noah, as they celebrate Matt's outstanding work and leadership. Matt Levin has dedicated 25 years to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship, a commitment he and I both share. I applaud his efforts and look forward to working with him to strengthen our community at home and throughout the world in the years to come.

INTRODUCING THE WILD OLYMPICS WILDERNESS AND SCENIC RIVER ACT OF 2012

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker. Today I am proud to be introducing the Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic River Act of 2012, which will provide critical protection of key forested areas and rivers in the State of Washington. This bill, a result of more than two years of work by my staff and the staff of Washington Senator PATTY MURRAY, is a consensus effort that adds critical protection for sources of clean drinking water and preserves critical salmon and steelhead habitat. It creates more than 126,000 acres of new wilderness on the Olympic National Forest and designates 19 new Wild and Scenic Rivers and their tributaries in the National Forest, in Olympic National Park and on Washington Department of Natural Resources land.

I am particularly proud that the final version of this bill that is being introduced today has evolved through a long consultative process that included extensive local community input from Tribes, conservation groups, timber communities, business leaders, shellfish growers, farmers, local elected officials, hunters, anglers, mountain bikers, hikers, federal and state land managers and the general public. The result, in my judgment, is a common sense solution that offers permanent protection to some of the most spectacular of the Olympic Peninsula's public lands—without having a significant impact on timber jobs or recreational access.

In our great state of Washington, Mr. Speaker, we cherish the ability of our citizens to have access to the natural beauty of our region, especially areas that remain pristine and

undisturbed. Our challenge as leaders of a growing population has been to assure that the most sensitive of these areas are protected from development so that future generations—our kids and their kids—have the same ability that we have had to see the magnificent vistas and enjoy the benefits of a clean environment. The Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic River Act of 2012 represents an important incremental step in assuring the protection of additional roadless areas in Washington, and I will be working with my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee to urge timely consideration of this legislation.

JUDY DENISON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud my friend and talented singer Judy Denison for receiving the Living Landmark Award.

The Living Landmark Award is presented by the Golden Landmarks Association, a nonprofit organization whose focus is to preserve historic places and educate people about the wonderful history the City of Golden has to offer.

Judy Denison relocated to Golden in 1988 because she loves the peaceful nature of Golden and the small town feel. She was the co-founder of Save the Mesas and an organizer for the Mesa Music Festival. Judy's involvement in Citizens Involved in Northwest Quadrant (CINQ) lead to the establishment of the Golden Newsletter, which reaches out to nearly 1,000 Golden citizens each week. The newsletter discusses environmental and cultural news and its mission is to preserve the clean mountain air and the ambiance of Golden.

Judy's accomplishments are many. After a medical mission to Belize, Judy set up the Belize Education Project to send teachers to Belize and provide books and scholarships to underprivileged students. She is a member of the Golden Rotary Club and meets with teenage girls in the community to discuss life and ethics. Furthering her youth outreach, Judy organized the Golden Community Choirs, which is now in its twelfth season.

Judy Denison is a true "Golden" citizen in every sense of the word. She has been a champion in the community and I am honored to congratulate her on this well deserved recognition by the Golden Landmarks Association. Thank you for making our community a proud place for all Coloradans.

DOMESTIC ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4480) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil

and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in response to a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4480, the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act. This important legislation brings together multiple domestic energy bills that seek to help jumpstart our economy, spur job creation, and reduce energy costs on families and small businesses.

Given our slow economic recovery and high unemployment, we ought to do everything within our powers to ease the burdens facing Americans. Instead, this Administration continues to push policies that stifle job creation and increase uncertainty. The failed policies of the last three and a half years have only made a bad situation worse. Why would we continue to go down a path that makes it harder and harder for American companies to compete in a competitive global market? Energy costs are a major factor for companies when they are considering building a new facility or moving operations overseas. Let's make that decision easy for them and work to keep energy costs low so a U.S. presence is more attractive.

Today, we have an opportunity to pass legislation that will help stimulate the economy, lower the costs on small businesses and put a few extra dollars in the pockets of hard working Americans. For too long, we have ignored the abundant resources here at home, leaving us at the mercy of OPEC and other unstable countries throughout the world. I found it amusing that earlier this year when gas prices rose to record levels, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, these are the same individuals who are vehemently opposed to opening up production of oil and gas here in the U.S., were encouraging OPEC to increase oil production output. Why would we encourage OPEC to increase production, while doing everything in our power to severely limit production here at home?

Additionally, I am pleased that this legislation makes an attempt to reduce the abuse of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to score short term political points by tying the release of oil to opening up federal lands for oil and gas production. Also, this legislation takes important steps to streamline the permitting process for all energy sources, increase transparency and accountability on EPA regulations, and provide for greater lease certainty.

It is important for everyone to understand that currently only three percent of federal land is leased for oil and gas development. Given the instability in the Middle East, we must make it a priority to explore and develop our own natural resources. This doesn't mean that this has to come at the expense of our environment. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has identified 351 energy projects that have been stalled by "not in my backyard" suits, regulatory red tape, and endless challenges from environmentalists. What many may not realize is that almost half of these projects were for renewable energy projects. So this is not just an obstacle the oil and gas industry is facing. I am confident that we can find a way to ensure the protection of our environment while developing energy resources here at home, and this legislation is a step forward to make that possible.

It is time we put Americans back to work, and this legislation will go a long way to encourage economic growth, decrease our nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil, and reduce the costs on hard working Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING ILIR ZHERKA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ilir Zherka, Executive Director of DC Vote, who has been the outstanding leader of District of Columbia residents in the fight for equal citizenship rights in our country. Ilir will celebrate his tenth anniversary as Executive Director of DC Vote on June 24, 2012. Ilir has built DC Vote in membership and in the use of a wide assortment of sophisticated tactics and approaches. Under Ilir's leadership, DC Vote has sustained itself for 10 years without interruption, thus ensuring the sustainability of a citizen's movement here for the first time in decades. Ilir has been the major tactician of the movement, skillfully using approaches as varied as polling, lobbying, and civil disobedience.

Most recently, Ilir was the architect of unprecedented civil disobedience on the streets in front of the Senate and the White House last year, after Congress reimposed anti-home-rule riders on the D.C. appropriations bill, and after the District government barely avoided being shut down because of a federal budget fight in which the city was not involved. Ilir's own arrest was emblematic of the courageous leadership that he has given the movement.

Ilir's earlier leadership in the fight of D.C. residents for a full vote in the House brought the city the closest to success in its history. Ilir brought a wide variety of approaches to the voting rights struggle with mounting success. His valuable work behind the scenes in establishing contacts to help remove an amendment that tied passage of the D.C. House Voting Rights Act (DCVRA) to the elimination of the city's gun safety laws is not well known. Years of diligent and systematic work brought passage of the DCVRA in the House and Senate, only to be undercut by the dangerous gun amendment. This disappointment after many years of hard work would have caused many to move on. However, on the heels of the setback for voting rights, Ilir immediately turned to leading a new fight for D.C. budget autonomy and building an expanded national coalition to protect the District's home rule from an unprecedented series of attacks.

Ilir's aggressive creativity in building DC Vote has been matched by personal modesty, rare in a leader of a movement. Most who have worked with Ilir have been unaware that he was brought to this country as a child in an immigrant family from Montenegro, fleeing ethnic tension with Albanians. He rose from an underprivileged childhood in the South Bronx to attend college at Cornell University and law school at the University of Virginia. Ilir's work for justice before and during his leadership of DC Vote was chronicled in an April 2012 article in Washingtonian magazine, entitled "Taking It to the Street." I ask for unanimous consent to place the article in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, for 10 years, Ilir Zherka has been leading the fight for equal rights for the residents of the District of Columbia, within view of the U.S. Capitol. Ilir has visited the offices of many Members. His leadership has been in the great tradition of citizens who have petitioned for their rights and engaged in citizen action, including time-honored civil disobedience. I ask the House to join me in commending Ilir Zherka for his outstanding leadership of the movement for equal citizenship rights for the more than 600,000 Americans who live in the Nation's capital.

TAKING IT TO THE STREET

(By Ariel Sabar)

The Headquarters of DC Vote have a lived-in feel, with scuffed blue carpets and hallways lined with stacks of cardboard boxes. The walls are a bricolage of candid photos from protests and posters from the group's well-known ad campaigns (I AM DC, I DEMAND THE VOTE). When I first visited last summer, a couple of rumpled dress shirts hung over the backs of chairs in the office bullpen. A staffer apologized, saying they'd been tossed there by interns who had changed into T-shirts before going out to leaflet.

The corner office of DC Vote's executive director, Ilir Zherka, was so tidy by comparison that I asked whether he'd cleaned up for my visit. There was a stand for his leadership awards, a single mounted news article, an impeccably trimmed ficus. Zherka said the slim pile of papers on his desk was a bit thicker than usual: "I don't like clutter. It prevents me from freeing up my mind to work."

A diagram tacked to the inside of his door added to the picture of Zherka as the cool tactician bringing discipline to the District's long and messy struggle for full democratic rights. The nation's capital has more residents than Wyoming—but no vote in Congress, which has the power to overrule the District's leaders on local matters.

The hand-drawn diagram, of X's and O's yoked by arcing lines, looked like a page from a coach's playbook. Inside the biggest loop was a list of what Zherka said were "opponents or problems." These included Power of Elites, Ignorance, NRA, Republicans, Blue Dog Dems, Pseudo Strict Constructionists. The list had the gravity of a voting-rights Ten Plagues.

The diagram, Zherka explained, was a postmortem inked after one of the movement's most spectacular defeats. Legislation that DC Vote had spent seven years fighting for—and that had won historic votes in both the House and the Senate—came to an ugly end in the spring of 2010, the victim of a fractured city leadership and of deft politicking by the national gun-rights lobby. The DC Voting Rights Act would have expanded the US House of Representatives by two seats. One would have gone to DC, whose residents are overwhelmingly Democratic, the other to Utah, a Republican-leaning state that had failed by a whisker to win a fourth House seat through the 2000 census.

In trying to regroup, Zherka—a tall 46-year-old man with narrow features, a loping gait, and a salt-and-pepper goatee—had organized a series of meetings to pick through the wreckage. The movement needed to pivot, to find a new way forward. At the front of everyone's mind was the one-word question scrawled in big red letters at the top of the diagram: How?

As Zherka came to see it, the "inside game"—of lobbying Congress, of quiet meetings with elites—had to give way to something more aggressive. The District had to make Congress and the White House pay a

higher price for denying greater self-rule to the 600,000 residents of the nation's capital.

"Part of our strategy is to push this fight to the point where Americans weigh in in large numbers," Zherka told me. "That's the way the civil-rights movement worked, when people from the North called their congressmen and said, 'Stop those dogs, turn off those water hoses.'"

We left Zherka's office and walked to the small break room. Among the photos on the wall was one of Zherka wrapped in a TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION flag and pointing skyward with his right hand. The gesture managed to evoke both the Statue of Liberty and Moses.

Zherka said that the day after Barack Obama won the presidency, he taped the Washington Post's front page to the same wall. It was a totem to the man who was supposed to be the movement's redeemer; the man who had backed the voting-rights bill as a US senator, who ate at Ben's Chili Bowl, who played basketball with then-DC mayor Adrian Fenty and won Fenty's endorsement in the Democratic primary; the man, an African-American, who said he saw this historically black city on the Potomac as something more than a seat of federal power.

That now felt like a long time ago. Last spring, Zherka removed the Election Day front page and replaced it with one more attuned to the times. Its centerpiece was a photograph of current DC mayor Vincent Gray being handcuffed by the Capitol Police on April 11 of last year, a day when 41 people, including Zherka, the mayor, and six DC Council members, were arrested in the movement's largest act of civil disobedience in decades. The arrests made headlines around the world.

The television cameras, the turnout among local leaders, and the location—a tightly policed street near the Capitol—gave the appearance of significant advance planning. But Zherka had put the entire demonstration together in about 48 hours. The catalyst was news that President Obama had agreed to a Republican-sought ban on locally funded abortions in DC in a last-minute deal to avert a federal-government shutdown. "John, I will give you DC abortion," Obama had told GOP House speaker John Boehner, according to a Washington Post article reconstructing the negotiations.

From his iPhone that weekend, Zherka sent an e-mail summoning his staff to a 10 AM conference call. This latest attack on self-governance demanded a response, he said. They would need to e-mail supporters, contact the media, work Facebook and Twitter, and get permits from the Capitol Police. Zherka and his deputies would need to track down Mayor Gray and the council over the weekend and urge them to attend. In less than three hours, an e-mail to supporters announced a 5 PM demonstration that Monday, at Constitution Avenue and Second Street, Northeast.

Zherka's plan was to have speeches and then lead perhaps a half dozen protesters into the street, blocking traffic and refusing police orders to move. Zherka suspected that Obama's concession would inflame DC leaders, particularly those who had worked to elect him. But how many were willing to be thrown into the back of a police van? Zherka had run into Mayor Gray at a social function the night before, but Gray had been noncommittal.

