

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ACTIVITIES ON OREGON FARMS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, following is the letter I referred to earlier today.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, August 17, 2012.

Hon. HILDA L. SOLIS,
*Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: In the last two weeks, we have received reports about Department of Labor (DOL) activities on Oregon farms which raise significant questions. Specifically, we have been made aware of three issuances of "hot goods" orders (HGO) by DOL to sanction violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) since August 2nd. Depending on the case, these HGOs can prevent perishable farm products from being shipped off-farm, and effectively shut down harvest activity while the order is in place. We absolutely do not condone violations of the FLSA. However, in a phone call with Congressman Kurt Schrader and DOL representatives on Monday, August 13th, 2012, the DOL asserted that a HGO could only be considered after thorough investigation, due process opportunities for response by the employer, and a finding that the violations were willful, egregious, and/or repeated. Indeed, DOL's website states that restraining the shipment of goods is to be used after a thorough process:

"When all the fact-finding steps have been completed, the employer and/or the employer's representative will be told whether violations have occurred and, if so, what the violations are and how to correct them. If back wages are owed, the employer will be asked to pay the back wages and the employer may be asked to compute the amounts due. . . . In the absence of an employer voluntarily correcting the violations, the Wage and Hour Division may seek to restrain the shipment of the goods."

We are concerned that Oregon farmers have presented us with a narrative and supporting documentation that indicates that DOL may have abandoned the normal due process mechanisms and remedies in favor of a significant sanction. In one case, a farmer was told that the HGO would only be lifted after a large sum was paid to DOL and after he signed a consent judgment. The consent judgment included a waiver of any recourse if findings of fact or law later exonerated him. It required a waiver of the right to contest the finding. All this took place before the farmer was ever informed in writing what the alleged violations were.

We are not asking you to address these specific cases and cannot verify their credibility, but rather, we are writing to ask you for additional clarification of DOL procedures and practices for issuing HGOs on agricultural enterprises and enforcing the FLSA, including:

Is it the policy of the DOL to not disclose alleged violations to employers before issuing hot goods orders?

What test or standard is the DOL using to determine the need for a hot goods order?

Why does the DOL ask employers to waive rights for future findings of fact or law in its consent judgments?

What opportunity is there for an employer to respond without having his/her perishable crop under threat?

On farms and elsewhere throughout the economy, DOL serves a vital function in communicating and enforcing rules and laws to protect all working people. Statutes and rules give the Department the tools necessary to apply remedies commensurate with the severity and/or frequency of violations of the law. It is our hope that the fairness and due process provided by law is available to all employers and employees alike.

Please consider this request consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

KURT SCHRADER.
PETER DEFazio.
RON WYDEN.
GREG WALDEN.
JEFF MERKLEY.
SUZANNE BONAMICI.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERVISOR ROSE JA- COBS GIBSON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson upon her retirement from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

While on the board, Supervisor Gibson initiated the East Palo Alto Crime Reduction Task Force, a collaborative effort between law enforcement and community groups. This effort successfully reinforced the accomplishments of her city service and led to the adoption of additional measures to reduce violence. Today, this task force stresses four strategies to create a healthier East Palo Alto: Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, Sustainability. These are all strategies championed by Rose Jacobs Gibson and they include the activities of community clean ups, gang intervention, a Police Activities League, and a re-entry program for ex-offenders. East Palo Alto is a healthier place for all residents thanks to Rose Jacobs Gibson and her leadership.

Supervisor Gibson also continued her efforts to reduce crime by helping to create the Domestic Violence Council. The council is a permanent instrument to educate policymakers in our county about this critically important subject. She co-chaired the first Women's Criminal Justice Summit, a forum that identified many ways that existing resources could be used to improve the outcomes of our criminal justice system. She is a strong advocate for programs that prepare incarcerated women to lead independent, productive lives once they re-enter the community.

Supervisor Gibson sits on the board of the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust

(HEART) of San Mateo County and is a policy leader in the development of affordable housing within our community. HEART has assisted in developing nearly every major affordable housing development in our county since its founding. Supervisor Gibson was instrumental in designing San Mateo County's housing element and can always be counted upon to advocate for the elemental right to decent housing for every human being.

Public health has always been a significant part of Supervisor Gibson's agenda. She initiated a countywide summit on health disparities, an event that led to the creation of several health-focused task forces. The task forces, in turn, identified strategies to reduce childhood obesity and drug and alcohol abuse. As one example of a brick-and-mortar impact in our community, the Ravenswood Family Health Clinic was founded in East Palo Alto as a result of a team of advocates, including most notably Supervisor Gibson. This facility is a linchpin in community healthcare in East Palo Alto.

Rose also served on the East Palo Alto City Council from 1992 to 1999. She was Mayor in 1995 and 1996. She and her many allies in the community were instrumental in reducing the crime rate and in helping to restore community faith in law enforcement.

While on the city council, Rose Jacobs Gibson supported the shutdown of a toxic chemical plant and as a member of the Board of Supervisors she demanded an investigation of toxic contaminants in our county parks. She regularly worked with our transportation agency to improve public transit for her district's residents and she worked as a member of a team of community leaders to secure funding and approvals for school improvements throughout her district.

Rose Jacobs Gibson will be remembered fondly in San Mateo County as a leader who was eloquent and forceful, gracious and principled, visionary and practical. San Mateo County has been the beneficiary of Supervisor Gibson's public service at so many levels and in so many ways that it is difficult to sum up the achievements of a lifetime in a single recitation of her accomplishments. I respectfully end these comments with a simple observation about Rose Jacobs Gibson: She has left her mark, and generations yet to come will live better lives because of her service.

IDENTIFY TROUBLED YOUTH NEEDING HELP AND SUPPORT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in our continuing efforts to turn the tragic events at Newtown to high purpose, I include two articles from the USA Today newspaper, one entitled "A Boy Lost in the Shadows", and another, "Newtown Puts Mental Services in Spotlight."

• 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.

These articles remind me of a conversation a few years ago with a caring grade school teacher from my own district who became quite frustrated with the local school system's inability to help her manage the behavior of a child in her elementary classroom. The child, several times a day, became uncontrollable, moving about the classroom, throwing tantrums, screaming loudly, often falling to the floor, thus causing great confusion in the class. Despite the teacher's repeated attempts to help the child, it became obvious professional help was needed. A complicating factor became family members who were in denial that anything out of the ordinary was actually occurring with the child, despite the constant disruption, acting out, anger, and anti-social behavior the child was demonstrating. After repeated attempts that took three years, and let me emphasize three years, the teacher was able to have the child referred to behavioral specialists and placed in a more appropriate learning environment. That situation alone made me wonder about the manner in which we as a society make help available to children who exhibit destructive behaviors that are harmful to themselves and potentially to others.

Mr. Speaker, as a society, we seem to lack the methods to identify troubled youth and put them on a proper path to healing, if healing is possible. Too often, a child is left floundering due to our collective inability to help them find a constructive path forward. For example, many of our local boards of education often are not properly equipped to identify and assist children who are uncivil or who are completely alienated from their surroundings. Some families, too, seem unaware of their child's behaviors as unusual or potentially destructive. As the article I inserted in the RECORD yesterday reports, some parents are so overwhelmed in caring for children with special behavioral conditions, they simply don't know what else to do. Then again, too often there is no one to call to help.

