

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SSG  
RAYVON BATTLE, JR.

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Rayvon Battle, Jr. of the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Battle lost his life in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on November 13, 2012, while trying to stop an explosion.

Staff Sergeant Battle was a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, which is in my Congressional District. In 2005, he graduated from Northern Nash High School and went on to enlist in the Army where he became a squad leader in the 38th Engineer Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.

Staff Sergeant Battle was a source of great pride in his hometown because he epitomized what it meant to serve with honor and distinction. This was demonstrated in the various awards and decorations Staff Sergeant Battle received during his career in the Army. Among them include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the NATO Medal. In only 25 short years, Staff Sergeant Battle accomplished more than most people do in a full lifetime.

Unfortunately, Staff Sergeant Battle perished while serving his country—prematurely ending a promising life and career. He is survived by his wife, Dorris Battle; his father, Rayvon Battle, Sr.; and his grandmother, Dora Harris.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering heartfelt condolences to Staff Sergeant Battle's family, and sincere appreciation for his selfless efforts in defense of our great nation. I pray that his life remains a source of inspiration to the Rocky Mount community and Americans nationwide. We are forever indebted to his family for the ultimate sacrifice he paid on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE MARTIN

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Josephine Blocker Martin on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday. Born December 6, 1912 in Montgomery, South Carolina, Mrs. Martin has lived for over eighty years in Columbia, where she has made such positive impacts on so many that she is known to most—relatives and non-relatives alike—as “Mother Martin.”

She and Mr. Willie Martin were united in Holy Matrimony on October 24, 1928, and they remained married until his death in 1981. Together they had ten children, Florence, James, Thomas, Charles, Curtis, Amanda, Will

Jr., Willie Mae, Gail, and Lorraine. Mrs. Martin is now the proud grandmother of 34, great-grandmother of 70, and great-great-grandmother of 16. In the words of her family, “To know mom is to know true love.”

Mrs. Martin is a dedicated member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Columbia, where she has worshipped faithfully each week for more than fifty years. Her favorite scripture is the first verse of Psalm 91, “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” Her favorite hymn is “We’ve Come This Far By Faith.” As she completes a century on Earth, it is apparent that she is the living embodiment of both.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Martin on achieving this milestone and wishing her Godspeed and many more to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF IBEW LOCAL  
269

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate IBEW Local 269 as its members gather to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. The spirit and strength of the IBEW's founders continues today in Local 269 and its history and service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The founders of the IBEW fought for the benefit of the workers. The founders strived to create workers' rights, safety measures and apprenticeship training. Today, the IBEW continues the legacy of its founders to make a better life for all, and these principles are evident in Local 269.

IBEW Local 269 ensures that central New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania receive highly skilled and qualified electrical workers. IBEW Local 269 is committed to upholding its expectation of quality craftsmanship and on-budget projects with a 5-year apprenticeship training program. The specialized members work as wiremen, outside linemen, residential wiremen, and telecommunications technicians to help develop and maintain communities. They are experienced in working in a wide range of areas, including airports, educational institutions, military installations, historical sites and monuments, and many others. Since 1912, the members of IBEW Local 269 have provided proficient service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in honoring IBEW Local 269 and its 100th Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE SCHOOL  
FOR THE TALENTED AND GIFTED  
AND THE SCHOOL FOR  
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AT  
YVONNE A. EWELL TOWNVIEW  
CENTER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the School

for the Talented and Gifted and the School for Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center for receiving the distinct honor of being recognized as an “Intel School of Distinction.”

Intel Schools of Distinction honors U.S. schools that have demonstrated excellence in math and science education. I am pleased that Intel recognized Townview Magnet School for Engineering and Science School as an institution that provides an innovative learning environment and programs that meet or exceed national math and science benchmarks.

By this recognition, Intel is emphasizing investments in science and math. In order for our country to compete in the 21st century, we as a country need to make sustained robust investments to encourage our children to embrace science and math. These are the jobs and careers of the future.

Located in my district, Townview Magnet is one of the most diverse schools in Texas, with minorities representing over half of the student population. Townview is home to some of the Nation's best and brightest students. Newsweek Magazine has consistently rated Townview's Science and Engineering Magnet as one of the top high schools in the Nation. Townview serves as a model for other institutions of learning across the country and offer insight into the ways we can improve education.

This latest honor exemplifies the values of a good educational environment, as many of the students attending Townview will have opportunities to be the future leaders of this country. This honor will also serve as an inspiration to the faculty, staff and students of Townview Magnet School to maintain a high level of work. I commend the faculty and students for achieving this honor, and lend my support to the future success of Townview.

Mr. Speaker, the students, teachers, principals and parents of Townview Science and Engineering Magnet should all be very proud for achieving this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO MARMO

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roberto Marmo for his years of success both politically and professionally in the United States and Italy. For much of his life, Roberto Marmo has enjoyed great success both in politics and his entrepreneurial endeavors.

Mr. Marmo's career in politics spans several decades beginning with his time as a provincial councilor of Canelli in the 1980's. In the following decade, Mr. Marmo served the comune of Canelli as Mayor. From 1999 until 2008, he held the position of President of the Province of Asti. Currently, Mr. Marmo is a member of the Chamber of Deputies serving the people of Italy as a member of the Commission on Budget and Treasury.

In addition to his political successes, Mr. Marmo is an accomplished entrepreneur in the Piedmont region of Italy. He holds the roles of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cantina Sociale di Canelli-Cooperative as well as the President of the Cellars of Canelli

Winetrading Ltd. After taking over at the Cantina Sociale di Canelli in 2004, a company on the verge of bankruptcy, Mr. Marino has guided the business to a position of financial stability. In recent years, the wine cellar has enjoyed annual profits in excess of €20 million and produced over 14 million bottles.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Roberto Marmo and thanking him for his years of service in the Republic of Italy and influence in the United States.