The next day, after the speeches, Zherka was the first to defy Capitol Police and set foot in the busy street. To his relief, Gray was right behind him.

When I caught up with him not long afterward, Zherka told me that the 41 arrests were a "huge turning point." But a year later, the movement's prospects seem anything but clear.

If Eleanor Holmes Norton—DC's nonvoting member of Congress—and a string of the city's mayors have been the public face of the fight for greater self-rule in the District, Zherka is its chief strategist and organizer. He is in many ways the movement's Zelig, a shape-shifter as comfortable testifying before Congress as he is leading chants through a bullhorn.

His own obscurity belies the influence of the nonpartisan advocacy group he turned from a once-failing nonprofit into a many-tentacled powerhouse. Before its advent, Norton says, she often felt like "a talking head with nobody, meaning a body of citizens to back her up."

When he isn't emceeing rallies, Zherka is either on the Hill or at DC Vote, in Dupont Circle, where he morphs into a methodical puzzle-solver. At their Monday meetings, his half dozen staffers turn in reports of their activities over the past week, with a breakdown of successes and failures. Zherka uses the reports as real-time intelligence—a "dashboard," as one of his deputies puts it—to identify trends and new lines of attack.

In the halls of Congress, Zherka has a reputation for relentlessness. When a hard-fought 2007 voting-rights bill fell three votes short in the Senate, Zherka "was absolutely the first person who said, 'We have to get back on the horse. We have to get moving again. What are we doing? Who are we targeting?'" says Deborah Parkinson, then a senior staffer on the Senate committee with District oversight. "Just when you're tired and ready to take a break for 24 hours, he was right there saying, 'What are we going to do to make sure we get three votes for next time?'"

I accompanied Zherka one morning to a seminar he was leading for staffers from other nonprofits. The course was based on a how-to advocacy book Zherka is writing. Its chapter titles have the ring of both a battlefield manual and a self-help guide—Recruit the Right Champions; Communicate at All Times in All Directions; You Lose Until You Win.

The seminar was in a guesthouse at the villa-style DC home of Daniel Solomon, a philanthropist who helped found DC Vote. Zherka started with a lesson on issue-framing: why "marriage equality" is a better phrase than "gay marriage," why "climate change" is more likely to get a politician's ear than "global warming."

He gave an example from his own movement: "When someone says 'statehood,' people will ask, 'Well, where's the building going to be? Who's going to be the governor?' When you frame it as 'DC voting rights,' which is essentially the same thing, people will say, 'Oh, it's what everyone else has.'"

During a break, Zherka and I stepped onto the patio. "When I was in college," he said, "I took one of those tests that's supposed to tell you what career to go into." It was some 150 questions but offered less clarity than he'd hoped. "I remember the results were actor, politician, professor, and military officer."

When DC Vote hired Zherka as its executive director a decade ago, it needed—and got—all four.

A group of civic leaders and philanthropists established DC Vote in 1998 to rouse public support for the plaintiffs in *Alexander v. Daley*. The civil suit grew out of a legal theory that Jamin Raskin—a star professor at American University and now also a Maryland state senator—had laid out in a Harvard law journal. A group of 57 residents, joined by the DC government, argued that their lack of full congressional representation violated what Raskin said were equal-protection and due-process rights to "one person/one vote without regard to geographic residence."

DC Vote's founders saw in the suit new hope for a struggle winding back 200 years. The District was founded in 1790 on land ceded by Maryland and Virginia. A year after Congress moved to the new capital in 1800, lawmakers stripped residents of their ability to vote for Congress and President. When Philadelphia had been the capital, the Pennsylvania governor had refused to protect Congress from a mob of angry soldiers. Never again, Congress felt, should the seat of federal power be subject to the whims of local politicians.

Washingtonians raised an outcry. They paid federal taxes and fought wars but were denied the very democracy the United States had just fought Great Britain to win. Yet for the next 160 years, little changed.

Over the decades, resistance to self-rule took on more cynical dimensions. For many in Congress, DC was simply too liberal and too black. A history of local corruption didn't help, though whether the District's scandals were any worse than those in Congress or in the states remains a fair question.

It wasn't until 1961, with the 23rd Amendment, that Washingtonians won the right to vote in presidential elections. In 1970, the District was granted a nonvoting delegate in the House. Three years later, Congress let DC residents elect a mayor and 13-member council. Though the so-called Home Rule Act was a giant leap, Congress retained the power to review the city's budget and all acts of the council.

The momentum the District had drawn from the broader civil-rights movement in the 1960s and '70s fizzled amid the violence and corruption of the 1980s and '90s. After then-mayor Marion Barry's arrest in a crack-cocaine sting, public animus toward the city crested. "The whole idea of making this little pissant city into a state is ludicrous, something like a fly landing on an elephant's rump and contemplating rape," the Philadelphia Inquirer's David Boldt wrote in a 1993 editorial.

By October 2000, Anthony Williams—first as DC's chief financial officer, then as mayor—had shored up the District's finances and made friends in Congress. But the civil suit hit a wall. The Supreme Court upheld a lower-court ruling that under the Constitution only "the People of the several States" could choose members of Congress, and DC was not a state. The lower court had recognized the "inequity" but said only Congress could fix it.

By 2002, DC Vote was adrift and nearly bankrupt. Yet Daniel Solomon and another founder, Joe Sternlieb, came to see the legal defeat as an argument for the group's revival. As they looked back at the history of the struggle, they noticed a lack of continuity. Leaders came and went; passions burned and cooled.

"There were these episodic moments of great interest but nothing continuing, nothing being built," Solomon—whose grandfather cofounded the Giant Food supermarket chain—told me. "As a philanthropist, I saw—we all saw—the importance of building a structure that could keep pushing the issue forward, even and especially in the lean times."

Board members recognized that DC Vote's survival—and perhaps the movement's—depended on its next choice of leader.

Ilir Zherka was born in 1965 in Montenegro, then part of socialist Yugoslavia. His grandparents were farmers who had fought against the Italian and German occupation of Albania during World War II. Disease and the ravages of war claimed the lives of all but one of their seven children—Zherka's father, Ahmet.

After the war, Zherka's grandfather clashed with Albania's new Communist lead-

ers and fled with the family to Montenegro. (Zherka's parents are Muslim, though Zherka now goes with his family to a Unitarian congregation.) In their small town, Ahmet, charismatic and handsome, earned a reputation as an agitator against police harassment of Albanians. "My dad was very brash, very nationalistic, very unafraid," Zherka says.

But after taking part in an ethnic brawl one day, Ahmet feared for his family. They borrowed money from neighbors and landed in New York in May 1968, when Zherka was 2½.

Eleven people—Zherka and his six siblings, their parents and grandparents—squeezed into a three-bedroom apartment in the South Bronx. His father worked as a janitor and elevator operator by day; his mother cleaned offices at night. Zherka remembers feeling humiliated when his mother paid for groceries with food stamps.

When Marshal Tito or some other Yugoslav official visited the United Nations, Ahmet hauled his children there in his Pinto station wagon and helped lead hundreds of fellow Albanian-Americans in protest. "We, the kids, would march in circles and would be holding signs and shouting out chants," Zherka says.

By the time Zherka was a teenager, in the late 1970s, the South Bronx was a wasteland of poverty, racial tension, and violence. His older brothers ran in a tough circle, and several dropped out of high school.

For awhile, Zherka stayed out of trouble. He got a black belt in karate by sixth grade and started rap and breakdancing groups. In the schoolyards on Friday and Saturday nights, Zherka—as MC Rockwell or Il Rock—would join the crews who set up turntables and performed for the neighborhood.

When the family moved to a slightly better-off neighborhood in the North Bronx, Zherka fell in with a gang of Albanian teenagers who robbed houses, sold drugs, and rumbled. Zherka had to repeat ninth grade. When he transferred to Christopher Columbus High School, the principal noticed the disparity between his high test scores and his low grades and warned him to get his act together. The message struck at the right time. One of Zherka's friends was imprisoned for burglary; another was found dead in a river, in what neighbors suspected was a homicide.

It was during an 11th-grade government class that he felt a calling for public service. By his senior year, he was a good enough public speaker that teachers picked him to give "scared straight" talks to freshmen and to testify against budget cuts before the board of education.

With the help of a state program for underprivileged students, Zherka won a full scholarship to Fordham University. He drew straight A's his freshman year and transferred to Cornell.

The leap from the Bronx's mean streets to the Ivy league necessitated a costume change: "I went out and bought three sweaters and a bunch of button-down shirts." He joined the debate team and was elected president of the Cornell Democrats. He interned in the office of New York senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and graduated from Cornell with distinction and the school's John F. Kennedy Memorial Award for public service.

Back in the Bronx, Zherka's success became a source of pride. Among former classmates, Il Rock had become Political II.

During his second year at the University of Virginia School of Law, he met Linda Kinney, a third-year student from Southern California, who would become his wife. They bought a condo in DC's Cleveland Park in 1994, and Zherka landed a job as a legislative aide to longtime California congressman George Miller, a liberal from San Francisco.

The night before a major hearing, Zherka helped labor activist Charles Kernaghan prepare testimony accusing the manufacturer of a Kathie Lee Gifford clothing line sold at Walmart of forcing underage workers into long shifts at Honduran sweatshops. "I had no idea it would be one of the sparks that would set off dramatic changes within the garment industry worldwide," Zherka says.

Despite a precocious start on the Hill, Zherka's past tugged at him. The 1995 Dayton Accords settling the conflicts between former Yugoslav Republics left unresolved the status of Kosovo, a predominantly Albanian province of Serbia chafing under the brutal rule of Slobodan Milosevic.

Albanians in the United States turned to Washington for help. Joe DioGuardi, a Bronx-born Republican former congressman from New York with a big personality, had founded the Albanian American Civic League in 1989. But DioGuardi was seen as part of the old guard. Zherka felt he could do better. In 1996, while still working for Miller, he raised money from Albanian-American business owners to form a rival organization, the National Albanian American Council.

"It was a huge rift," says Avni Mustafaj, who grew up with Zherka in the Bronx and became NAAC's executive director. "They're looking at Ilir Zherka and me and saying, 'We know your grandfather and father—what are you doing?'"

For a few years, Zherka tried to keep an oar in establishment Washington. He was tapped as national director of ethnic outreach for President Clinton's 1996 reelection campaign and left Miller's office for a job as a senior legislative aide to Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

But by 1998, Zherka's thoughts had again turned homeward. Milosevic had launched a violent campaign that forced hundreds of thousands of Kosovar Albanians from their homes. "I picked up the Washington Post and read a story about an entire family that had been wiped out, including a toddler whose throat had been slit," Zherka says. "I remember thinking to myself, 'The person who killed this girl had to be holding her.' I remember going home to my wife and saying, 'I can't work, I can't do my job.' So she said, 'You have to go to NAAC.'"

As the Kosovo crisis deepened, Zherka became the go-to American spokesman not just for Albanian-Americans but also, it seemed, for Albanians in Kosovo. In 1999 and 2000, he testified before the House International Relations Committee, was quoted in the New York Times, and wrote op-eds in the Washington Post, pressing for Western military intervention. As a NATO bombing campaign got under way that March, Zherka sparred with Oliver North and Sean Hannity on TV and warned, on CNN, that "acts of genocide are being committed in the heart of Europe."

Zherka led an NAAC delegation to a White House meeting with President Clinton to press, unsuccessfully, for a ground invasion. NATO's bombing campaign ended in June 1999 with Milosevic's capitulation. When Zherka visited the Albanian capital of Tirana, people stopped him in the streets for photos and autographs.

But the long hours and days on the road were taking toll. His son, Alek, had been born in 1997 and a daughter, Hana, three years later. By 2002, the wars were over and NAAC was shifting into a new phase. Zherka was ready for a job closer to home.

As DC Vote's board sifted through résumés in 2002, it came up with only one strike against Zherka: He lived in Bethesda. (He and Linda had left their Cleveland Park condo for a larger home just over the Maryland line in 1999.) In the end, qualifications trumped residence.

Zherka turned down an offer from a law firm for what he suspected would be a grueling fight. A member of Congress he knew

from his work on Kosovo questioned his sanity “Man, Ilir, DC Vote?” Zherka recalls the congressman saying, “Either you’re really smart because you’ll have this job for life or you’re really stupid because you actually think you can win this.”

I asked Zherka how he responded.

“I said, ‘I’m stupid enough to think I can win.’”

A few months into the job, Zherka went to see Congressman David Bonior, a Democrat from Michigan, which has a large Albanian population. “Ilir, you’ve got to give your opponents something they want,” Bonior said, according to Zherka. “Your argument can’t be ‘Do this because it’s the right thing.’ You actually need to give them something that they want.”

But what, Zherka wondered, did backers of DC voting rights have to trade?