Through the Commission President Obama proposed be formed to address the conditions that led to Newtown's tragedy, surely that Commission should invite a cross section of Americans to share their knowledge about what led to the mass killings that have harmed so many in our nation over the past decade, and what we must do as a society to prevent future tragedies. We can all envision a future where the incredible intelligence and goodwill of the citizens of our nation can lead us to a better day if we provide a forum to listen carefully to the voices among us who grapple with these challenges daily.

[From USA Today, December 17, 2012]

A BOY LOST IN THE SHADOWS

(By Donna Leinwand Leger and Yamiche Alcindor)

SANDY HOOK, CONN. Adam Lanza left only the faintest impression on classmates, neighbors and the people of Newtown before he killed his mother and shot his way into Sandy Hook Elementary, where he killed 20 children and six teachers before turning the gun on himself.

Lanza, 20, skulked through the hallways of Newtown High School in over-sized button-down shirts, eyes perpetually downcast. His name appears a few times on the honor roll published in the weekly Newtown Bee, but his picture is absent from The Newtown Nighthawk yearbook.

"He was very withdrawn," said Tracy Dunn, 20, who graduated from Newtown High School in 2010, Lanza's class.

Dunn, a junior at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, said she never saw him talk with anyone or hang out with friends. He spent time with computers and cameras in the technology room and belonged to the Tech Club.

"He would always have his head down walking to class with his briefcase—kind of scurrying," she said. "He never sat down or said anything to kids at this locker. He was just there in the background."

Andrew Lapple, who sat next to Lanza in homeroom their senior year at Newtown High, told the Hartford Courant that Lanza "never really talked at all" and walked the corridors at school clutching his laptop.

"He walked down the halls, against the wall almost like he was afraid of people," Lapple said. "He was definitely kind of strange, but you'd never think he'd do something like this."

Lanza grew up in Sandy Hook in a sprawling colonial house with his parents, Nancy and Peter, and an older brother, Ryan, 24. His parents divorced in 2009 after a long separation, and his father has remarried. Family friends and relatives say much of his education was home schooling by his mother.

He attended Reed Intermediate School for sixth grade and appears in a 2003 yearbook photo. In the a 2005 yearbook for Newtown Middle School, he's listed with the seventh grade without a picture under "camera shy," but he isn't listed in the eighth-grade class the next year. His name surfaces at Newtown High School in 2008 as a sophomore.

Marsha Moskowitz of Sandy Hook drove the school bus that took Lanza to Newtown Middle. She remembers him as "quiet, shy and reserved."

His mother clashed with school officials and eventually removed Adam from public school and home-schooled him, her former sister-in-law, Marsha Lanza of Chicago, told a CBS News affiliate.

Lanza had trouble with her youngest son for years, and her friend Louise Tambascio, owner of My Place Pizza & Restaurant. He was diagnosed with a disorder on the autism spectrum called Asperger syndrome, she said. Psychologist Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor at the University of California-Los Angeles, had no knowledge of Adam Lanza's case but said, "There really is no clear association between Asperger's and violent behavior."

Nancy Lanza stopped into My Place once or twice a week but rarely talked about her younger son, Tambascio said. Ryan, the older son, bused table at the restaurant for two years. He is outgoing and personable, she said. The brothers haven't spoken in two years, she said.

"Ryan who was the complete opposite of his brother," she said. Adam "always had his face down. He would never look you in the eye."

Police say the three guns used in the massacre were purchased legally and registered to Nancy Lanza, whom friends described as a gun and shooting aficionado. Tambascio said shooting was "a hobby."

She "had nothing to do with what her son did. She's a good person, goodhearted. She would do anything for you," Tambascio said.

Nancy Lanza "liked the single-mindedness of shooting," her landscaper, Dan Holmes told The Washington Post, Holmes said she mentioned taking her son to the firing range to practice. Holmes never entered the house or saw her son, but she did once bring an antique rifle outside to show him, he told the Post.

The shooter's father, Peter Lanza of Stamford, said the family is "in a state of disbelief."

"We, too, are asking why," he said in a written statement. "Like so many of you, we

are saddened, but struggling to make sense of what has transpired."

The Lanzas' neighbors on Yogananda Street say it's puzzling that on such a close-knit block where residents throw barbecues for newcomers, so few of them knew Adam Lanza or had ever seen him.

"It's a mystery. Nobody knows them, which is odd for this neighborhood," Len Strocchia said. "Everyone knows each other through the children, the school bus. The community here is kids."

Neighbor Dave Lapp said he had little to tell the FBI and State Police when they called on Friday night. "We walked by their house with the dog every day, and we don't know them. We've never even seen them," Lapp said.

Dunn, Adam Lanza's classmate, fears that may have been at the root of the problem.

"Maybe if someone had tried to reach out to Adam—maybe he needed a friend. Maybe this wouldn't have happened," Dunn said. "He's just one kid who slipped through the cracks."

[From USA Today, December 17, 2012]

NEWTOWN PUTS MENTAL SERVICE IN SPOTLIGHT

(By Liz Szabo)

Families and doctors who treat the mentally ill say they hope Friday's tragedy in Newtown, Conn., will refocus the nation's attention on improving mental health services.

Police have not released details about the motives or mental state of shooter Adam Lanza. But perpetrators of similar mass shootings—at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and an event in Tuscon for former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords—all had serious mental health conditions.

"We wait for things like this to happen and then everyone talks about mental health," says Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, an associate professor of psychology at Georgetown University Medical Center. "But they quickly forget."

There are hundreds of multiple-casualty shootings a year, says forensic psychologist Dewey Cornell, director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project. People have become so desensitized that they pay no attention, he says, yet mental illness contributes to domestic violence, child abuse, drug addiction, homelessness and incarceration. Investing in mental health care could help prevent tragedies, he says.

"Mental health has shrunk down to the level of short-term crisis management," Cornell says. "We can't think about the gunman in the parking lot and what to do with him. We have to get involved a lot earlier."

Schools and communities "have cut their mental health services to the bone. We're paying a price for it."

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THIS TRAGEDY

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart full of sorrow over the horrific violence at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which

claimed the innocent lives of twenty children and six school employees. The loss of life and innocence at Sandy Hook is a tragedy over which all Americans mourn, and the thoughts and prayers of Americans everywhere go out to all the victims and their families.

This tragedy represents the fourth time the Nation has been horrified to learn that innocent lives have been ended by gun violence in the past few months. I believe the time has come—indeed, the time has long passed—for this Nation to reevaluate the accessibility and control, in particular, of military assault weapons in our country.

I therefore call upon the President and the Congress to place sensible gun control legislation at the top of their legislative agenda, beginning with the reposition of the expired assault weapons ban. Although such action cannot undo last week's tragedy, I believe it will help to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. For the sake of those lost in Connecticut and all Americans who mourn, we should act without delay.

Words cannot express the deep grief of the families and loved ones of the victims, nor can they properly offer comfort. My thoughts and prayers are with the children, parents, teachers, staff members, and families affected by the violence. I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE
BODAKEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and true visionary Bruce Bodaken, who many years ago brought his passion to expand health insurance coverage to all Americans to Blue Shield of California. Bruce is now retiring after a remarkable ten-year tenure of outstanding service as Chairman, President and CEO of Blue Shield.

Bruce is not your typical health plan CEO. In fact, I was prepared not to like him when we first met more than ten years ago. He has a Masters degree in philosophy and was teaching that subject at the University of Colorado when he shifted his career to health care. The man who will take over Bruce's role in January 2013, Paul Markovich, currently COO of Blue Shield, calls him their "resident philosopher."

