

that all of us in East Tennessee are the better for.

I commend Gary for his selfless contributions to East Tennessee and its water resources and wish him the best as he transitions into this new stage in life.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 I missed votes due to a meeting in my district with constituents in Urbana, IL on pressing local issues. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for S. 679, Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011; "aye" for H.R. 828, Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2011; and "aye" for H.R. 3803, District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOHN PETER GROTHE

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. John Peter Grothe who passed away on June 16th, 2012 at the age of 81. Dr. Grothe was a dedicated public servant who counted among his proudest achievements drafting the original Peace Corps legislation and giving it the name "Peace Corps" when he worked for Senator Hubert Humphrey. Dr. Grothe was a dedicated educator, author, and public speaker whose passion and work touched countless lives.

Dr. Grothe was born on May 28, 1931 in San Francisco to Walter and Dorothy Grothe and grew up in Hillsborough, California. He earned his BA and MA degrees in Journalism from Stanford University and later went on to earn his PhD in Political Science from George Washington University. After his work with Senator Humphrey, Dr. Grothe was appointed Deputy Director of the United Nations Division of the U.S. Peace Corps.

Following this appointment, Dr. Grothe launched a long career in academia, serving as an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of International Policy Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in my Congressional District where he was the Director of International Student Programs and taught American Politics and Cross-Cultural Communications. Dr. Grothe also held positions at San Jose State University, Odense University in Denmark, and State University of New York, Stony Brook. Dr. Grothe brought his knowledge and abilities to his work as a visiting research scholar, lecturing in Sweden, Norway, and 51 other countries. He also served with the American Field Service as an adviser, leader, and volunteer.

Dr. Grothe was also an accomplished author who wrote *To Win the Minds of Men—A Study of the Propaganda War in East Germany* and penned numerous scholarly articles

that appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*, among other publications.

Dr. Grothe was an inspiring mentor, leader and volunteer who served as a father figure to many. He was committed to creating opportunity for tomorrow's leaders and made a financial contribution that allowed 145 qualified international and minority students to pursue their educational goals. The Peter Grothe Scholarship Fund for Women in Developing Countries was created to continue Dr. Grothe's tradition of providing educational opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to Dr. Grothe's sister, Ms. Carol Stevens, and half siblings, Mr. Tom Grothe, and Ms. Heidi Carman. Dr. Grothe leaves an inspiring legacy and he will be deeply missed.

#### CELEBRATING IAB'S FIRST 30 YEARS

### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today Dr. Burgess and I rise to recognize the Independent Association of Businesses (IAB), a leading national trade association, in celebrating 30 years of supporting small business owners and self-employed individuals. IAB was founded in 1982 and after years of growth, now serves more than one million members.

IAB was founded in Washington, DC and maintains its administrative headquarters in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. IAB is a non-profit, 501(c)6 designated business organization, and has been recognized by numerous State and Federal officials for its success in aiding and advancing small businesses. The organization has had success in providing businesses and individuals with beneficial tools such as research, advocacy, and access to numerous services. Additionally, members have the opportunity to become associates with IAB in order to further promote the organization's efforts.

After 30 years, IAB continues to put the interests of both business owners and consumers first. It is our pleasure to recognize the Independent Association of Businesses for 30 years of service and this significant milestone in its history. We are privileged to represent IAB, America's Premier Membership Association in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEYMOUR S. LEVANDER

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Seymour S. Levander. Sy, as his friends and family know him, will turn 89 years old later this year, is a beloved father and grandfather. Sy, the son of immi-

grant refugees from Europe, began his version of the American Dream growing up in the Bronx, graduating from James Madison High School in 1941. He continued his academic studies at Cooper Union University, graduating in 1944 and teaching electrical engineering there for a short time.

Sy then started designing and selling equipment for the building trade, which was booming at that time in post-war America. In the 1950s, Sy, seeing an opportunity, struck out on his own and started his own business which he owned and ran until he sold the firm at the age of 66 at his wife Ellenore's request. However, retirement didn't take with Sy, and he continued to work. At the tender young age of 71, he started a new engineering and sales firm with younger partners where he continues his storied career in the construction industry to this day, still going in to work at age 88. Sy's knowledge, work ethic, and old-fashioned integrity are the stuff of legend in the industry. Over the years, he has been honored several times by ASHRAE, the nationwide building technology society, as well as other industry organizations.

Sy has also been a terrific community leader and a fighter for the underdog throughout his life. Through his businesses and a lifetime of charitable endeavors, he has created opportunities for people from all walks of life and backgrounds. In addition, he and his beloved wife Ellenore, who unfortunately passed away this year after 67 years of marriage, were founders of the Pelham Jewish Center, which has been a primary focus of his energies and care for many years.

Mr. Speaker, while he has many achievements to his name, Sy is most proud of his two children, a doctor and a lawyer; his daughter-in-law, an architect; and his four grandchildren, who are, respectively, the first trumpet for the San Francisco Opera and a music professor at Berkley, a doctor interning at Stony Brook University Medical Center, a law student and Human Rights Fellow at Columbia University Law School, and a rising junior at Dartmouth College. I ask all of our colleagues to rise and join me in honoring Seymour S. Levander.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 742, CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR SELLING WEAPONS TO SYRIA

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 742, a resolution I introduced condemning the Russian government for selling weapons to the Assad regime of Syria.

A bipartisan companion resolution sponsored by Senators CORNYN (R-TX) and DURBIN (D-IL) has been introduced in the Senate as S. Res. 494. I am proud that my colleagues SHEILA JACKSON LEE, DAVE CAMP, SUE MYRICK, BILL PASCRELL, JR. and BETTY MCCOLLUM have joined me as original co-sponsors of this important resolution.

The resolution is endorsed by the American Syrian Coalition, ASC, and I ask unanimous consent to include in the record a letter of