In 2003, Congressman Tom Davis, a Virginia Republican, offered an answer: a GOP seat for Utah. Davis chaired the House committee with District oversight and was popular in his party. In making his case in an interview with radio host Kojo Nnamdi, Davis had used all the right words: “It’s hard to make a straight-faced argument that the capital of the free world shouldn’t have a vote in Congress.”

But DC’s Eleanor Holmes Norton and other Democrats in Congress were skeptical. Davis had just finished a four-year stint as chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee, charged with electing GOP candidates to Congress. What good-faith reason could he have for offering a heavily Democratic enclave a voting seat in the House? Statehood advocates also lined up in opposition, because the proposal did nothing about DC’s lack of representation in the Senate.

Zherka, however, saw in Davis the sort of champion who could rewire the GOP’s opposition to DC voting rights. In 2004, Zherka and a group of leaders from DC Vote’s coalition told Davis that if he put in actual legislation, they would back him.

I asked Zherka if it was awkward to get behind a proposal then opposed by Norton.

“Absolutely, it was a little awkward.”

Zherka said, “All of us recognized that Congresswoman Norton’s leadership on the issue was significant and it would be hard for us to move too far forward without her support. At the same time, we all concluded within our organization that this compromise was the best opportunity to actually achieve representation.”

A few minutes later, Zherka added, “I’ve always been a big fan of the adage that you can’t just keep doing the same thing over and over again.”

After arriving at DC Vote, Zherka pleaded the organization’s case to Washington foundations and soon quadrupled DC Vote’s budget, to \$1.7 million. Republicans in Congress had barred the District from using public money to lobby for voting rights. Zherka obtained a pro bono legal opinion arguing that the ban placed no such restrictions on funding for voting-rights education. He gave the opinion to Mayor Anthony Williams, who in 2006 authorized the first of several half-million-dollar grants to DC Vote.

For DC Vote to be effective, Zherka felt, Americans outside DC—Americans who had a vote in Congress—needed to get involved. He and his staff visited national organizations to argue that they, too, had a stake in DC’s plight. Common Cause, the National Bar Association, and the United Auto Workers, among a diverse group of others, joined its coalition, lending their moral weight, lobbying muscle, and hundreds of thousands of grassroots members who could be called on to write or phone their representatives on Capitol Hill.

Zherka went after hostile or wavering Congress members in their own districts. When

GOP senator John Ensign of Nevada sought to undermine the DC voting-rights act in 2009, DC Vote launched Internet ads on websites in his home state. “Senator Ensign is focused on DC’s affairs . . . and his own—where does Nevada fit in?” one read, alluding to Ensign’s admission of an extramarital liaison with a former staffer.

The group got hundreds of residents to burn copies of their federal income-tax returns in Farragut Square in a “Bonfire of the 1040s.” It handed out tea bags labeled End Taxation Without Representation at Glenn Beck’s 2010 rally on the Mall and festooned lawns across Capitol Hill with signs reading Congress: Don’t Tread on DC! One of its most eye-catching ads depicted two firemen, one in Maryland and one in DC. “Both will save your life,” it said. “Only ONE has a vote in Congress.”

Davis remembers Zherka during negotiations as an understated pragmatist. With DC Vote, he says, “we finally had a group that wasn’t going to be partisan about it. They just wanted to get the job done.”

Davis introduced the DC Fairness in Representation Act in 2004, and DC Vote went to work, writing editorials and mounting public spectacles. As the bill gained traction, Norton and leading Democrats expressed more support.

In April 2007, DC Vote organized the biggest voting-rights demonstrations in a generation. Mayor Adrian Fenty and thousands of residents marched from the Wilson Building to the Capitol. Less than a week later, the bill cleared the House 241 to 177, with 22 Republicans in favor. But in the Senate it came up three votes short.

Heartbroken supporters turned to the 2008 elections. Obama’s ascension to the White House and the Democratic takeover of Congress infused the movement with a new optimism. “I really can’t think of a scenario by which we could fail,” Norton told the Washington Post just after the election.

Privately, though, Zherka warned advocates to take nothing for granted. Davis had retired from the House, which would make it harder to recruit Republicans. And Utah was just a few years from winning a new seat anyway through the 2010 census.

Very early on, Obama’s willingness to expend political capital on the issue appeared brittle. A few days before his inauguration, Obama told the Post’s editorial board that he backed a House seat for the District. “But this takes on a partisan flavor,” he said, “and, you know, right now I think our legislative agenda’s chock-full.” Unlike President Clinton—and like George W. Bush—Obama declined to adorn the presidential limousine with Taxation Without Representation license plates.

In February 2009, the former Davis bill—now called the DC House Voting Rights Act—made it to the Senate floor, a first for DC voting rights in more than three decades, and passed on a largely party-line vote of 61 to 37.

The euphoria was again short-lived. Senator Ensign had slipped in an amendment eviscerating the city’s gun-control laws. Zherka says that in the run-up to the Senate vote, advocates had mistakenly assumed that Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, would oppose the gun amendment. But Reid was facing his toughest reelection fight ever. As a centrist from a gun-friendly state, he couldn’t afford an unfavorable rating from the National Rifle Association. “Not only did he vote for it,” Zherka says, “but he gave Democrats”—particularly moderates from conservative Midwestern states—“a green light to vote for it, so everyone piled on.”

As the bill moved to the House, the NRA made clear that it was putting everything on

the line. To fend off a parliamentary move to bar all amendments to the House bill, the pro-gun lobby took the unusual step of threatening to “score” the vote on any such tactic; avote to disallow amendments would count as anti-gun on lawmakers’ political scorecards.

Despite months of lobbying, Zherka and Norton couldn’t come up with enough votes from conservative Democrats, many facing reelection battles, to tilt the scales.

Congress effectively gave Washingtonians an ultimatum: You can have your vote, but only if you give up your gun laws.

Among voting-rights advocates, the choice touched off a bruising debate. In one camp were purists outraged at the hypocrisy of having to surrender power in order to get it. In the other camp were pragmatists who glimpsed a now-or-never chance. Everyone knew the clock was ticking toward the midterm congressional elections, which were likely to cost Democrats a crippling number of seats.

A gloom fell over the offices of DC Vote. “Morale was very, very low,” Zherka says. “The economy was tanking. A number of our big donors either walked away or reduced their donations. We had to let people go.” Zherka was also grappling with a string of personal losses. From 2002 to 2009, three of his siblings—all in their forties—died in a cruel streak of sudden illnesses.

For a short while, it looked as if the bill giving DC and Utah House seats might pass. In April 2010, Norton, who had assailed the gun amendment the previous year, said she would grudgingly accept it. House majority leader Steny Hoyer, a Maryland Democrat, vowed to move the measure to the House floor. Zherka threw his organization’s weight behind Norton.

But on April 16, the New York Times editorialized against any deal that scuttled the District’s gun laws, calling it “extortion.” The Washington Post’s editorial page followed suit two days later. Support on the DC Council was cratering. Mayor Fenty had backed Norton’s change of heart, saying the city could undo the gun measure later. But it was an election year, and his chief rival, then-council chairman Vincent Gray, tacked in the other direction; Gray said he wouldn’t sacrifice public safety, and the council lined up behind him.

Meanwhile, liberal Democrats in the Senate were threatening a filibuster of any bill with the gun amendment. DC Vote couldn’t hold its own coalition together. Two of its partners—the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and the League of Women Voters—broke with the group over its support for the Norton strategy.

Then Norton reversed herself again. In a press release, she said that after seeing “egregious changes” in the House gun language—allowing the open carrying of firearms—she could no longer go forward.

The 180s left DC Vote battered. And yet when the legislation finally died, it was less disappointment than relief that Zherka says washed over him. Whether or not the bill with the gun amendment had passed—which was far from certain—it risked so dividing city officials, advocates, and lawmakers that further progress on voting rights and home rule might well have stalled for years.

In a series of sometimes emotional meetings in the summer and fall of 2010, DC Vote’s staff, board, and coalition members sifted through the rubble. Out of that soul-searching came the shift from an “inside game” to an “outside game”: civil disobedience aimed at embarrassing congressional leaders and the President and winning national sympathy.

“One of the lessons we learned from the fight was that we need to increase the intensity of support from our allies,” Zherka says.

"Whether it's Reid or Obama, when given a choice between the District and their own political fortunes, they'll choose their own political fortunes."

In February 2011, Zherka and a group of activists stood up at a House subcommittee hearing in protest with red gags in their mouths. A week later, Zherka led a few dozen protesters in a demonstration outside House speaker John Boehner's Capitol Hill apartment. Zherka accused Boehner of hypocrisy for intruding in DC's affairs while simultaneously backing Tea Party calls for small government.

Since the start of DC Vote's Demand Democracy campaign, some 76 people have been arrested—two of them twice.

Zherka believes that for the campaign to succeed, Mayor Gray and other local officials need to take more of a lead. But Gray, council chairman Kwame Brown, and other District officials have been embroiled in scandals that could complicate their case for greater independence.

On The Kojo Nnamdi Show last May, Gray said he saw his arrest as "reigniting" the movement but downplayed the likelihood of a reprise. "What we've got to see," Gray said, "is really a much broader commitment on the part of the 600,000 people who live in this city."

Critics say Zherka has pursued too narrow a strategy and that his success has sidelined other voting-rights groups. Stand Up! for Democracy in DC, a volunteer group pressing for full statehood, was founded in 1997, a year before DC Vote. Anise Jenkins, its president and cofounder, labeled the Utah compromise a "single vote" strategy because it did nothing about Senate representation or statehood.

Mark Plotkin, the Fox 5 political analyst and former WTOP commentator, is a fan of neither Zherka nor Norton. "Cairo, Syria—people are willing to lay down lives," he says. "And here our response is DC Vote? A tepid, timid, timorous, establishment organization that doesn't want to offend anybody and, worse, is an appendage to Eleanor Holmes Norton."

When four Occupy DC protesters went on a hunger strike for District voting rights in December, Zherka issued a statement praising their "courage and conviction" but didn't explicitly endorse the action.

At recent rallies, I heard young Washingtonians express a willingness to "shut the city down," perhaps by blocking major roadways from Maryland and Virginia.

I asked Zherka whether DC Vote would endorse such tactics. "Virginia and Maryland people are family, friends, neighbors," he told me. "There's no reason to inconvenience and punish them."

Protests, Zherka said, "have to be tightly tied to injustice and the people perpetuating it." Hence the demonstrations outside the Capitol and White House, which offer not just the iconography of those buildings but the sight of federal police—not city ones—carting away District residents.

The street protests seem to have chastened some in Congress. GOP threats last year to ban the District's needle-exchange program, undo its gay-marriage law, and permit concealed firearms were all thwarted, sometimes by other Republicans.

In November, Congressman Darrell Issa, the powerful GOP chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, drafted a bill to let the District spend its money without congressional approval, a right local officials have long sought. (DC Vote is opposing the Issa measure for now because a provision would bar locally funded abortions. But Issa has signaled he is open to finding a resolution.)

In February, Obama released a 2013 budget request that promised to "work with Con-

gress and the Mayor to pass legislation to amend the D.C. Home Rule Act to provide the District with local budget autonomy."

But first he has to be reelected. "Right now we have a President who isn't willing to expend a lot of political capital but will sign anything that we get to him," Zherka says. If a Republican wins in November, "all of our calculus will change," with public protests playing an even greater role than they do now.

DC has grown whiter in recent years, with census figures last year showing blacks losing their historic majority. If race had been a subtext of congressional opposition to voting rights, I asked Zherka, shouldn't those demographic shifts, however cynically, alter the political math?

Zherka told me that they had not. The District remains a place that lets gay people marry, permits medical marijuana, and funds abortion for poor women. The city's liberal politics is in some ways the movement's most intractable handicap.

"If DC for some reason became more Republican," Zherka says, "absolutely there would be a different perspective" in Congress.

Last May 11, a month after Mayor Gray was arrested, DC Vote hosted another rally. It was at Upper Senate Park, a leafy trapezoid across from the Capitol.

As supporters gathered by a table piled with T-shirts and bumper stickers, Zherka, in a gray suit and yellow tie, shook hands with the assurance of a seasoned politician. A woman had brought two young boys, and Zherka patted them on the head. "Ah, look at these protesters," he said approvingly. When an aide identified an older man in a blazer and penny loafers as "our most loyal online donor," Zherka unfastened a DC Vote pin from his lapel and pinned it on the donor's.

After the speeches, the Capitol Police arrested eight activists who had blocked a few lanes of traffic and refused to move.

But soon the crowds and police vans were gone. Zherka was eager to get home to Bethesda. His son had a series of exit interviews at Westland Middle School, from which he was graduating. His daughter, a fifth-grader at Westbrook Elementary, was recovering from a stomach bug. He also wanted to catch up with his wife—a lawyer with the Motion Picture Association of America—about a house they were remodeling in Chevy Chase. (They moved in November.)

Just when it seemed everyone had left, a young man in shorts and a soccer shirt pulled up on a ten-speed. "Are you with this group?" he asked.

"I'm the director," Zherka said.