Under Bruce's leadership, Blue Shield became one of the fastest growing health plans in California, with a total membership today of 3.3 million and 4,800 employees. In 2002, Bruce was the first health plan CEO in the country to propose a plan for universal coverage. His plan became a template for the Affordable Care Act enacted by Congress in 2010. I share Bruce's belief that health care is a right, not a privilege.

Bruce launched the Blue Shield of California Foundation which has given over \$150 million in grants during the last five years to support community clinics, children's health initiatives, domestic violence programs, leadership training and policy research. It was named one of the country's 20 most generous corporate foundations by BusinessWeek in 2010.

In a remarkable move, Bruce oversaw the company's precedent setting step to cap prof-

its at two percent of revenue and return the differences to its customers. Last year that difference amounted to almost \$500 million.

Bruce also serves on the board and executive committee of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the BlueCross and BlueShield Association board. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care and serves on the board of directors of the California Business Roundtable, WageWorks, and the University of California, Berkeley's Health Services Management Program.

He joined Blue Shield in 1994 as president and chief operating officer. Previously, he served as senior vice president and associate chief operating officer of FHP International Corporation in Southern California.

A native of Iowa, Bruce earned his BA from Colorado State University and his MA from the University of Colorado, both in philosophy.

Bruce says that his education has deeply influenced his career and world perspective. When he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Francisco Business Times this year, he said that his training in philosophy, logic, communications and thinking about big questions had an application particularly in a world that was changing to a new model of health care.

In his retirement, Bruce is looking forward to dedicating more time to his family and friends and his favorite past time—tennis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Bruce Bodaken, a compassionate leader, big thinker and tireless advocate. His fight to cover all the uninsured isn't over and hasn't always been easy, but he will not give up. His commitment reminds me of something his most inspirational icon, Nelson Mandela, once said: "When the water starts boiling, it is foolish to turn off the heat."

CELEBRATING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY KING
BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, we join the people of Thailand in commemorating the 85th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on December 5, 2012.

During King Bhumibol's 66 year reign, he has continued to foster a strong partnership with the United States. As a great source of tranquility in the country, he has helped Thailand strengthen its friendship with the United States while becoming an example of democracy and economic development in Southeast Asia. Next year, we look forward to celebrating the 180th anniversary of America's bilateral relationship with Thailand since the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

King Bhumibol's life work has been dedication to the fulfillment of his coronation oath: "We shall reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the Siamese people." Today we applaud his righteousness and his many accomplishments that have brought peace, stability, and prosperity to the people of Thailand. It is known that His Majesty is a

talented musician, and today we recognize he has replaced discord with harmony throughout his life.

It is my pleasure to join our Thai friends in celebrating this important occasion, and extend my best regards to His Majesty for his good health and a happy birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on vote No. 627 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4606, as amended); and "yes" on vote No. 628 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3193).

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINE
KROLIK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christine Krolik, retiring Hillsborough city council member, former mayor, and tireless advocate for our public schools and many community organizations.

Christine moved to Hillsborough in 1995 with her husband Jeff and two sons, John and Billy. She immediately immersed herself in work to improve the public school system by advocating for smaller class sizes. She combined two of her outstanding talents in this effort: singing and fundraising. While she co-chaired the Scrip Committee from 1996–2000, she launched the Scrippettes singers to promote sales. The four Scrippettes performed jazzy versions of holiday songs including "Jingle Bell Rock," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Swingin' at Santa's Place." Today the group calls itself Swing Set and continues to delight people at civic functions from singing the National Anthem at Giants' games to warming up the crowd at Hillsborough's Light Up the Town celebrations.

Christine's boundless energy has been successfully put to use as co-chair of Hillsborough Concourse events in 2001, co-chair of the Measure B campaign to benefit Hillsborough's public schools in 2002, and the Citizens Communication Advisory Committee appointed by the mayor to help the city council and town staff to communicate with residents about issues affecting the town, also in 2002.

Christine was first elected to the city council in 2004. From 2006–2008, she served as vice mayor, and from 2008–2010 she served as mayor. During her 2010 term, she oversaw Hillsborough's Centennial, a flawlessly orchestrated celebration featuring marching bands, floats and vintage cars, and the dedication of Centennial Park. That year Christine was appropriately honored for her countless contributions as Hillsborough Citizen of the Year.

Christine is a firm believer that a strong sense of community is vital in a city and improves quality of life. While mayor, she embarked on an ambitious agenda to develop a

Hillsborough emergency preparedness program, the Hillsborough Neighborhood Network, an outdoor movie night, adult classes at Town Hall and the first ever Hillsborough Memorial Day Parade.

Her remarkable contributions to the Town have been matched by her generous support of many important community organizations. Christine serves as president and board member of Invision/Shelter Network providing transitional housing to homeless families, veterans and single adults. She is past president and present board member of Hillbarn Theatre providing valuable cultural programming in the county.

A native of Philadelphia, Christine earned her BA in Theater from Arcadia University, and she is a graduate of the conservatory at Circle-in-the-Square School of Theatre in New York. She is an accomplished actress in amateur productions and has played memorable roles such as Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Dolly in *Hello, Dolly*.

The vitality, creativity and enthusiasm that Christine has brought to the city council for eight years will certainly be missed. She has created a standard of community engagement which will be an inspiration to her successors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the finest local elected officials of San Mateo County, Christine Krollik. I am honored to call her one of my best friends. She has dedicated herself to the betterment of her fellow residents and our beautiful town. At a white elephant Christmas party a year ago, Christine fought for a superman costume—a fitting symbol of a person who has committed her life to helping other survive and thrive.

BARONA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS LAND TRANSFER CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3193, which amends the Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2004 to revise the description of the land to be held in trust for the Barona Band of Mission Indians of California. This noncontroversial bill states that the parcel of private, non-Indian land that is excluded from the revised description was not intended to be held in trust for the Band or considered to be part of its reservation.

As a member of the Native American Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues in Congress to address the needs of Native Americans. California is home to nearly one hundred federally recognized tribes. I have made it a priority of mine in Congress to safeguard the interests of our tribes.

After thousands of years of peaceful life in the region, known today as San Diego County, Native American life was abruptly changed in the late 1700s. More than 200 years of hardship for Native Americans began with the arrival of the Spanish military and the establishment of the first presidio and mission in 1769.

In 1875, the Federal Government established the Capitan Grande Reservation for the

native people living in the area at that time. About 40 years later in 1932, the city literally bought the Capitan Grande Reservation to build a reservoir and the people were removed from their land.

In 1932, without a homeland but with some Federal monies allotted from the sale, a group of the Capitan Grande tribal members purchased the Barona Ranch which today is the Barona Indian Reservation near Lakeside, about 30 miles northeast of San Diego. For many years living without electricity and other services, the tribal members tried to create a living through the ranch and farming.

Until the early 1990s, the Barona Tribe was still struggling economically in the backwoods of San Diego County. In 1994, the tribe, with the consulting guidance of Venture Catalyst, opened the Barona Casino “Big Top”, and this property eventually became the world-class Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino.

The casino has become the means to a restoration of self-sufficiency, prosperity and renewed hope. Unemployment and welfare dependency have dropped from 70 percent to zero on the Barona reservation.

Mr. Speaker, the Barona Band of Mission Indians has a long and strong tradition that continues to this day. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY BROWN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Hood River County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Brown. Chief Deputy Brown joins Sheriff Joe Wampler in retirement from the Hood River County Sheriff's Office on January 1, 2013, capping a career in law enforcement and public service going back to the 1970's. Chief Deputy Brown has dedicated his life to duty, honor, and service to the citizens and visitors of Hood River County, Oregon.