2012 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOLS

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the 269 schools that have been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious honor recognizes the schools' accomplishments in improving student academic achievement and in attaining overall academic excellence. I am proud to report that ten of these schools are in Maryland, having previously been selected as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools on the basis of sustained high performance or significant improvement in reading and mathematics as measured by Maryland State Assessments. I am particularly proud of the accomplishments of the four National Blue Ribbon Schools—Crofton Meadows Elementary School, Woodholme Elementary School, St. Augustine School, and Saint Peter's School—that are currently or will soon be located in Maryland's 3rd District.

The passage of No Child Left Behind in 2002 charged schools with additional responsibilities to measure and report academic progress. These new requirements set a high bar, requiring schools to demonstrate gains in student proficiency and improvements in closing the achievement gap. The National Blue Ribbon Schools exemplify the goals of No Child Left Behind, and serve as exemplars of how best to help children reach their highest potential. As we work toward a long-overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act (ESEA), we must carefully review the successes of the National Blue Ribbon Schools to identify strategies and best practices that can be shared, and which other schools may benefit from examining and adopting. I look forward to continuing to support the work of the National Blue Ribbon awardees and all schools in Maryland, to ensure that they have the tools and resources they need to continue helping students excel.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TODD  
HARRISON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Todd Harrison, the former Chief Oversight Counsel to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Mr. Harrison was

hired by my colleague Mr. UPTON upon attaining chairmanship on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Formerly a state and federal prosecutor, Mr. Harrison's single-minded commitment to oversight contributed immensely to the atmosphere of accountability fostered by committee staff.

As a husband and father commuting to Washington from New York City on a weekly basis, Mr. Harrison sacrificed greatly to maintain a top-notch oversight staff. His complete dedication to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation was exemplified in the work he did with me.

I'm sure that I speak on behalf of every member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation in saying that Mr. Harrison was a treasured asset and will be missed dearly.

HONORING LYDIA MARIE ELLIOTT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Lydia Marie Elliott. A dedicated educator, homemaker and active community member, Mrs. Elliott and her husband of 65 years, the late Henry Elliott, were stalwart members of the Bay Area community for five decades. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend, Mrs. Lydia Marie Elliott will be forever remembered for her warmth and compassion. With her passing on November 15, 2012, we are reminded of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Lydia Marie Pitts Elliott was born on November 12, 1923, and was the fifth of Jesse and Bell Beatrice Pitts' eight children. After attending Mark Hanna High School in Tullahassee and meeting the love of her life, Henry Wilford Elliott who taught Math and Science there, Lydia and Henry were married on January 11, 1943. While her husband served overseas, Mrs. Elliott earned her bachelor's degree at Oklahoma's Langston University, joining Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and beginning a lifetime commitment to the organization and her fellow sorority sisters.

After being reunited with her husband in Japan, Mrs. Elliott enjoyed traveling the globe as an army spouse, visiting many of the world's major cities and countries and giving birth to the couple's two sons during that time. Upon Mr. Elliott's retirement from the army, the family moved to the Bay Area, where Henry became the first African American middle and high school principal in Vallejo, CA. Over the course of 25 years, Mrs. Elliott served the Richmond Unified School District, teaching arts and crafts and advancing to the position of head teacher. She continued her studies in education while actively participating with local community organizations like the Order of the Eastern Star, Beta Pi Sigma Sorority, Inc., the National Council of Negro Women and the NAACP. She was also a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. reaching the title of "Golden Soror" in 1997 for her outstanding 50-year membership and acting as a charter member of a local

Kappa Beta Omega chapter in Vallejo, CA. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott were also church members and avid volunteers, dedicating their time to organizations like the Omega Boys Club and The Adkins Project.

A woman of many talents, Mrs. Elliott was known for her fine sense of fashion, her penchant for collecting and her excellent cooking. Above all, she was incredibly committed to the wellbeing of her family, always making ample time for loved ones and friends.

On a personal note, I have known Lydia longer than anyone in my life except for my immediate family. My mother, Mildred, met Lydia in 1948 and they became the best of friends. She was my sister Beverly's Godmother and she was part of our extended family. My mother, two sisters, Beverly and Mildred, and I loved her; and we have many wonderful memories of Lydia, her beloved late husband, Hank, and her sons Henry Jr. and Terence. We will miss her tremendously, but we thank God for her friendship—and for the many joyous times we spent with Lydia and her family.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a wonderful human being, Mrs. Lydia Marie Elliott. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our community is indebted to her many civic contributions over the decades and her legacy of love and compassion will continue in the years to come. My thoughts are with Lydia's family and her extended group of loved ones as we celebrate her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

IN TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COL.  
JOHN MORIARITY (RET.)

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to U.S. Army Col. John Moriarity (Ret.), who chaired my U.S. Military Academy Nominating Board for 26 years.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Col. Moriarity and the rest of the board, who represented different branches of the armed services, year after year selected the best and the brightest from my district for our military academies. In my 26 years in Congress, they chose more than 250 exceptional young men and women for nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

The cadets were challenged and tested for four years. In the end, they became U.S. military leaders charged with defending America and the ideals we cherish. We bid them Godspeed.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to my personal friend Col. John Moriarity (Ret.), both for his service to our country as a U.S. Army officer and for helping to select the next generation of our finest military officers.