The man told him he wanted to get involved but had questions: Why did the city's website give the impression that the movement was divided, listing not just DC Vote but two other organizations? If the District's population was half black, why were protesters today mostly white?

After Zherka's long day, I wasn't sure how much patience he'd have with a halfhearted supporter who had missed much of the rally for a soccer game on the Mall. But Zherka gave no air of hurry. The movement was less divided than the website suggested, he said, and many African-Americans have turned out at other rallies.

"Come help us organize and help us get out the word—do we have your info?" Zherka said, handing him a card as the sun set behind them. "Shoot me an e-mail. We need a lot of foot soldiers out here."

MEG VAN NESS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud Meg Van Ness for receiving the Living Landmarks Award.

The Living Landmark Award is presented by the Golden Landmarks Association, a non-profit organization which works to preserve historic places and educated people about the wonderful history the Golden area has to offer. Meg has been a champion in preserving and promoting the historical integrity of Golden.

Meg Van Ness has had a passion for archaeology since high school. She attended the University of Missouri and later the University of Northern Arizona where she received her Master's in Archaeology. In 1990, six years after she moved to Golden, Meg was appointed to the Golden Historic Preservation Board and remained on the board for ten years.

In 2000, Meg joined the Golden Planning Commission and worked with the community to keep Golden special. Meg worked for 16 years as an archaeological consultant, another 16 years with the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and is currently the Regional Historic Preservation Officer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She continues to serve on various outreach programs and committees in Golden.

I am honored to congratulate Meg Van Ness on this well deserved recognition by the Golden Landmarks Association. We all thank her for her advocacy for the Golden community.

HONORING JESSICA THOMPSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very astute young woman from the Second Congressional District, Ms. Jessica Thompson. She has been bestowed the distinction of Salutatorian for the Class of 2012 of Charleston High School in Charleston, Mississippi.

Jessica is an extremely hard worker, and is devoted to academics. She has maintained a position on the Superintendent and Principal Lists throughout high school. In addition to honoring her academic responsibilities, Jessica has also remained dedicated to her extracurricular activities. She has served as the captain of the cheerleading squad, a member of the science club, the Student Council Treasurer, a member of the Future Christian Athletes organization, a National Honor Society member, and as an usher at St. Paul C.M.E. Church.

Jessica will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi as a Lucky-Day Scholar this fall, and plans to major in Kinesiotherapy. After obtaining a bachelor degree in Kinesiotherapy, she plans to become a physical therapist. Jessica does not take her education for granted, because she knows that an education is essential to her hopes of fulfilling

her dreams. Jessica gives the credit of her achievements to her parents, Ms. Lisa Thompson and the late Thomas Thompson, and her twin sister, Eboni, because their support has shaped her into the young woman that she is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Jessica Thompson for her unwavering dedication to education, and striving to improve not only her life but the lives of others.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 250TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
AND WAR OF 1812 COMMEMORATION

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a storied institution of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, Trinity Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, Virginia is celebrating its 250th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed church and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The story of Trinity Episcopal Church begins in 1752 with William Crawford, the founder of Portsmouth, when he designated space at the intersection of High and Court Streets for a parish church. Between 1761 and 1762, the Vestry of Trinity Church was formed. Reverend Charles Smith served as the first parish priest.

During the American Revolution, the church was used by the British garrison, and Trinity's old church bell was cracked celebrating General Cornwallis' surrender. During the War of 1812, Captain Arthur Emmerson III, a lay leader in the congregation, was instrumental in the American victory at the Battle of Craney Island. During the Civil War, the crew of the ironclad C.S.S. Virginia—commonly called the Merrimack—worshipped at Trinity before boarding the ship to fight in the first battle of the ironclads against the Union ship, U.S.S. Monitor.

Over the years, Trinity continued to grow and expand, and its congregation felt a great sense of community responsibility, contributing to the well-being of the City of Portsmouth, surrounding neighborhoods and area churches. In the 1890s, Trinity founded the King's Daughters Hospital, which later became Portsmouth General Hospital. In the 1960s, under its noted Rector, the Rev. C. Charles Vaché, the congregation was active in the civil rights movement and endorsed the equality of all persons. Its members support organizations such as Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, Oasis Social Ministry Center, and other social agencies, providing breakfasts, dinners, overnight accommodations, and financial support to those in need. Trinity is best known for its Annual Children's Christmas Shoppe, where hundreds of children, guided by members of the parish and community disguised as "elves," can do their own shopping for loved ones. The Episcopal Church Women and the Brotherhood of Trinity take on additional local, national and even international community service projects of their own.

Yet another longstanding Trinity tradition worthy of note is its music. Mentions of organists and accompanying choirs date back to 1823. Instruments housed at Trinity are revered as representative early-American works by their crafters. The choir has received acclaim dating back to the 1860s, when the Rt. Rev. John Johns, Bishop of Virginia, called the Trinity Choir "the best in the diocese." Today, the Trinity Music Series features local musical ensembles and world-renowned artists, working with the Virginia Arts Festival and other community organizations to provide quality music services, recitals and concerts to the public free of charge.

As Trinity Episcopal Church gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate Rev. John R. Throop, D. Min., and all of the members of the Trinity Episcopal Church on the occasion of their 250th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

IN TRIBUTE TO RON PLOTKIN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a constituent and friend, Ron Plotkin, who will be rightfully honored this weekend by the Republican Jewish Coalition at its 2012 RJC Summer Bash.

An ardent Zionist and member of the Republican Jewish Coalition's Board of Directors, Ron has committed himself to educating the voting public and supporting Republican candidates who understand the unique relationship between Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, and the United States.

In addition, Ron is a highly successful Los Angeles-based international business executive and philanthropist who has made his mark in corporate marketing and advertising. As a partner and Chief Operating Officer of TMP Worldwide, he was instrumental in building the company into the world's largest "yellow pages" advertising agency.

The next global move was to cofound and develop the largest jobs website on the Internet, Monster.com. He is now Chief Executive Officer of Directional Marketing at Monster Worldwide.

Ron is an active investor in small technology start-up companies based on unique concepts that have the potential to be cutting-edge ground-breakers in very competitive fields.

His career in Yellow Pages began in 1975 with the L.M. Berry Co. where he held a number of positions that progressed to sales management at its headquarters in Dayton, Ohio. In 1986, he became an equity partner in CPC (Communications Planning Corporation) and shortly afterward, he entered into a partnership arrangement with TMP Worldwide, and officially joined the company on July 1, 1988.

He is also an Executive Advisory Board Member of the Cabrillo Music Theatre, Inc. and a Board Member of the Association of Directory Marketing, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure my colleagues join the Republican Jewish Coalition and me in

honoring Ron for his tireless efforts on behalf of democracy both here at home and with our strong ally Israel.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
HILLSBOROUGH'S ADOPTION OF
H&H COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION,
327TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST
BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the City of Hillsborough for its adoption in 2007 of H&H Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

In 1967 a soldier in Vietnam named Sgt. Joe Artavia wrote a letter to his sister, Linda Patterson, asking her to convince the City of San Mateo to adopt his company. He thought an adoption would lift troop morale "as high as the sky." Patterson rallied the community to support her brother and his comrades. Within three months the San Mateo City Council passed a resolution to adopt the company.

Tragically, Artavia was killed three weeks later rescuing a fellow soldier, and the people of San Mateo joined together in mourning. Artavia's death solidified San Mateo's commitment to its adopted company and, in fact, in 1972 San Mateo was the only city in the United States to hold an official homecoming parade honoring Vietnam veterans.

Working with Patterson and the city of Burlingame, Hillsborough adopted its own company of the 101st Airborne Division in 2007. Since that time the city has continuously supported the H&H Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, sending care packages, writing letters and supporting the families of soldiers who are deployed.

In a few months Hillsborough's adopted company will be re-deployed for another tour in Afghanistan. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the original welcoming-home parade, a new parade and festival are being held to honor past and present soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the city of Hillsborough for supporting HHC 1st Brigade Combat Team 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and its brave men and women who fill its ranks, especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

YIMI SERRANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yimi Serrano for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yimi Serrano is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination

and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yimi Serrano is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yimi Serrano for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK HALL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a good friend of mine, Frank Hall. Frank passed away June 15, 2012 in Norco, CA. A resident of Norco, CA, for 35 years, he was a pillar of the community and he will be deeply missed.

Frank was born March 2, 1938 in Los Angeles. He grew up in Newport Beach, graduating from Newport Harbor High School and Orange Coast College, with additional studies at Pacific State University and Riverside Community College. As a youth, he worked for his uncle renting boats. Frank served the County of Orange from 1959 to 1995 in the General Services and Environmental Management agencies in the field of Right-of-Way Engineering, Property Management and Facilities Planning, and served honorably in the United States Naval Air Reserve as flight crew on anti-submarine aircraft from 1961 to 1969.

After retiring from the County of Orange, he became involved with Norco city government, serving as a City Councilman for 12 years and Mayor for 8 years. Frank was a visionary in Norco; he maintained the community's rural spirit while encouraging commercial and business development in the Inland region. As a Councilman, he held several appointed positions, including Riverside Transit Agency, RTA, where he was Chairman in 2007; Riverside County Transportation Commission, RCTC, Commissioner; Western Riverside Council of Governments where he was Chairman in 2001–2; Member of the Military Affairs Committee for the Norco-Corona Area, which was successful in retaining the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Norco; and Member of the City of Norco Economic Development Advisory Council, among many others. At the time of his death, he had been appointed by Supervisor John Tavaglione as an additional alternate to Riverside Transit Agency and the RTA Transportation-NOW coalition.

It is hard to imagine that Frank would have any free time on his hands yet he always found time for his community. He was a member of many local and regional organizations, including the Citizens Advisory Group at the Norco College, the Death Valley 49er's Association, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the Norco High School Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the California State Parks Foundation. He was active in the Corona-Norco YMCA and was President at the time of his

death. Local clubs he belonged to were Norco Lions Club, Residents of Norco Urging Protection of Rural and Animal Keeping Lifestyle, RURAL, American Legion Post 328, Norco Historical Society, Norco Regional Conservancy, Saddle Sore Riders, Riverside Recreational Trails, and Norco Senior Citizens and Pet Relief Fund. A longtime horse lover, Frank belonged to a number of equestrian sports organizations. He was a life member of Equestrian Trails, Inc., the California Horseman's Association, and the Norco Horseman's Association, which he founded and served in for 18 years as President in 1991 and Treasurer from 1992 to 2012.

Frank is survived by his wife of 37 years Sharon; son Steve (Brenda) Hall, son William (Kate) Hall, and son Robert (Robin) Hall; six granddaughters, Kristin Hicks, Ashley Hall, Heather Hall, Holly Hall, Vanessa Hall and Lauren Hall, as well as two great-granddaughters Joie Lynn and Abbylynn. Frank is also survived by brother Howard (Kathleen) Hall.

On Friday, June 22, 2012, a memorial service celebrating Frank's extraordinary life will be held. Frank will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. His dedication to his family, work, and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Frank's family and friends; although Frank may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

IN MEMORIAM AND REMEMBRANCE OF FIRST SERGEANT ACKEEM PAUL GREEN 369TH HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS—HARLEM YOUTH MARINES, INC.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to share the news of a devastating loss to Harlem and the greater New York City community. We joined with many family members and friends at Memorial Baptist Church to celebrate the life of Harlem Youth Marine Cadet First Sergeant, Ackeem Paul Green, who passed away Sunday, June 3, 2012, from a fatal gunshot wound.

On behalf of our beloved Village of Harlem, my wife Alma and I want to extend our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy, support, and love to my beloved friend, Col. Gregory E. Collins, and the entire family of the First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green. At the age of 25 he was indeed a promising young man continuing the honorable legacy of his father to better not only himself, but his fellow peers as well.

Extraordinary young men like Ackeem are a rare commodity in this world and serve a higher purpose in making it a better place. First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green lost his life on the urban battlefield, from gun violence right here at home, while enjoying a game of basketball with friends on a Sunday afternoon. First Sergeant Green was shot in the back by an illegal gun in the hands of a misguided youth. Gun violence has taken the lives of so

many of our promising youth and it has taken over every urban neighborhood in the United States of America.

Every time I hear the news that one of our young sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, husbands and wives are struck down by illegal guns in the wrong hands of our misguided people—it pains my heart with anger. What makes this very difficult for me is that it has taken the life of a young man whose very focus in life was to mentor his peers and others to provide them with a positive direction through the principles and leadership of the Harlem Youth Marines and with the values and courage of the United States Marine Corp.

Since the age of 15 Ackeem has committed a tremendous amount of time and effort to the Harlem Youth Marine Cadets (HYMC). Once Ackeem reached the age limit to serve as a cadet, he remained dedicated and continued to serve the organization through volunteer work. He took mentored young cadets, served as a positive influence in the community, and was a much needed role model to many of our youth both in and outside of HYCM.