Jerry Brown has served his country and his community for decades. He is not only a long time veteran of law enforcement, but also he is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served our country in Vietnam. In 1978 he took the reins of “The Next Door,” a non-profit organization in Hood River that provides care and support for children and families in the area. During his time with The Next Door, Jerry coordinated week-long hikes and camping trips for youth, diligently fundraised, and secured accreditation through the Youth Care Association. His efforts helped form the program into a model for other areas to follow that endures to this day.

The pull to serve and protect citizens of my home town, Hood River, Oregon, drew Jerry to his full-time career in law enforcement. He started as a patrolman with Hood River Police Department and spent 20 years working to ensuring the community's safety. During his career with Hood River Police Department, Jerry also served as a detective, sergeant, and attained the rank of lieutenant before joining the sheriff's office in 2006.

For the past six years, Jerry has served as Sheriff Wampler's chief deputy, lending his knowledge and experience to the position. The

positive impact Chief Deputy Brown has made on the sheriff's office, and his community, will continue to inspire others to serve their nation, state, and community long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Jerry Brown. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation for his service and the thanks of our community for his unwavering commitment. Please join me in wishing Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Brown a very long and happy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF GINNY SILVA JAQUITH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Ginny Silva Jaquith, a close friend, former colleague and remarkable public servant who is retiring today from serving an interim term on the Pacifica City Council. When the city needed her, Ginny stepped up to the plate and brought her professionalism and experience to the council. In the 30 plus years I have known Ginny, she has always risen to the occasion.

Ginny is no stranger to the Pacifica City Council. She served on it from 1980–1992, including three terms as mayor. The highlights from her tenure were the creation of the city's best known event, the Pacifica Fog Fest, and the Community Center, both of which greatly enhanced the wonderful sense of community in Pacifica. Ginny served on the Pacifica Coast Fog Fest founding board from 1985 to 1992 and after she left the council, she was on the Fog Fest Organizing Group from 2000–2010.

She worked closely with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to acquire Sweeney Ridge, a spectacular hiking area of ridges and ravines between Pacifica and San Bruno that slope down to the San Francisco Bay on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. She helped turn the Sanchez Art Center into reality. The city worked closely with local artists and residents to purchase an abandoned elementary school and transform it into the invaluable art and educational center it is now.

Ginny was also instrumental in the establishment of the Redevelopment Agency in Rockaway Beach and a Commercial Development Task Force and Plan. She served on the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury and on the Pacifica Task Force for Sharp Park Golf Course.

Today she continues to give her time and energy to the Board of Directors of Pacificans Care, the Rotary Club of Pacifica, the Presidio Golf Club and the City of Pacifica Beautification Task Force.

Ginny was born in Gustine, California and grew up in the Sunnyvale, Cupertino area. She earned her BS in Recreation from San Jose State University, her MS in Recreation Administration from San Francisco State University, and her EdD in Education from the University of San Francisco.

She taught in SFSU's Recreation and Leisure Department for 27 years, was the department chair for three years and is a Professor Emerita.

She and her husband Robin of 38 years live on Pedro Point. In her spare time she enjoys the arts, playing golf, cooking and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Dr. Ginny Jaquith for her past and continuing service to the residents of Pacifica. Her tireless commitment and dedication have made this beloved coastal town a better and more beautiful place for everyone.

TRIBUTE TO CHANCELLOR
TIMOTHY P. WHITE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California and higher education are exceptional. The University of California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Chancellor Timothy P. White is one of these individuals. After four years of service to the University of California, Riverside (UCR), he will be leaving the University of California to take a new post as Chancellor of the California State University system.

Chancellor White was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He later immigrated to northern California, and is a first-generation college student who has matriculated within every college system in California. After beginning at Diablo Valley Community College, he earned a Bachelor's Degree from Fresno State University, a Master's from Cal State Hayward (East Bay), and a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology at the University of California, Berkeley. He previously held positions as Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Biodynamics at UC Berkeley, and as Professor and Chair of the Department of Movement Science and research scientist in the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Michigan. White had previously served as Dean, Provost, and Executive Vice President at Oregon State University, and came to UCR from the University of Idaho, where he had been President since August 2004. There he established a strategic direction to further the university's role as the state's land-grant and flagship research university. He is internationally recognized for his work in muscle plasticity, injury, and aging.

One of the many accomplishments during Chancellor White's tenure at UCR was the University's successful receipt of "preliminary accreditation" from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the national accrediting body for educational programs leading to the M.D. degree in U.S. and Canadian medical schools. This was UCR's second attempt to gain accreditation for an independent, four-year medical school. This momentous achievement was made possible due to the tremendous efforts of Chancellor White and the future Dean of the Medical School, Dr. G. Richard Olds, in partnership with local, state and federal officials, as well as community and business leaders. UCR will be able to recruit students for the charter class of 50 medical students, enrolling in August 2013.

UCR has also gained national and international recognition for excellence in research, teaching and service under Chancellor White's

tenure. UCR is ranked among the top 200 campuses around the globe in both the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities and the Times Higher Education rankings, and was recognized for its exceptional commitment to public service by Washington Monthly. Other accomplishments include the creation of a strategic plan to guide the institution, the announcement of the new School of Public Policy, growth of campus enrollment to almost 21,000 students, and new levels of achievement and accomplishment by faculty and students alike. In addition, under Chancellor White's guidance, Riverside was selected to host the new UCPath project, which will consolidate basic human resources operations across the entire UC system as a permanent cost-saving measure.

I have come to know Chancellor White well through many years working together on a variety of educational issues in Riverside. I can personally attest to the Chancellor's incredible work-ethic, professionalism, and positive attitude. He is married to Dr. Karen N. White, who is an Associate of the Chancellor and an assistant clinical Professor for the UCR Biomedical Sciences Program. She has been a great advocate on behalf of our veterans through the Operation Education Scholarship Program, which she founded and established on the UCR campus in 2010. They have four sons.

In light of all Chancellor White has done for the University of California and the Inland Empire, it is only fitting that he be honored as he continues his service to higher education. Chancellor White's tireless passion for public service and higher education has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and the state 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 moves onto the next phase of his life.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. LIGHTFOOT, JR. ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF NASA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr., on the occasion of his appointment as the Associate Administrator for NASA, the agency's highest-ranking civil servant position. As he is the first native Alabamian to hold this position, I am pleased to stand before this body of Congress to recognize his contributions to NASA and our country.

He previously was director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Named to the position in August 2009, he headed one of NASA's largest field installations, which plays a critical role in NASA's space operations, exploration and science missions. Mr. Lightfoot managed a broad range of propulsion, scientific and space transportation activities contributing to the nation's space program.

From 2007 to 2009, Mr. Lightfoot was Deputy Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center. Lightfoot served as manager of the Space

Shuttle Propulsion Office at Marshall from 2005 to 2007, where he was responsible for overseeing the manufacture, assembly and operation of the primary shuttle propulsion elements: the main engines, external tank, solid rocket boosters and reusable solid rocket motors.

Mr. Lightfoot received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1986 from the University of Alabama. In October 2007, he was named Distinguished Departmental Fellow for the University of Alabama, Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was selected as a University of Alabama College of Engineering fellow in 2009. Lightfoot serves on the University of Alabama Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board. In 2010, he was inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame.