The Harlem Youth Marines, Inc. (HYCM) provides instruction in military grooming and development to students willing and eager to learn. This program has supported the youth in my district for over 30 years with an emphasis on youth development through education and discipline. They also provide cadets with the opportunity to engage in basic military skill training activities such as rappelling, marksmanship, and weapons safety. The children of Harlem have thoroughly benefited from this program through the development of body, mind, and spirit. Ackeem was a remarkable testament of their success.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we, the Village of Harlem, will honor Ackeem's life by ensuring that its young infant son, Ackeem Paul Green, Jr., honorable legacy remains alive. We must bring a realistic end to gun violence because it is destroying the lives of our children, families and communities. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring this ambitious young man and an impassioned mentor whose legacy shall be far remembered and everlasting.

HONORING PRESIDENT TED MARTINEZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. as the eighth Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College. A Texas native, Dr. Martinez has dedicated himself to education and been a strong role model for Latinos in academia.

Dr. Martinez has worked throughout his career to insure that all students have access to quality higher education. In his capacity as Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College he has been committed to maintaining fiscal stability while enabling student success, high-level learning outcomes, and the completion of the \$245 million building program. His leadership provided a new platform for Rio Hondo College to utilize its resources in partnering with community and business leaders.

While at Rio Hondo College, he established a community advisory committee that includes local school and government officials, service agencies, religious groups, small businesses and veteran's groups. Our community is especially grateful for the strong and vibrant Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program and outstanding Veterans Service Center that were established under his watch at Rio Hondo College. In 2010, Under Dr. Martinez' leadership, in 2010 Rio Hondo College launched the award-winning South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC) partnership that provides students from underserved areas with a historically low college attendance a real pipeline to college.

Dr. Martinez's commitment to education has not gone unnoticed. Among many other honors and awards, Ted has been distinctly honored with the Outstanding President Award from the California Community College Council for Staff Development, the District 6 Pacesetter of the Year Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, and the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Key Award from the International Honorary Society for students in two-year colleges.

AARON TATE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Tate for receiving the 2012 Amgen Foundation's Teacher of the Year Award.

This award is designed to recognize and honor extraordinary science teachers at the K–12 level who significantly impact their students through exemplary science teaching and who achieve demonstrated results in student learning in communities where Amgen operates.

Mr. Tate has been a middle-school science educator for nearly ten years at Bromley East Charter School in Brighton, CO. His classroom experiences include developing and implementing 7th grade science and S.T.E.M. elective courses, sponsoring chess, middle school science, and LEGO clubs, and overseeing the 7th grade science fair. Aaron Tate's commitment to teaching science is commendable.

In addition to his time in the classroom, Aaron is a member of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education, where he stays abreast of the newest researched-based best practices in science education.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aaron Tate for this well deserved recognition by the Amgen Foundation. Thank you for your dedication to the future of science in our classrooms and your commitment to the community.

HONORING SABRINA SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker I rise to honor a remarkable young woman,

Sabrina Smith, a recent graduate at Madison Shannon Palmer High School in Marks, Mississippi. Sabrina is the proud daughter of Sharon Smith and they reside in Lambert, Mississippi.

Her teachers consider her to be an ideal student because of her honesty, respectful behavior, and hard work. Sabrina is a recipient of numerous awards including the Honor Roll, Principal List, Superintendent List, Perfect Attendance, and special recognition from her teachers for making the highest grades in their classes. Her class work has always exhibited the highest standard of excellence. Every day she works to better herself in school, as well as in everything she undertakes because she understands a good education leads to success.

Sabrina has always been involved in extra-curricular activities. She is a former member of the Madison Shannon Palmer High School Choir, a member of the Student Council, Treasurer for the Sophomore Class of 2010, and Secretary for the Junior Class of 2011. Sabrina is also a member of the National Beta Club where she regularly participates in its book drives. She is a dedicated supporter of community service. Sabrina wanted to get an early start on her career aspirations, so she volunteered to participate in the Quitman County School District Job Shadow Program. Through this program, Sabrina learned valuable hands-on professional skills such as punctuality, the principles of business attire and good grooming, problem solving, oral communication, team spirit and compromise, and responsibility. She believes that these are some of the skills that are necessary for her to be successful in both her career and her life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sabrina Smith as Valedictorian of Madison Shannon Palmer High School's Class of 2012.

DOMESTIC ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4480) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in response to a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, there are now 34 days left in this legislative session. We could—and should—be focusing our attention on serious legislation that will create jobs and make a real difference in the lives of our constituents. Like a long term transportation bill. Or preventing a doubling of student loan interest rates. Or the President's American Jobs Act.

Instead, under the pretense of lowering gas prices, we are dealing with this ill-considered collection of seven proposals that together would gut the Clean Air Act, trump responsible

public lands management, and needlessly encumber the President's ability to safeguard our energy security.

In a radical departure from over forty years of successful, science-based clean air regulation, this legislation would for the first time require the EPA to consider industry costs when determining what level of ozone is "safe" for Americans to breathe—which is like a doctor changing a patient's diagnosis based on the cost of the treatment. Costs clearly matter, and they are routinely incorporated into the scoping of compliance plans. But they should never be allowed to interfere with the initial, scientific determination as to what is safe for Americans and what is not. This kind of error is further extended to the public lands provisions of this bill, which elevate energy production over hunting, fishing, recreation, conservation and other management uses while imposing arbitrary deadlines for the approval of onshore drilling applications regardless of safety concerns. Finally, the President's ability to tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to respond to disruptions in our Nation's energy supply would for the first time be conditioned on a poorly defined new drilling plan that is completely unrelated to the purpose of the SPR.

Mr. Chair, this is not serious legislation. It is hastily thrown together legislative filler which everyone in this chamber understands is dead on arrival in the Senate. Given the magnitude of the challenges we face, we simply do not have this kind of time to waste.

WILFREDO HUERTA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wilfredo Huerta for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Wilfredo Huerta is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Wilfredo Huerta is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wilfredo Huerta for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING STANLEY HOWELL HALL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Stanley Howell Hall. "Stan," as he liked to be

called, was a trailblazing public servant who had the distinction of serving as one of the first African-American City Managers in the State of California. Known as a hard-working and talented colleague, a visionary consultant and a man of great faith, Mr. Hall has left an indelible mark on Bay Area communities. With his passing on May 31, 2012, we look to Stan Hall's public legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 11, 1946 to William and Hazel Hall, Stan was the sixth child of a family of eight children. He was named Outstanding Young Man of America twice by the U.S. Jr. Chamber of Commerce and was a high school honors graduate. Earning his bachelor's in History at San Francisco State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University, Mr. Hall acquired a breadth of civic knowledge that he would use throughout his career. He settled in Richmond, California, working as the Administrative Assistant to the City Manager. Eight years later, he became the first African-American City Manager in Seaside, California. He did all of this by the young age of 32.

In addition to career milestones serving as Director of Governmental Affairs for the Port of Oakland, as well as City Manager for both East Palo Alto and Hollister, California, Mr. Hall became a sought-after consultant. He founded the government advocacy and consulting business, American Service Associates, which aided local community development through expertise in transportation, parking and project management.

Mr. Hall was also keenly committed to community leadership. Among his numerous accolades and associations, he was a three-term President and CEO of the Bay Area Urban League, as well as Principal Officer of West Coast Infrastructure for Amtrak. He had the distinction of being honored by the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, DC and received awards from the Harbon Publishing Co. and the Gillette Co. for Achievement in Business and Professional Excellence. His awards from Members of Congress, the State Assembly and the State Senate speak to the quality of his prolific career. And most recently, he was recognized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for Patriotic Service.

Active in 100 Black Men of the Bay Area and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Mr. Hall was also a devoted church member. He served both Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond and Allen Temple Baptist Church, where he sang in the chorus and built a strong spiritual family. From his groundbreaking work in public service to his renowned work ethic, Mr. Hall never ceased to challenge himself. He was even an accomplished pianist.

On a personal note, I will miss Stan's smiles, his words of encouragement and his support. Stan held a very successful event for me at his home recently and he was as happy as I to be with long-time friends. He proudly showed me through his cozy house and he was especially delighted to show me his backyard, with its beautiful fruit trees and grass. When I visited him in the hospital a few days before his passing, he smiled. In his own way, he communicated the depth of love for his friends and me—and I felt that he was at peace and ready to meet the Lord. I will miss him tremendously.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding indi-

vidual and a stalwart community leader, Mr. Stanley Howell Hall. He was a respected colleague, a beloved brother and a dear friend who will be deeply missed by an extended group of loved ones. I offer my sincerest condolences to Stan's surviving family and to the many friends and associates whose lives he touched over the course of his incredible life. May his soul rest in peace.

LAKELAND COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Lakeland College for 150 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education. Lakeland College is a private four year liberal arts college related to the United Church of Christ located near Sheboygan, Wisconsin—which is in my congressional district.

The college was founded in 1862 by a group of German immigrants to offer a traditional seminary curriculum to the local community. Over the years, it began to host additional courses and programs of study. The college adopted the name "Lakeland" in 1956 when the seminary program moved to Minnesota. In 1991, Lakeland opened a second campus in Shinjuku, Japan, to accommodate students with international interests.

Today, Lakeland College serves nearly 4,000 students and offers an 18 to 1 student to faculty ratio. It offers more than thirty degree programs and four graduate programs including education, counseling, business administration, and theology. Lakeland hosts a multicultural student body with students from over 30 countries.

Lakeland prides itself on its ability to foster an educational, covenantal, just, and global community, not only at its main campus near Sheboygan, but also at its campuses in Chipewawa Falls, Fox Cities, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, and Wisconsin Rapids.

I have had the opportunity to visit the College on numerous occasions and commend retiring president Dr. Stephen Gould for his 42 years of service to Lakeland. In 2002, I was honored to have had the opportunity to speak at Lakeland's commencement ceremony. It is evident that the College instills strong community values in its students and alumni.

Strong institutions help make strong communities, and the people of Wisconsin, especially those in the Sheboygan area, are proud of the 150 years of service that Lakeland College has provided. To recognize this accomplishment, Governor Walker has declared June 23 as Lakeland College Day, a well deserved honor. Over 1,000 alumni will return to campus to celebrate June 21–24.

I extend my congratulations to Lakeland College on its 150th Anniversary and wish all its faculty, staff, students, and alumni continued success in their endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE "BROWARD IS GREATER THAN AIDS" CAMPAIGN ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "Broward is Greater than AIDS" (Broward > AIDS) campaign, an initiative of the Broward County Health Department (BCHD) to raise public awareness of the importance of knowing your HIV status and getting tested. The launch of the Broward > AIDS campaign takes place as we observe the 18th Annual National HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2012, a joint initiative between the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) aimed at promoting HIV testing.

While advances in antiretroviral treatment now allow people living with HIV/AIDS to have longer, more productive lives than ever before, HIV continues to spread at a staggering rate. Nationwide, 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS, and 50,000 individuals become newly infected with the virus each year. Furthermore, more than one in five HIV-positive individuals are unaware that they are infected, which not only increases their risk for developing worse health outcomes but also the likelihood of transmitting the virus to others.

Although HIV/AIDS knows no borders, race, or gender, it has taken a particularly devastating toll on South Florida and certain groups. Since 2008, Broward County has had the highest rate of HIV infection per-capita in the nation. Within the past year, new HIV infections rose by 25 percent while new cases of AIDS also increased significantly. In addition, according to the BCHD, HIV/AIDS continues to have a disparate impact on men who have sex with men (MSM) and black heterosexual women.

HIV/AIDS can happen to anyone, but we have the power to stop HIV and create an AIDS-free generation. It all begins with getting tested for HIV to find out your status and using this knowledge to take better care of yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Equally important is also knowing the status of your partner. Regular HIV testing has been proven to save lives and reduce new infections. The Broward > AIDS campaign is a vital tool to educate individuals and the community about the realities of HIV/AIDS, why they should get tested, and where testing is available.

Through the Broward > AIDS campaign, the BCHD seeks to encourage and increase HIV testing to reduce the spread of the disease as well as the stigma associated with it. The unfortunate fact remains that many individuals and communities do not talk about HIV/AIDS. We cannot hope to eliminate the stigma and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS if we do not break the silence. HIV/AIDS is not just a personal health issue, it is a community health issue and we all have a responsibility to do our part to protect our families, friends, and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, this National HIV Testing Day, I commend the Broward County Health Department and its comprehensive HIV/AIDS

outreach campaign, Broward > AIDS, for working to increase HIV testing and end stigma. Together with effective, evidence-based policies that address barriers to HIV testing and access to treatment and care, we know that we can overcome HIV/AIDS.

COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud the Colorado Railroad Museum for receiving the Living Landmark Award.

The Living Landmark Award is presented by the Golden Landmarks Association, a non-profit organization which works to preserve historic places and educate people about the wonderful history the Golden area has to offer.

The Colorado Railroad Museum has provided an interesting and colorful history of railroading unique to the Western United States. Railroads have been instrumental in Colorado's history by encouraging the economy, migration, and culture to flourish. In 1959, Robert W. Richardson and Cornelius W. Hauck opened the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden.