Mr. Lightfoot has received numerous awards during his NASA career, including a NASA Outstanding Leadership medal in 2007 for exemplary leadership of the Shuttle Propulsion Office, assuring safety for the return to flight of the space shuttle. In 2006, he was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives, and in 2010 he received the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives—the highest honors attainable for federal government work. In 2000, Mr. Lightfoot received a Spaceflight Leadership Recognition Award, which recognizes leaders who exemplify characteristics necessary for success. In 1999, NASA's astronaut corps presented him with a Silver Snoopy Award, which honors individuals who have made key contributions to the success of human spaceflight missions. He also received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in 1996 for significant contributions to NASA's mission.

We are thankful for the years of dedication and hard work by Robert Lightfoot. We wish him and his family the best in this new role of service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS
KASTEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Thomas Kasten who has served on the Hillsborough City Council for twelve years, including two terms as mayor. The residents of our town are very fortunate to have benefited from the expertise and leadership of such an outstanding businessman and manager.

Tom, first elected to the city council in 2000, is currently the mayor and police commissioner. He balanced the budget both years and left the town in good financial condition. With his leadership skills he was able to calm a heated controversy about increased garbage and water rates that brought out large and vocal groups of residents. He also oversaw the approval of the largest capital expenditure plan in the town's history to replace a substantial portion of the 100-year old sewer system.

During his first term as mayor from 2004–2006, Tom had to deal with the town's fight over MacMansions replacing smaller ranch homes. He established the Zoning Study Committee and included leaders from both sides of the controversy to develop adjustments to the building code.

Tom also chaired the board of directors of the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) of San Mateo County and is now the vice chair of its legislative committee. He sits on the board of directors of the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART) and serves on its nominating and by laws committees. Previously, he was on the board of the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. In 2007, Tom was the chair of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Policy Advisory Committee for San Mateo County and is currently chairing its policy committee.

Tom honed his business skills during his 34-year long career at Levi Strauss & Co., where he was the president of the youthwear, men's jeans, and womenswear divisions. In addition, he served as executive vice president of new business development in which capacity he took the company private after 14 years as a public company. Tom was responsible for all information technology for Levi Strauss United States. Today, he continues his connection to Levis Strauss & Co. and serves on the Investment Committee.

Tom has lectured at some of our finest universities, including Stanford, Berkeley, UCLA and San Francisco State University, and he has been a keynote speaker at countless business conferences in the United States and abroad. He is also a frequent guest on television and radio and has been quoted in magazines such as *Fortune* and *Fast Company*. *Computerworld Magazine* named Tom one of the "Premier 100 Information Technology Leader in the U.S." in 2000.

Tom is very active in the Jewish community and volunteers his time and expertise with the Jewish Community Federation of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Jewish Home Foundation.

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Tom received his BS and MBA in Marketing from the University of California at Berkeley.

Tom and his wife, Kendra, have lived in Hillsborough 28 years. They have two children, Jeffrey and Alyssa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Thomas Kasten who has tirelessly devoted his time and energy to the residents of Hillsborough.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF BISHOP WALTER F. SULLIVAN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and honor the life of Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, whose recent death saddens the many people whose lives he touched throughout his time as bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

Bishop Sullivan served in churches throughout Virginia since he was ordained in 1953. As the longest-serving bishop in the Richmond diocese's 192-year history, he made a lasting impact in and outside of the Catholic Church. Bishop Sullivan was an advocate for the underprivileged and welcomed people of all faiths with open arms. During his time as bishop, the diocese established various new parishes, advisory committees for the youth,

women, and minorities, homes for the elderly, and retreat centers.

Bishop Sullivan also commissioned the first public Holocaust memorial in Virginia, "Rachel Weeping for Her Children," which celebrated its 25th anniversary in April. Acts like this made Bishop Sullivan a hero and champion to many. He spent his life committed to helping others, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, though we mourn the death of Bishop Walter Sullivan, we come together to pay tribute to and honor the life and work of such an important figure in our history.

CONGRATULATING JIM TURNER
ON 40 YEARS OF RADIO HOSTING

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize a gentleman who has been a mainstay in the Central Florida community for many years. After 40 years with NewsTalk WDBO as one of Central Florida's most respected and beloved news hosts, Jim Turner has announced his plan to retire.

Mr. Turner joined WDBO in 1972 and has hosted the station's morning segment since 1985. He is respected not only in the Central Florida community but throughout the country. In 2004 he was awarded by his peers in the National Association of Broadcasters the prestigious Marconi Award for Personality of the Year.

Founded in 1924 as a physics project of Rollins College, WDBO is today one of Central Florida's great news and talk radio stations. During his tenure as the morning show host, Turner headed the station's transformation from music to information and talk.

Jim Turner's daily presence on WDBO's morning talk segment will be sorely missed. We are grateful for the years he has spent talking with Central Florida, and we wish him well.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT J. ARNOLD
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
AFTER 38 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Mr. Robert J. Arnold, Chief Technologist, 96th Test Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, on the occasion of his retirement after 38 years distinguished public service to the United States Air Force and our great nation.

Mr. Arnold's career began in industry, performing and later managing missile, A-7, and F-8 weapons programs at numerous test and evaluation facilities. In previous positions with the Air Force, he led A-10 and F-15 weapons test programs at Edwards Air Force Base, California. During his outstanding career, he managed test and evaluation programs involving practically every type of weapon and aircraft in the Air Force inventory. He formed the

Corporate Plans Office for the Air Force Development Test Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, establishing and leading the Center's strategic planning program, institutionalizing modernization planning, and implementing a command-wide "Single-Face-to-Customer" office. Upon formation of the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base, he established the Plans and Programs Directorate for the Center and led planning for the inaugural Air Armament Summit to shape the future of air armament and joint service test and training infrastructure.

Mr. Arnold's record as a leader and his ability to form partnerships at all levels of government is unsurpassed. He was hand-picked by Air Staff to serve as the Interim Deputy Director for the Defense Test Resource Management Center (DTRMC) where he orchestrated preparation of the initial DTRMC DoD Strategic Plan for test and evaluation resources.

Without his care and stewardship as Chairman of the Eglin Encroachment Committee, mission critical natural resources might never have been preserved. His leadership enhanced community partnerships in the Eglin community and throughout the State of Florida.

Mr. Arnold's contributions to range sustainment, encroachment and the test and evaluation field as a whole have saved millions, brought him national recognition and benchmarked a number of innovative processes that will stand the test of time. His talents and overall knowledge and understanding of the Air Force mission will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is only on rare occasions that we find men of such exceptional character as Bob Arnold. He left his indelible mark on the Air Force and the Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to Bob and his wife, Myra. My wife, Vicki, and I wish them the best for continued success.

IN HONOR OF DR. WILLIAM
PURCELL

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true, dedicated leader in my state and in my community, Dr. William Purcell of Scotland County, North Carolina. Dr. Purcell grew up in Laurinburg, North Carolina, just south of my home town of Biscoe, North Carolina. He attended public schools in Laurinburg before graduating from Davidson College, and later, the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. After proudly serving our nation in the United States Army Medical Corps in France, during the Cold War, he returned home to North Carolina where he practiced pediatrics in Laurinburg for 36 years. During this time he also served on the Laurinburg City Council for six years, and as the Mayor of Laurinburg for 10 years. He became a member of the North Carolina Senate in 1997 and has proudly served the 25th District for seven terms before announcing his retirement this year.

If there is any indication of the impact this man has had on his community, it is the numerous awards he has received, including the

Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina in 2005, for his commitment to making preventive health care a top priority. Dr. Purcell's dedication to the health of the children of North Carolina continued after his retirement as a pediatrician, making its way into the halls of the General Assembly where he served as a member of the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Chairman of the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity. To honor this commitment, ABC News Correspondent George Stephanopoulos presented him with the Nathan Davis Award, the American Medical Association's highest award for a public office. Most recently, in 2008, his fellow senators and local news correspondents voted him one of the most effective members of the North Carolina Senate.

Senator Purcell and I have been friends for quite some time now, and this has allowed me to experience first-hand his generosity and his commitment to the well-being of the people of our state. As a former educator, I understand the importance of pediatric health and wellness, and their impact on a student's ability to succeed. I sincerely thank Dr. Purcell for his tireless devotion to making our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, it is with admiration and appreciation that I rise today to speak of the ceaseless and tireless efforts of Senator Purcell to represent the people of Anson, Richmond, Scotland, and Stanly counties, and our state as a whole. Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Senator Purcell for his outstanding leadership and achievements, and for a life of selfless devotion to those around him.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL JAMES
W. LISANBY (USN RETIRED)

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize (Ret.) Rear Admiral James W. Lisanby, who passed away on November 14, 2012.

Rear Admiral Lisanby, a native of Caldwell County, Kentucky, served his country and community with great integrity and honor. He rose through the ranks of the United States Navy during his 37 years to become a rear admiral and a chief engineer. He was instrumental in the development of the modern era of shipbuilding at the Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

After spending many years of service abroad and at sea, Rear Admiral Lisanby became the Commander of Naval Ships Engineering Center, his first Flag officer assignment, where he was responsible for the design and engineering of all ships and weapons developed for the U.S. Navy. He finished his stellar Navy career as the Deputy Commander for Acquisition and Logistics in the U.S. Navy's Sea Systems Command in Washington, DC.

Following retirement from the Navy, Rear Admiral Lisanby started his own consulting firm, Naval Services International, Inc., and became the first American elected President of the International Professional Engineering and Naval Architects Society, IPEN. He also

served on numerous boards, including those of the United Services Life Insurance Company and the Sioux Manufacturing Company of Devil's Lake, ND, and he also served as the Chairman of the Board of Technology Financing, Inc., part of the BMT Group of International Companies.

Not only was he successful in serving his country, and in business, but he had a very impressive academic record. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, he earned a Professional Engineers Degree (PE) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an advanced Management Degree from the Harvard Business School (PMD).

Rear Admiral Lisanby and his wife of 61 years, Gladys, retired to Arlington, Virginia and Pascagoula, Mississippi until Hurricane Katrina destroyed their beachfront home. At that time, the Lisanbys returned to Kentucky, and Caldwell County.

After returning to Kentucky, the Lisanbys became very active in the community, particularly in their support of the arts. They became members of the Endowment Circle of the Princeton Art Guild, where its Lisanby Court-yard honors Lisanby's mother, a lifelong artist and arts supporter.

Rear Admiral Lisanby was also an active member of Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church in Princeton, a Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his brother, Charles, two daughters, Elizabeth Ann Lisanby and Dr. Sarah Hollingsworth Lisanby, and their families.

The people of Caldwell County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and this great Nation were greatly served by Rear Admiral Lisanby, and he will be truly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 627, "yea."

On rollcall No. 628, "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE OF VICTORIA
LEIGH SOTO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to join the Stratford and Sandy Hook communities as they remember Victoria Leigh Soto who was so tragically taken from us last Friday. Only 27 years old, Victoria was a first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School where she lost her life protecting her students. Room 10 lost its teacher and we lost an exceptional young woman.

A lifelong resident of Stratford, Connecticut, Victoria graduated from Stratford High School in 2003 and earned a degree with high honors

in Education and History from Eastern Connecticut State University. She was currently working to complete her Master's Degree at Southern Connecticut State University. She was a student teacher at Brewster Elementary School in Durham, Connecticut and in her fifth year as a first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Victoria was fulfilling the dream she had had since she was just three years old. Teaching was her passion and it showed. Her students adored her—the many pictures inscribed with "I Love Miss Soto" that adorned her desk a testament to the impact she had on the children she was charged to care for and educate each day.

Victoria was equally as passionate about her family. In one of her Facebook postings she wrote of her life, "In my spare time, I love spending time with my black lab, Roxie. I love spending time with my brothers, my sisters, and cousins." Family and friends have described her as a role model—not only to them but to everyone she met.

As the event at Sandy Hook Elementary School unfolded, Victoria quickly hid her young students in closets and cabinets. When the gunman came into her classroom Victoria told him that her students were not in the class but in the gym. He turned the gun on her and she was lost to us. Her students would later be found by first responders, huddled together in the closets and cabinets. She saved each of their lives while sacrificing her own. Victoria was a hero in every sense of the word.

The tragic event that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School and all of those we lost that day will never be erased from our minds. Though there are no words that can ease her families suffering, I hope that they can take some small comfort in the knowledge that Victoria will always be remembered as a hero. My thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Carlos and Donna, as well as her siblings, Jillian, Carlee, and Carlos Matthew, and extended family as they say goodbye to their angel. Victoria Leigh Soto was an extraordinary young woman and will long serve as an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL MICHAEL
P. NICHOLSON'S SERVICE TO HIS
COUNTRY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of Florida's brightest sons, Corporal Michael, P. Nicholson of The United States Marine Corps, Echo Company. On July 6, 2011 in an IED blast Corporal Nicholson was almost mortally wounded when he lost his legs and part of his left arm and numerous other injuries. His personal decorations include The Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon and numerous other service awards. Michael was 2nd Platoon Mortar Chief and Assistant Patrol Leader. This strong young man from Tampa has been through hell and back and with much more to overcome he has been a shining example to all, and makes you proud to say you're an American. The Tampa Bay community honors his service to our great country. What Michael "Stands For," is magnificent, and few of us will ever reach the

heights to which he has already scaled in his short lifetime and will into the future. A Marine's Marine, our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell.

STAND FOR SOMETHING

Stand!
Stand for something,
or live for nothing at all!
Die for something,
or the rest of your life so crawl!
Stand!
Better to give up your strong arm and legs,
then look back at all of that emptiness that
you so gave this world, you saw!
And so realize,
that your life really meant nothing at all!
Stand for something!
So noble and so very tall!
Better,
to make a difference with it all!
And so answer that most heroic of all calls!
That call to arms!
That call to war!
That call to death,
for all of our freedoms to so insure!
Because,
moments are all that we so have!
To stand tall!
To change the world!
To go off with our flags unfurled!
To stand for something!
All in that blood that binds you,
but to so answer that most noble cause!
To stand for something,
to where only such hearts of honor are so
called!
Yea Stand!
Stand for something,
or live for nothing at all!
To shine,
to make a difference with it all!
But,
To wear those magnificent shades of green!
And be but only one of "The Few",
But to be only one of The very Bold!
To have and to hold!
Our Nation's most precious of all Gold!
A United States Marine!
One of the best damn things,
that this country has ever seen!
As already Michael,
in your short life as you have so convened!
All in that fight,
with all your might!
As you were so magnificently seen!
As it was on that fateful day,
when your fine life almost went away!
As a IED explosion,
halfway to Heaven on that day!
When,
something so deep down inside of you would
not give way!
Because you were born to lead,
even in your darkest days!
As the tears ran down your most heroic face!
Because Nicholson,
your fine life that still had so much more to
say!
For you had miles to go,
and mountains to so climb on your most he-
roic way!
And so many hearts to so heal,
and to so inspire,
lifting them all so ever higher!
While, all of the Angels for you so prayed!
As you Michael,
still have such life of happiness that which
before you so awaits!
As you Michael may have lost your two
strong legs and arm!
But they'll not touch your great heart of
amazing grace,
that which so inside of you so beats and
burns so very warm this very day!
The one that which you were so born with,