The museum houses the largest repository for Colorado's railroad history and nearly 100,000 people visit the museum every year. In the late 90's the museum added a climate-controlled library to house books, photographs, and corporate records and added an authentic roundhouse and turntable to restore and maintain the historic equipment. To instill in today's youth a love for trains and railroads, The Colorado Railroad Museum offers train rides every weekend and hosts the Thomas the Tank Engine event every year.

The Colorado Railroad Museum is ranked among the top 25 Denver area historical and cultural attractions and has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institute, American Association of State and Local History, and Colorado Historical Society for its work preserving railroad history in the Rocky Mountains.

I am honored to congratulate the Colorado Railroad Museum; I know they will work to provide an understanding and passion of railroads for future generations.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHEL RUSSELL

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Michel Russell, on the occasion of his return home from duty in Afghanistan.

In his role as a United States Army Brigade Commander, Mr. Russell was uniquely responsible for over 50,000 United States Army Soldiers, Department of Army Civilians and contractors from private industry, a command of equivalent size to an entire Army Corps.

Colonel Russell was commander of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) during a unique period in time. As a result of the

Presidential directed drawdown of military forces in Afghanistan, Colonel Russell was responsible for ensuring the redeployment of equipment in addition to the 401st AFSB's traditional functions of sustaining theater forces with quality of life products such as food, warfighting equipment such as MRAPS, and developing and fielding emerging technologies to increase force protection and quality of life for soldiers.

Colonel Russell and his team of soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and private industry contractors created from scratch the Afghanistan redeployment process. This process is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and removing thousands of pieces of equipment out of Afghanistan and back to the Continental United States or other locations where United States Forces are stationed.

Colonel Russell and his team serve as the "Face to the Field" for the United States Army Materiel Command, the United States Army Sustainment Command and the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, providing all war fighters the equipment they need in the Afghanistan Theater to fight America's enemies who harbor ill-will toward freedom.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Colonel Michel Russell for his steadfast commitment to the U.S. Army, his fellow soldiers, and his nation. We owe our freedom to men like Colonel Russell, whose devotion to our nation will forever be remembered and appreciated.

RECOGNIZING DR. RICHARD CROWE ASTRONOMER-IN-RESIDENCE, IMILOA ASTRONOMY CENTER OF HAWAII, AND CO-FOUNDER, ASTRONOMER PROGRAM—UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard A. Crowe of Hilo, Hawaii—an extraordinary man whose loss is deeply felt. For the past few decades, Dr. Crowe's leadership in the fields of astronomy and physics and his profound love of teaching has influenced generations of islanders throughout East Hawaii and our island state.

Dr. Crowe was a vital part of the University of Hawaii at Hilo: the co-founder of the astronomy program and the Astronomer-In-Residence at the Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii, which is affiliated with the university. A beloved professor, Dr. Crowe inspired many to follow in his footsteps and pursue careers in astronomy.

Dr. Crowe also shared his passion for astronomy with Hawaii Island's younger students. His portable planetarium could be found in public school classrooms throughout Hilo, helping Dr. Crowe to get students excited about astronomy.

He was committed to community and public service—participating in the Hawaii County Band, the Kanilehua Chorale, and the local rotary club.

We remember and honor Dr. Crowe, and I join with his family, friends, colleagues, and students in giving thanks for his life of service and inspiration.

His greatest legacy continues to be the many who have discovered their own love for the stars and galaxies above us through his influence. Dr. Crowe and his teachings will never be forgotten.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

HONORING THE LADYWOOD BLAZERS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Ladywood Blazers, Michigan High Athletic Association Division II Softball Champions, from my hometown of Livonia upon winning their first state title.

Led by Head Coach Scott Combs, the Blazers won the Central Division of the Catholic High School League and went on to defeat Farmington Hills Mercy to earn the CHSL A-B Division championship.

Ladywood came out swinging in their opening round of district play, overpowering Livonia Clarenceville, 17-0. The Blazers eliminated Dearborn Divine Child, 4-0, in the District 58 final and advanced to regional competition. First round opponent Detroit Kettering forfeited but the down time did not affect the Blazers as they erased Center Line, 13-0 and claimed the Region 15 title. Advancing to quarterfinal action, Ladywood defeated St. Clair, 4-2 and then tamed the Wildcats of Wayland Union by an identical 4-2 score in the semi-final round to earn a berth in the state final.

The Blazers had been in the state final in 2009, losing a heartbreaker to Niles. It was a long ride home from Battle Creek as runners-up. This time Ladywood wouldn't be denied as they shutout Saginaw Swan Valley, 4-0 and hoisted the Division II State Championship Softball trophy on June 16, 2012 to close out a stellar 39-3 season.

Mr. Speaker, the Ladywood Blazers and Head Coach Scott Combs, having compiled an impressive 170-31 record over the last 5 years, deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, and spirit. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Ladywood Blazers for obtaining this spectacular title and honoring their devotion to our community and country.

VIRGINIA LARSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Virginia Larson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Virginia Larson is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Virginia Larson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Virginia Larson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JACKIE JENKINS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Jackie Jenkins of Westminster, California, who was recently selected as one of the California School Employees Association's (CSEA) top five Members of the Year. She will receive the award at the 86th Annual CSEA conference later this year.

Mrs. Jenkins has served the Westminster School District for over 25 years as a parent, through the PTA, in many classified positions, and currently as the School Office Manager at the largest elementary school in the district.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Jenkins has exemplified professional service to parents, students, and staff. Not only does she expertly manage the school's office, but she is a mentor to others and her high standards of service are an example for other classified employees in the school district.

Mrs. Jenkins also consistently brings out the best in each and every student. She listens to them read, encourages to them to be better classmates, and even helps students carefully place their first lost tooth in a special container. It's clear to everyone she encounters that Mrs. Jenkins is a sensitive and caring confidant to all.

In addition to being a consummate office manager, Mrs. Jenkins serves as the CSEA President. In this role, she has motivated others to serve in CSEA and built the capacity of the organization so it can continue to ensure the success of every student in the school district.

According to her school principal, Linda Reed, and her many supportive colleagues at the Westminster School District, Mrs. Jenkins is a positive person that has a great sense of humor, and always encourages everyone to be the best they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Jenkins on this award and thank her for her humble service and dedication to ensuring that our children receive a rich and rewarding education.

HONORING THE MORRIS COUNTY
LIBRARY ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Library located in the Township of Whippany, Morris County, New Jersey who are celebrating their 90th anniversary.

The staff of the Morris County Library (MCL), through their dedicated hard work, has made the library a vibrant source of pride and activity for the local community. Following the passage of a bill in 1921 by the New Jersey Legislature to establish county libraries, the Morris County Library was formed in 1921 by a public vote. With over 10,000 books catalogued and a new book car to help their books reach the public, the library opened its doors in Morristown in 1922 to serve Morris County.

The MCL continued to grow in its early years and by 1927 established a children's book section, which by the end of the year, saw every book in circulation checked out. The MCL also opened its resources to the local community with donations of books to the State Hospital at Morris Plains, Civilian Conservation Corps and the Morris County Jail. The MCL played a significant role in our nation's defense during World War II by becoming a federal depository for government publications, as well as boasting a large collection of books on U.S. defense.

The MCL grew with the times, instituting an automated book catalog and circulation system in 1970 and a completely computerized catalog in 1987. This growth meant that a new building was required to contain the resources and accommodate the future growth of this Morris County institution. An architectural plan for a new library was unveiled in 1991 and by 2001 the new Morris County Library building in Whippany was dedicated. The new library contained group study rooms and public meeting rooms which instantly received high demand from the public. Their computer rooms also were capable of hosting training courses on a wide variety of subjects.

Today, the Morris County Library serves 487,000 people with their collection of over 247,000 books and sees 521,000 borrows per year. In 2011 alone, their reference desk answered 63,815 questions, several for my office! The meeting rooms of the library have also seen significant use hosting thousands of meetings a year. The MCL continues to partner with community organizations such as the AARP, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center and the U.S. Veteran's Administration. The MCL has seen a number of awards during its history, including the NJ Library Association Swartzburg Preservation Award and Librarian of the Year from the New York Times.

The significant resources held in the library and these community partnerships would not be possible if not for the commitment shown by the staff of the Library. Their work on behalf of literacy and their community has made the Morris County Library a vital institution in Morris County and New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the staff of the Morris County Library as they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION
ACT OF 2012

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the value of the medical device industry in my State and our nation as a whole.

This industry is working on some of the most exciting and cutting-edge technologies in the entire health care sector and has changed the lives of millions of Americans.

According to estimates, the medical device industry employs approximately 430,000 nationwide. My State is fortunate to have a vibrant medical device industry with nearly 8,000 individuals directly employed at companies, such as BD and Covidien. These companies also support approximately 12,000 more indirect jobs in my home state. Beyond providing quality, high-paying jobs, these businesses are responsible corporate citizens who are trying to enhance the communities where they are located and the people who live there. For example, employees at BD's plant in Canaan, Connecticut—which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary—have served as mentors to the Housatonic Valley Regional High School and have contributed generously to the United Way and other local charities. In line with a growing body of evidence on the positive impact bariatric surgery can have on diabetics, Covidien has worked with American Diabetes Association to fund new research on this potentially life-changing procedure.

Unfortunately, when the House recently considered the Health Care Cost Reduction Act of 2012 (H.R. 436), the majority included an offset that, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, would result in 350,000 fewer Americans receiving health care coverage. As part of the Affordable Care Act, the Federal Government is set to provide millions of Americans with premium tax credits for the purchase of health insurance. This will not only increase rates of coverage but will also lead to lower overall health costs since more people are insured. The offset that was included in H.R. 436, known as the "true-up" provision, would have subjected these individuals to large repayment amounts if for some reason their income levels increased from the time that they were actually receiving coverage to the time they filed their taxes the following year. This could come as a result of the individual or spouse starting a new job or returning to work after school. While I could not support this legislation, I understand the need to reduce the medical device industry's burden in paying for health care reform.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree that to maintain our position as the world leader in biotechnology, the United States needs to foster innovation and growth within our health care industries. I am proud that I represent a number of those companies and hope that we will find bipartisan solutions to create an environment where they will continue to succeed and develop new breakthrough therapies.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD
ZIMRING

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Dr. Donald Zimring, who is retiring from the Las Virgenes Unified School District in Calabasas, California, to become head of

school for Brandeis Hillel schools in San Francisco and San Rafael.

I have known Don since I served on the Simi Valley City Council and he covered the meetings as a journalist. Fortunately, he found a more respectable line of work when he joined the Las Virgenes School District as its public information officer in 1979.

From there, Don became a middle school teacher, school principal, assistant superintendent of business services, deputy superintendent, and finally superintendent on July 2, 2007.

He is credited with bringing the first Spanish immersion program to the district, instituting a community service requirement for graduation, increasing technology in the classroom, adding high school performance arts centers, and renovating and expanding Lindero Canyon Middle School, where he began his teaching career.

Although Don left the classroom early in his career, he never left the kids. For 35 years, he has taken a group of eighth graders to Washington, D.C., over spring break. Don believes very deeply that students should know firsthand how their government works.

That belief stems from an earlier career before the call to teaching caught up with him. Don traveled the world as an administrative coordinator for the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and had a front-row seat to the decision-making processes of Secretaries of State, presidents, princes and kings.

But it was education that became his life. Don credits Bernard Cohen, his seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Walter Reed Junior High in North Hollywood, for sparking his interest in teaching.

"Most kids get one teacher who ignited that spark and made learning exciting," Don told a local paper when he was named superintendent. "There wasn't one person who didn't respect him and look up to him. I thought that was cool."

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure many a Las Virgenes student has looked up to Dr. Donald Zimring and thought he was cool, too. I am equally sure my colleagues join me in thanking Don for his 37 years of professional service to Las Virgenes Unified School District and in wishing him the best in his new role at Brandeis Hillel.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF BURLINGAME'S ADOPTION OF B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the city of Burlingame for its adoption in 2007 of B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

In 1967 a soldier in Vietnam named Sgt. Joe Artavia wrote a letter to his sister, Linda Patterson, asking her to convince the city of San Mateo to adopt his company. He thought an adoption would lift troop morale "as high as the sky." Patterson rallied the community to support her brother and his comrades. Within three months the San Mateo City Council passed a resolution to adopt the company.

Tragically, Artavia was killed three weeks later rescuing a fellow soldier, and the people of San Mateo joined together in mourning. Artavia's death solidified San Mateo's commitment to its adopted company and, in fact, in 1972 San Mateo was the only city in the United States to hold an official homecoming parade honoring Vietnam veterans.

Working with Patterson, the city of Burlingame adopted its own company of the 101st Airborne Division in 2003. Since that time the city has continuously supported B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, visiting them in peacetime, establishing pen-pals and sending care packages.