that which so says Marine get up and move
on . . . the course to stay!
And Pity is not a town where you will ever
stay!
As you so teach us!
As you so reach us!
As you so beseech all in every way!
With the kind of lessons about life that only
a kid like you could say!
As you rain mortars of hope down upon us
all,
all in what your fine heart has so to con-
vey. . .
Because, already in your short life Mi-
chael. . .
you've traveled higher and farther than any
of us ever will or may!
Because, you so Stood For Something!
And as you Still Do, To This Very Day!
For Something, So Noble and So Brilliant,
and So Bright!
Someone To So look Up To,
whose most courageous heart brings such
light!
These rays!
Marine, I could climb the highest mountain,
and yet never would I reach where you stand
this day!
For only a few in heaven will so stand, as
they!
And if ever I had a son Michael,
I wish he could but be half the man you are
in every way!
Who Stands for Something so very brilliant,
that which most of us never may!
All in you in what I saw,
as our hearts to you Michael so run!
Because in The Game of Life,
you are a Champion in every way!
Oh how I wish I could stand as tall as you
this very day!
What have you stood for, out on life's way?
Stand!

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE
CARMEN RIVERA-WORLEY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Carmen Rivera-Worley. Judge Rivera-Worley has served as District Judge for the 16th District Court in Denton County, Texas for the past nine years.

Judge Rivera-Worley received a Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University in 1977. She also received a Master's Degree from Texas Tech University in 1978. In addition to those degrees, Judge Rivera-Worley proved her commitment to higher-education by earning her Jurisprudence Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law in 1982. These numerous degrees have allowed Judge Rivera-Worley to extend her knowledge and continually serve the citizens of Denton and Val Verde counties.

Judge Rivera-Worley has extensive experience in practicing law. Before her current position as District Judge, the Honorable Rivera-Worley held several positions as an attorney in Denton County and Val Verde County. She previously served in Denton County's Criminal District Attorney's Office as the Assistant Criminal District Attorney/Chief of Civil Division from 1992–2003. Also, she served as Val Verde County Attorney from 1987–1992. Prior to that position, she was Val Verde County Assistant Attorney from 1985 to 1987.

Judge Rivera-Worley also played an active role in numerous professional associations.

These include the Denton County Bar Association and The Texas State Bar Association, particularly in the following sections: Construction Law Section, Government Lawyer Section, and Labor and Employment Section. In addition, she held many positions in the Texas District and County Attorney's Association. In the Texas District and County Attorney's Association, she was a member of the Board of Directors, the Long Range Planning Committee for Publications, the Editorial Board, and the Legislative Committee. Also, she served as the Chair of the Civil Committee of the Association, and was also a member of the Governor's Prosecution Advisory Committee on Punishment Standards Commission, and was a speaker at conferences on local government and purchasing for the Texas Association of Counties and Texas Purchasing Association.

Beyond her professional experience, Judge Rivera-Worley has proven her commitment to the community by working with civic organizations and charities in the region. She is currently an associate of the Denton Independent School District's Bond Progress Committee and of the Denton Christian Preschool Board of Directors and Nominations Committee. Judge Rivera-Worley has also devoted her time to the Trinity United Methodist Church by being a member of the Board of Trustees and of the Council on Ministries. She was also the Chair of the Youth Ministries Committee for the church.

Even with her already outstanding track record of leading her community, Judge Rivera-Worley found the time to serve as a member of the Minority Access Committee at Ann's Haven Hospice. She also played a significant role in the Denton Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and was also named Trustee of the Sarah E. Worley Educational Foundation Trust.

Judge Rivera-Worley is a very active member in her community and has a true passion for helping others. As she retires, she will leave a legacy of excellence in the 16th District Court of Denton County and will not be forgotten. I am pleased to recognize Judge Rivera-Worley and am privileged to represent Denton County in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING
EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION BENEFITS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although our economy is gradually improving after one of the worst economic crises in our Nation's history, the economic crisis remains a daily reality for 12 million unemployed workers and for the millions of Americans experiencing record levels of food insecurity, poverty, and foreclosure.

Unemployment benefits are a critical lifeline for our citizens and our economy, keeping 2.3 million Americans (including over 600,000 children) from falling into poverty in 2011, reducing the poverty rate for families by 40 percent in 2011, and generating \$1.52 in economic activity for every \$1 in economic compensation. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office

estimates that extending these benefits another year will create 300,000 much-needed jobs.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment; millions of Americans rely on unemployment assistance to survive. In my home state of Illinois during 2012, approximately 320,000 people relied on regular unemployment benefits and almost 140,000 additional Illinoisans depended on emergency unemployment. As Illinois and our nation continue to struggle out of this recession, failure to extend this critical lifeline will impose incredible hardship on approximately two million Americans. Failure to extend this critical lifeline means that—in addition to 90,000 Illinoisans who will abruptly lose benefits on December 29th—an additional 2,800 Illinoisans will lose benefits each week in 2013 if Republicans insist on slashing federal emergency assistance.

Our nation continues to experience historic levels of long-term unemployment. Most unemployed Americans no longer receive unemployment insurance benefits, reflecting the crisis that exists for the millions of Americans who have exhausted their benefits and still cannot find work. Indeed, over 40.8 percent of all unemployed workers, more than 5 million people, have been out of work for more than 6 months. These Americans lost their jobs through no fault of their own, they tirelessly try to find work when the jobs are few and far between, and they struggle to cover basic food, housing, and transportation costs for their families on an average of \$290 a week, a pittance which typically replaces only half of the average family's expenses.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment; our economy needs federal unemployment benefits to support its growth. In addition to cruelly stripping millions of Americans of vital assistance just days after Christmas, a Republican failure to continue unemployment benefits would devastate our fragile recovery. Moody's economist, Mark Zandi, estimates that slashing emergency benefits this year will reduce economic growth in 2013 by \$58 billion. Cutting unemployment benefits for two million people will take a tremendous toll on businesses as well as families. Even with the creation of millions of new private-sector jobs and improvements in the ratio of unemployed workers to job openings, jobs remain hard to get. There are 4 million fewer jobs in the economy now than at the beginning of the recession. Further, there are still 3.4 unemployed workers for each available job, worse than at any point during the 2001 recession and dramatically higher than the 1.8 people per job at the outset of the recession in December 2007.

Government leaders have a responsibility to protect Americans and our country, especially during times of national crisis. Failure to continue unemployment benefits will harm our economic recovery and disproportionately harm groups of Americans who already are hardest hit by the economic crisis—including older Americans, low-income Americans, Americans from racial and ethnic minority groups, and Americans without a high school diploma. Congress must quickly act to support our citizens and our economic recovery by continuing emergency unemployment benefits.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS LYNN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolina entrepreneur and leading landscape designer, Dr. Louis Lynn, a recent recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency's 2012 Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award. The Award recognizes exceptional leaders who have made great strides in creating diversity in the public or private sector. Dr. Lynn is a tremendous small business leader in South Carolina, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Dr. Lynn is a native of Lamar, South Carolina. His childhood in a rural area prompted his love of nature, and he spent his youth participating in the 4-H club and selling produce. He also came from a family of entrepreneurs—his grandfather was a shop owner and his father, Lawton, ran a butcher plant. His father was an influential figure in his life, who taught him to take a sense of pride in hard work, and the elder Lynn was even once named South Carolina Father of the Year.