In a few months Burlingame's adopted company will be re-deployed for another tour in Afghanistan. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the original welcoming-home parade, a new parade and festival will be held to honor past and present soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the city of Burlingame for supporting B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and its brave men and women who fill its ranks, especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 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 \$15,777,954,587,181.97. We've added \$5,151,077,538,268.89 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.

On this day in 1788, the Constitution of the United States went into effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it. The Constitution, which strove to form a more perfect Union and promote the general Welfare, is being crushed by the weight of our national debt.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION (NATCA)

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA).

Since its establishment in 1987, NATCA has been a fierce advocate for its members and has been a strong proponent for aviation jobs, continuously working for improved working conditions and opportunities in the field for over 20,000 controllers, engineers and other safety professionals.

It is no easy task to manage the most complex airspace system in the world, but with diligent professionalism and outstanding quality, NATCA has been working for a quarter of a century to keep us all protected. It is because of their unwavering commitment to aviation safety that over 700 million passengers a year arrive safely at their destinations.

I congratulate all the professionals at NATCA for their 25 years of hard work. We look forward to many more years of safety in the skies.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. As Girl Scouts across the country and those in Sacramento gather to celebrate this remarkable milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Girl Scouts' important role nationally and in the Sacramento community.

The Girl Scouts began under the guidance of Juliette Gordon Low who founded the organization with a handful of girls seeking new experiences and opportunities in their communities. Over the last century they have grown to a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults, including nearly 29,000 girls and 11,000 adult volunteers in Sacramento and Central California.

Over the last one hundred years, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has provided many services to their scouts' communities and to this country. During World War I, the Girl Scouts sold war bonds to help fund the war effort; the Great Depression saw them running food drives and volunteering in hospitals; they grew Victory Gardens during World War II; they supported the civil rights movement in the 1960s; and after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, they reached out to a shaken America with special services to the community and for first responders.

With the help of parent volunteers and other adults giving their time and effort to the organization, the Girl Scouts have been able to grow and continue their legacy as a resource for our daughters, nieces, and granddaughters. They cultivate service, character, appreciation for diversity, and confidence in young girls, fostering new generations of female leaders. The Girl Scouts Heart of Central California provides programs that include activities encouraging girls to explore careers in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math; an outreach program for girls in underserved rural and urban areas; and a Latino initiative reaching out to encourage first-generation Spanish-speaking women to serve as Girl Scout leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 100th anniversary. I am confident

that the Girl Scouts will continue to affect positive change and help inspire girls across the nation. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Girl Scouts of the United States of America and their outstanding service to our country.

ZACHARY NIELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zachary Nielson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Zachary Nielson is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zachary Nielson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zachary Nielson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HUSKIES MEN'S CREW TEAM ON WINNING THE 110TH INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Washington Men's Crew Team for winning the 110th Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships (IRAs) on June 2, 2012.

From the moment that they began their grueling training, the University of Washington Huskies exemplified sportsmanship, athleticism and perseverance. Their discipline was rewarded when the Huskies won all five events at the IRAs—the first time in IRA history that a single program has swept five races. This victory marks the first time in more than 70 years that the Huskies have won consecutive national titles, and it finishes a season where the Huskies won every race in which they competed.

The Men's Varsity Eight—Sam Ojserkis, Dusan Milovanovic, Alex Bunkers, Ryan Schroeder, Mijo Rudelj, Sebastian Peter, Sam Dommer, A.J. Brooks, and Robert Munn—easily surpassed the standing record for the IRA championship. In fact, every Husky boat also set a championship record on their way to victory.

As we celebrate the long tradition of crew at the University of Washington, I want to commend Coach Michael Callahan, and all of the

talented athletes of the Husky Men's Varsity Crew Team for their truly historic season. I wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MAUREEN WIGGINS
SHOEMAKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an advocate of literacy and research communications, Mrs. Maureen Wiggins Shoemaker.

Mrs. Shoemaker was born in Sumner, Mississippi. She attended R. H. Bearden Elementary School (formerly West District High School), and graduated from West Tallahatchie High School in 1974. She has received degrees from Coahoma Jr. College, Jackson State University, and also received a Master's in Elementary Education from Mississippi Valley University.

Mrs. Shoemaker's passion for literacy led her to continue her studies in Library Science at Southern University in Louisiana. Mrs. Shoemaker has served R. H. Bearden Elementary School and West Tallahatchie High School faithfully through her efforts to renovate and improve the technology sustainability in both libraries.

Mrs. Shoemaker has been an asset to the West Tallahatchie School District, due to her ability to recognize and address the dire needs of the students in the Tallahatchie School District. In addition, she has remained active in her community working with the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility and Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids of Mississippi (SPARK). Through these partnerships, Mrs. Shoemaker has been able to spread her passion for literacy among supporters of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Maureen Wiggins Shoemaker for her continued efforts to support literacy in the State of Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD BLOCKER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise now to offer tribute to the career and success of my friend, Mr. Ronald Blocker, who served as the Superintendent for Orange County Public Schools for the past 12 years. A visionary and scholar Mr. Ronald Blocker is a true leader of the Central Florida Community, and the great State of Florida.

We are encouraged by Mr. Blocker's accomplishments while serving as the superintendent since July 2000; it was under his leadership that the graduation rate in Orange County, Florida, is at the highest level it has ever been with the dropout rate at the lowest. A man dedicated to education, Ronald Blocker earned degrees in educational leadership and counselor education from the University of

Florida. He worked as a school psychologist and principal. As the districts first black superintendent, Mr. Blocker made a name for himself and in 2011 he was named Florida Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District Superintendents.

Mr. Blocker has received many accolades and honors including the John M. Tiedtke Lifetime Achievement Award from United Arts of Central Florida; he was named the District Reading Leader of the Year by the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Division; named the Florida Art Education Associations Superintendent of the Year; and received the Florida Superintendent's Award for Volunteer/Community Involvement. Recipient of the Chairman's Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, Mr. Blocker has made a lasting contribution to the economy of Orange County. His influence in the Central Florida community has not gone unnoticed either, he was ranked eight on a list of the 50 most powerful people in Central Florida and among the top 25 most powerful by a panel of community leaders.

He served as the President of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents; a member of the American Association of School Administrators; Florida Association of School Administrators, and the Council of Great City Schools.

Described as an "advocate of children", and "a teacher's superintendent", Mr. Blocker was able to build new schools, and replace and upgrade 128 older facilities. With 33 new schools opened under his guidance and 62 replaced or restored, Mr. Blocker reduced overcrowding and removed 1,000 portable classrooms and raised the Orange County School District to an "A" Rating 3 years in a row.

Recently by virtue of Orange County and the School Board, he has been honored with the renaming of the Orange County Public School building to the "Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center." Mr. Blocker has worked to ensure healthy revenue that will continue to preserve the quality of education that the Third Congressional District and Central Florida Community deserves and needs, with his high expectations for employees and students. Mr. Blocker's theme of "One Vision, One Voice," is a message we can all truly stand by.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2012, I attended a visitation in the 17th District of Illinois and was unable to cast my vote for rollcall Nos. 379 and 380.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the bill by Senator MIKE LEE, S. 684, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, which passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 383-3.

I would also have voted "yea" on the bill by Senator CARL LEVIN, S. 404, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, which also passed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 380-0.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTERING OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUDERTON

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th Anniversary of the chartering of the borough of Souderton, Pennsylvania and to pay tribute to the many contributions its inhabitants have made to the cultural fabric of eastern Pennsylvania.

Chartered in 1887, Souderton's rich history actually began when the first inhabitants, the Lenni-Lenape or the Delaware Indians settled the area. They were some of the first native peoples to come in contact with Europeans in the early 1600's. The land that today comprises Souderton was originally purchased by William Penn from the Lenape. The first wave of European settlers were Welsh immigrants who gave Souderton the name of Welshtown. They were followed by German Mennonites in the early 1700's and by 1750 they would occupy most of the land. Some claim Souderton got its name from one of its early settlers, Henry O. Souder, but in fact the North Penn railroad company gave the location its name in 1863 to differentiate between the borough and the village of Soudersburg in Lancaster County.

While established as primarily an agricultural community, the railroad's arrival in 1857 encouraged rapid growth in the community. Textile and cigar factories brought prosperity and new populations to the borough. The borough's initial bank, Univest Corp. of Pennsylvania, was established in 1876 and remains an active and vital part of the community today.

When it was chartered as a borough in 1877, Souderton had a population of 600 people. In 1879, the first church in the community, the Souderton Mennonite Meetinghouse, opened on Christmas Day, and the first school in Souderton opened its doors that following year. The population had tripled by 1910. Citizens were able to access the nearby bustling city of Philadelphia via railroad on the North Penn lines, while the nearby community of Perkasio was connected by the Liberty Bell Trolley service. The first automobile arrived in town on May 1st, 1903, and residents soon began enjoying pleasant rides down Main Street, formerly known as Possum Lane. The borough's population doubled again by 1940. Following World War II, the demand for expensive labor in the textile industry declined but the community remained vibrant. Today, Souderton is mostly a quiet, family-oriented residential community.

To commemorate their 125th Anniversary, Souderton borough is hosting a year-long celebration that has included a community clean up day, a parade and fireworks show, historical trolley tours, and a memorial picnic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Borough of Souderton, Pennsylvania.

IN HONOR OF MR. BLAISE J. DURANTE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACQUISITION INTEGRATION, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE FOR ACQUISITION

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, I want to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Blaise J. Durante for his 45 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition Integration, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. In this role, Mr. Durante oversaw the integration of Air Force research, development and acquisition budget formulation and execution, and directed streamlined management team activities, including acquisition reform and reduction in total ownership cost efforts. Mr. Durante directed the development of acquisition policy and served as the Chief Financial Officer for the Air Force modernization accounts, managing all acquisition reporting systems along with the Air Force's international research, development and analysis programs. In over four decades of active duty military and civil service, he has held numerous director positions, leading both Air Force acquisition plans and policy, and joint service programs. Mr. Durante retired from the Air Force at the rank of Colonel in May 1992 after 25 years of active duty and was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1992. A native of Everett, Massachusetts, Mr. Durante began his career in the Air Force in 1966 after receiving his commission through the Officer Training School and graduating from Northeastern University. His active duty career included assignments to the Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory, Air Force Systems Command, Electronic Systems Command, and Headquarters, United States Air Force.

Success has followed Mr. Durante throughout his career, and he is known as the Air Force's premier troubleshooter for acquisition challenges. As just one example, when the Department of Defense cancelled the Tr-Service Standoff Attack Missile program in 1995 and the contractor subsequently filed a \$1.3 billion contractor claim, the Air Force hand-picked Mr. Durante to lead a tiger team that aided the General Counsel's office in eventually reaching an extremely favorable \$58.5 million settlement.

Mr. Durante has held his most recent post since 1994, during which time he has had a significant impact on Air Force acquisition processes and execution. His Directorate was responsible for integrating the Air Force's \$40 billion annual Air Force modernization budget, which accounted for nearly 30 percent of the total Air Force budget. In this role, he monitored performance of the Air Force's 400 plus program portfolio to achieve maximum efficiency for limited funding. In fiscal year 2011 alone, he executed over 255 actions valued at \$2.195 billion to fully fund priorities and support our ongoing Overseas Contingency Operations.

For over four decades, Mr. Durante has been a passionate advocate for the develop-

ment of a professional and competent acquisition force. Countless leaders today call him, "Mentor". He partnered with the Defense Acquisition University to better train program managers and led his team to develop a comprehensive Career Field Education and Training Plan that provided a roadmap for our young men and women to develop into the knowledgeable leaders of tomorrow. In 2008, he correctly identified a significant gap in leadership training for entry and intermediate level program office personnel, and launched the Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program. Since its inception, this program has graduated over 4000 Air Force acquisition leaders, and provided them with critical leadership training previously only available to senior managers. As further evidence of his dedication to professional development, Mr. Durante is a founding member of the Aerospace and Defense Advisory Board for the College of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee. He has since inspired the creation of the nation's only Executive Master of Business Administration program designed for aerospace and defense professionals, and sponsored over 48 military and civilian Airmen for this unique program.

Mr. Durante is also known for his dedicated championing of continuous process improvement (otherwise known as CPI). Over the past few years, he served as lead for several initiatives under the Secretary of the Air Force's "Acquisition Improvement Plan" and "CPI 2.0". He successfully filled civilian acquisition vacancies across the Air Force, increased civilian and military authorizations, balanced the mix of General Officers and Senior Executives, and provided 30 percent more training opportunities for acquisition personnel. To stabilize the acquisition budget and instill financial discipline in acquisition programs, Mr. Durante directed a significant increase in cost estimating confidence levels and established realistic baselines for cost, schedule and performance. He directed the analysis of contractor overhead rates and tied contractor profits directly to their performance. He worked directly with a number of industry partners to refine accounting and reporting processes to improve accuracy and reduce long-term costs to the government. Under CPI 2.0, he also simplified cumbersome bureaucracy and reduced oversight to provide acquisition programs more stability.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to Mr. Durante's dedication to success in our overseas conflicts. He personally drove the creation of the Iraqi and Afghan Transportation Networks as a method of advancing Counterinsurgency Operations, while minimizing the exposure of our troops to roadside bombs. This unique endeavor established a consortium of tribally owned and operated transportation companies that collectively provide secure, dependable transportation services throughout hostile territories. This method was used in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and the program is estimated to have taken 3.5 soldiers and 2.5 gun vehicles off the road for every 10 Network trucks in service. This is truly an amazing success and deserves proper recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Durante leaves a legacy of integrity, innovation, and dedication to those who serve. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Mr. Durante for his outstanding service to this

great Nation and the United States Air Force. His exemplary character and selfless service have resulted in a career of which he and his family can be very proud. I wish them the very best as they face new challenges in the coming years. Mr. Durante consistently conducted himself in a professional manner, which brought great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. I know my fellow Members of the Senate will join me in thanking him for his commitment to this Nation and in wishing him all the best in the future.

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Tobyhanna Army Depot, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 23, 2012.

In the summer of 1912, the Army arrived in Tobyhanna, PA and established a temporary artillery training camp under Major Charles P. Summerall, Commander of the 3rd Field Artillery at Fort Myer, Virginia. Based on the camp's success, Congress authorized the Army to purchase land to create a permanent camp in 1913. Since then, it has been a military testing facility, a prisoner-of-war camp, and, since 1953, an Army facility that repairs communications equipment for all branches of the military.

Today, Tobyhanna Army Depot is the largest full-service electronics maintenance facility in the U.S. Department of Defense. With a regional economic impact of an estimated \$4.4 billion and more than 5,400 employees, Tobyhanna Army Depot is Northeastern Pennsylvania's largest employer. Its presence alone creates 19,300 regional jobs. In addition, Tobyhanna Army Depot employs an additional 300 personnel who permanently work at "forward repair activities," supporting our military personnel around the globe.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the Department of Defense's recognized leader in the areas of automated test equipment, systems integration and downsizing of electronics systems. The Army has designated Tobyhanna as its Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR), and Electronics, Avionics and Missile Guidance and Control. The Air Force has designated Tobyhanna as its Technical Source of Repair for command, control, communications, and intelligence systems.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 100 years, the Tobyhanna Army Depot has been an incredible asset for Northeastern Pennsylvania and the United States. Therefore, I commend all those personnel—military and civilian—who have faithfully served our community and our country while stationed at the Tobyhanna Army Depot.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUTH KISAKO KAMEI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruth Kisako Kamei, a 50 year resident of Mountain View, California, who died at the age of 91. She was a loving wife, a devoted mother, a doting grandmother, a beloved sister, and a community leader.

Ruth Kamei was born in Mayfield, California, on September 20, 1920 to Niro Nishimoto and Kisaye Murakami. She was a graduate of Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California. Before World War II, Ruth met and married her husband of 70 years, Kenzo. During the war, Ruth was interned in Heart Mountain, Wyoming where she worked in the camp cafeteria. Once the war was over, Ruth and Kenzo settled in Mountain View, California and founded Kamei Nursery, specializing in cut flowers.

Ruth was a very active member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, participating in the Buddhist Women's Association and a member of the original Temple Choir. She was also a member of the Ikenobo School of Ikebana. She also enjoyed gardening, Japanese cooking and needlework.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Kenzo, her sister Mary Sasaki, her son Kenneth, and daughters Eileen and husband Robert Eng, Judy and husband Steve Inamori, grandchildren Ami, Ellen and Jonathan Kamei, Emily Eng Holbrook, Laura Eng Derdenger and Julia Eng, Bradley, Gregory and Kathryn Inamori, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother Yoshio Nishimoto, and sisters Nobuko Kurotori and Grace Kashima.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Ruth Kamei and offering our deepest condolences to her family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as the Bastogne Brigade Combat Team. This brief recitation of the history of these soldiers barely does them justice.

The Bastogne Brigade Combat Team fought in World War I and it was the first American expeditionary force to penetrate the Hindenburg Line, a vast system of defenses built by the Germans in northeastern France. Among many historic contributions during World War II, the Bastogne Brigade Combat Team played a vital role in Operation Overlord in 1944, the largest seaborne invasion in history. Later that year, they were part of the airborne invasion of Holland and secured control of supply routes and bridges in the German-occupied Netherlands.

In 1964, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division was deployed to Viet-

nam and participated in more than 40 combat operations and fought for seven consecutive years without respite.

In 1991, they again played a vital role as part of the largest helicopter air-assault mission in military history during Operation Desert Storm. They have since taken part in peace-keeping operations throughout the world. In Iraq, they played a central role in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in 2007, they were sent to the city of Tikrit, a safe haven for terrorist organizations.

In 2010 they were deployed to some of the most violent territories in Afghanistan and successfully carried out missions that prevented insurgents from carrying out violent acts against civilians and military targets. The soldiers of the Bastogne Brigade Combat Team will soon be re-deployed to Afghanistan where they will continue performing with valor, risking their lives to help make our own country more secure. Many of them will be on the front lines, doing foot patrols, creating security and interacting with Afghan civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the brave soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RAY BRASWELL, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the leadership of Dr. Ray Braswell as Superintendent of the Denton Independent School District (DISD) for the last 14 years. After 33 years of distinguished service with Denton ISD, he is retiring.

Dr. Braswell has led the transformation of Denton ISD from a small school system to a large district with progressive and dynamic instructional programs. The population of the district more than doubled and has also added 20 schools and four other facilities.

Braswell was named one of the Top Five Superintendents in Texas in 2003 and 2009. During his tenure as superintendent, accountability test scores have improved every year and Denton ISD has twice attained the prestigious recognized status from the Texas Education Agency. One of Dr. Braswell's proudest accomplishments was the opening of the Advanced Technology Complex for the juniors and seniors of Denton ISD in 2006. This complex has afforded over 3,000 students the opportunity to attain certifications, technical skills, and credit for college level courses in such varied fields as health occupations, media technology and cosmetology.

In 1979, Dr. Braswell began his long career with the Denton ISD. He served as an interim superintendent and associate superintendent before being named superintendent in 1998. Dr. Braswell had been the executive director for policy, planning and evaluation, executive director of research and development and director of secondary education. He also served as associate principal and assistant principal at Denton High School. Dr. Braswell's sincere

compassion and strong rapport with his staff and students has helped him build and maintain strong partnerships within the district.

On behalf of the Denton Independent School District, faculty members, students, family and friends, I would like to congratulate Dr. Ray Braswell on his many years of public service, his accomplishments, and his commitment to Denton ISD. I am honored to represent Denton ISD and the 26th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SCHATZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Orange County, California are exceptional. Orange County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. John Schatz is one of these individuals. On Friday, June 29, 2012, Schatz will end his tenure as the General Manager of the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) after 35 years of service to the community.

Schatz graduated from the University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and received a Juris Doctor from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton in 1989. In 1998 Schatz was appointed by the State Legislature to the Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century. From 2000 to 2004, he served as an instructor on "Water Policy in Southern California" at the University of California at Irvine. He was also a member of Association of California Water Agency's State Legislative Committee for several years.

Prior to becoming General Manager of Santa Margarita Water District, Schatz was the General Manager of Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) in western Riverside County from 1984 to 1994. Before joining JCSD, he worked in a variety of positions, including Administrative Manager, for the Rancho California Water District in Temecula from 1977 to 1984.

At SMWD, Schatz established a culture of efficiency. Among his accomplishments were doubling the number of connections while reducing staffing from 163 to 122 employees by emphasizing cross-training and expanding the use of technology. During his tenure, Schatz helped keep SMWD's services affordable by holding the line on rate increases while finding cost-saving solutions. In the last 15 years, the District has raised rates only twice and decreased its rates six times. It has reaped an additional \$1 million in annual revenues and saved ratepayers \$6.9 million. Under Mr. Schatz's leadership, SMWD recently partnered with four other water agencies to complete the \$54 million Upper Chiquita Reservoir, creating the largest domestic water reservoir built in south Orange County in 45 years while helping to preserve the county's open space.

In light of all John Schatz has done for the community of Orange County, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. John Schatz's tireless passion

for conservation and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

EMPOWERING LOCAL PARTNERS TO PREVENT TERRORISM ACT OF 2012

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, this bill, the Empowering Local Partners To Prevent Terrorism Act of 2012, is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN HONOR OF MRS. CAROLYN HENRY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations to Mrs. Carolyn Henry, a beloved citizen of Thomasville, Georgia, who will be celebrating her 31st year as the Minister of Music and 51st year as a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia. On June 23, 2012, Mrs. Henry's relatives, friends, colleagues and church family will pay tribute to her for her outstanding musical stewardship and years of dedicated service at First Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Henry is a graduate of Fort Valley State University where she received her bachelor's degree in Music Education. Following her graduation from Fort Valley State University, Mrs. Henry enrolled in Valdosta State University where she would receive her master's degree in Music Education. She attended the University of Georgia for advanced studies in Vocal Pedagogy and received training in Choral Conducting from renowned conductors Rodney Eichenberger and Dr. Andre Thomas of Florida State University.

As an advocate for quality education and sound musical training for our nation's school children, Mrs. Henry served as a public school music teacher for 37 years in both Thomas County and Berrien County, Georgia. Over the course of her teaching career, Mrs. Henry also served as the Director of the Community Choir at Thomas University and as an Adjunct Music Instructor at Georgia Southwestern University.

To go along with her many academic and music education accomplishments, Mrs. Henry has received acclaim as a vocalist and music administrator. She is an original member of the world renowned Georgia Mass Choir and she was selected as one of the choir members to perform in the movie, "The Preacher's Wife," starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington.

Currently, Mrs. Henry is the Founder and Artistic Director of the C.H.A.R.M. School, a private music studio for voice and piano students in Thomasville, Georgia. This studio serves as a preeminent training center for future musicians and artist performers. In conjunction with her musical commitments at the C.H.A.R.M. School and at First Missionary Baptist Church, Mrs. Henry also serves as the Music Director of Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Carolyn Henry, a beloved educator, magnificent vocalist and outstanding role model, as she and her loved ones celebrate her many years of musical achievement and dedicated community service on behalf of First Missionary Baptist Church and the Thomas County, Georgia community.

Enjoy your anniversary celebration Mrs. Henry! May God continue to bless you and may you have many, many more years of musical excellence.

HONORING RICKY DIXON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable gentleman, Ricky Dixon. He was born April 7, 1994, in Greenville, Mississippi. He is the proud son of Ms. Hevonne Dixon and Mr. Collis Grisby.

Ricky's mother has truly been an inspiration to him. While raising Ricky, she obtained her college degree while also working a full time job. It was this example that inspired Ricky to always strive for greatness regardless of his circumstances.

Ricky is very competitive and a high academic achiever; his test score on the Algebra I state exam for the State of Mississippi subject area test ranked him in the top ten percentile among high school students in the State of Mississippi. The following year he was inducted into the National Honor Society.

In 2010, Ricky began his junior year in high school at Rosa Fort High School. During this time, he had the privilege of traveling to Washington, DC, to attend the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Journalism Conference. This experience broadened Ricky's knowledge and opened his eyes to what the world has to offer in terms of career opportunities. However, although Ricky knows that his education can offer him opportunities around the country, he wants to return to Rosa Fort and teach Algebra I so other students can go anywhere and be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ricky Dixon as the Salutatorian of Rosa Fort High School's Class of 2012.

RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVACUATION AND INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the evacuation and internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

The philosopher George Santayana once said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet, during wartime, our nation repeatedly sacrifices civil liberties to appease unwarranted fears. As the United States fought against tyranny abroad, our government detained American citizens of Japanese descent, solely because of their race.

In 1942 Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, calling for the exclusion and internment of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast. Kiyō Yoshimura was one of the people interned. In 1942 government officials ordered Yoshimura and her family to board a bus, without telling them where it would take them.

They arrived at Tanforan, a horse stable, where they would live for about six months before being shipped off to a more permanent internment camp in Utah. At Tanforan they lived behind barbed wire, smelling the manure from the horses that had previously inhabited the same space. They were denied the dignity of privacy as they bathed or used the bathroom in public latrines. They were treated like enemies of the state and debased like animals.

The United States government interned 8,000 families at Tanforan, and 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were sent to internment camps along the Pacific Coast. These Japanese-Americans were hardworking, law-

abiding people. Some of them served in the military and fought in Europe.

Most Japanese Americans chose to remain silent about their experiences at internment camps, but it had a lasting impact on them. The government took their homes and their possessions. They had to find new jobs, build new communities and pick up the pieces of their broken lives.

In 1988 Ronald Reagan signed legislation apologizing for the internment of Japanese Americans. The law stated that government actions were based on race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership. Japanese Americans received reparations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in commemorating the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. During this dark period of our nation's history fear eclipsed freedom and as national leaders, it is our duty to ensure that this never happens again.