In 1964, Louis Lynn entered the second freshman class to integrate Clemson University. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Horticulture from Clemson, and went on to earn a PhD in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. Early in his career, Dr. Lynn was a research scientist. His work at Monsanto led to the development of Round-up® herbicide. But he was called to more hands-on horticultural work.

In 1985, Dr. Lynn established ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc., which has become the largest African-American-owned landscape business in South Carolina. As the company has grown, it has added offices in Atlanta and Tucker, Georgia and now employs 85 full-time people. ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc. was recently named one of the 25 Fastest Growing Companies in South Carolina. His business began as a small residential landscaping business, but today is recognized for very high-profile projects including the landscaping of the Columbia Convention Center, the University of South Carolina Colonial Center, and BMW Manufacturing. Other clients include Ft. Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, Fort Gordon and the Savannah River Nuclear site. As a SBA HUBZone Certified contractor, his firm is currently under contract with the Department of Defense for repair and renovation services on historic buildings at Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Dr. Lynn is a man of great faith. He feels called to give back to the community. In 1988, he was elected to the Clemson Board of Trustees, and is serving his seventh four-year term. He has also served on the boards of the BB&T Bank, South Carolina Workforce Investment, the State Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, the Midlands Business Leadership Council, the State Museum Foundation, the South Carolina Horticulture Society and the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education.

Dr. Lynn and his wife, Audrey, are the parents of three adult children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Louis Lynn on receiving the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award. He has made extraordinary contributions as an entrepreneur, a community leader, and a man of faith. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

HONORING FLORIDA'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ACADEMY BOARD MEMBERS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of my 7th Congressional District of Florida United States Service Academy Board Members. These are wonderful Americans who have provided voluntary service to assist in the nomination and selection of young men and women who will attend our nation's military academies. Each of these individuals has faithfully worked to help our country choose the very best of our youth to train for leadership positions in our military branches. The United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps each owe these board members special thanks and recognition for their years of work and efforts.

They have not only interviewed hundreds of students applying to the academies, but also provided invaluable counseling and support in their important life and career choices.

On behalf of all the people of the 7th Congressional District I salute and honor LTC James T Marino (Ret.) of St. Johns, Mr. Derek Hankerson of St. Augustine, Dr. Dan Kelso of St. Augustine, Col. Douglass Wood (Ret) of Palm Coast, Mr. Dan Quiggle of Ponte Vedra Beach, Col. Frank Farmer, Jr. (Ret.) of Ormond Beach, Col. Charles Early, Jr. (Ret.) of DeLand, Mrs. Mary Ann Welsh of Ormond Beach, Mr. Dan Hughes USMC (Ret.) of Palm Coast, Capt. Bill Knehans, DC, USN (Ret.) of Ormond Beach, LTC Al Peterson (Ret.) of Welaka and Mr. Tony Papandrea of Palm Coast.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking the Military Service Academy Board Members of Florida's 7th Congressional District.

HONORING FORMER SENATOR GEORGE McGOVERN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, George McGovern was a leader in the battle to end hunger—here in the United States and around the world. His recent passing should remind all of us of the need to continue his fight. Hunger is a political condition. We have the food and know-how to end it—what we're missing is the political will. As a tribute to Senator McGovern, let's all help create that political will.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a number of tributes to the great man.

GEORGE MCGOVERN—AN OUTSTANDING LEADER ON CHILDREN'S HUNGER AND NUTRITION
(By Gus Schumacher)

George McGovern will be remembered for much during his extraordinary 90 years—for some it is for his difficult loss to Richard Nixon in the 1972 presidential election, for others it is for his heroics while serving as a WWII bomber pilot. I will always remember the former Congressman and Senator from South Dakota for his unflinching public service, his integrity and his great courage over decades to sustain a passionate commitment to assisting the poor and hungry both domestically and overseas.

I was fortunate to get to know Senator McGovern in the late 1990's during my tenure as Undersecretary at the USDA while he served as our Ambassador to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. During those meetings he continually pressured us for more support to the world's hungry, especially children. When he returned to the United States, he continued his pressure on us to fund what soon would become the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

On his return from Rome, Senator McGovern convinced former Senator Bob Dole of Kansas to write a joint OpEd column in the Washington Post on the paucity of good nutrition for school children in developing countries—children trying to learn, but their learning impeded by scarce food and classroom hunger. Building on his domestic life-long efforts to improve nutrition for school lunches in America, he fostered the initial Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) program for pregnant mothers and their young children. With the help of Senator Dole, the two senior statesmen from opposite sides of the political aisle helped generate major improvements in the food stamp program, together again the Senators said, we need to generate support and funding for such programs overseas.

Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA), no relation to Senator McGovern, read that Washington Post article, called President Clinton and asked him to invite McGovern to the White House. The President quickly invited him over to the Cabinet Room and asked a number of senior officials from the White House, USAID and USDA to join the briefing. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and I were among those at this seminal meeting. McGovern was passionate on his proposal and quickly convinced the President who then turned to Secretary Glickman and me to use our authorities under the Commodity Credit Corporation legislation (Secretary Glickman was then Chair and I was then President of CCC) to ramp up a pilot program in 2001. It was extremely successful and Congress subsequently included funding in each farm bill since that historic White House meeting.

McGovern's passion for improving children nutrition was infectious. He never flagged on this work and here at Wholesome Wave his passion and dedication is reflected in our efforts to deepen his early work on food stamps and WIC with our nutrition incentives for these programs in more than 300 farmers markets across the country. Our work benefits many of the families that McGovern was so passionate to assist. He will be much missed, but his legacy to assist hungry children here at home and overseas is continuing.

ENDNOTE

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole program) helps support education, child development, and food security for some of the world's poorest children. It

provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. The McGovern-Dole program was originally authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The legislation called for the use of \$100 million in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to launch the program in fiscal year 2003, with future funding coming from Congressional appropriators. The program was reauthorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. That legislation provides for the use of \$84 million in CCC funds and allows for annual Congressional appropriations, which has been approximately \$100 million annually in recent years. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service and is named in honor of Ambassador and former Senator George McGovern and former Senator Robert Dole for their tireless efforts to encourage a global commitment to school feeding and child nutrition.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 21, 2012]

GEORGE MCGOVERN, THE MAN WHO NEVER GAVE UP

(By Bob Dole)

When I learned that George McGovern was nearing the end of his remarkable life, I couldn't help but think back to the day in June 1993 when both of us attended the funeral of former first lady Pat Nixon, in Yorba Linda, Calif. After the service, George was asked by a reporter why he should honor the wife of the man whose alleged dirty tricks had kept him out of the White House. He replied, "You can't keep on campaigning forever."

That classy remark was typical of George, a true gentleman who was one of the finest public servants I had the privilege to know.

I am sure there are some who were surprised by the long friendship that George and I shared. After all, before his death this weekend at age 90, he was a proud and unapologetic liberal Democrat and I am a lifelong Republican. As chairman of the Republican Party, I did what I could to ensure the defeat of his 1972 run for the White House. When the election was over, however, George and I knew that we couldn't keep on campaigning forever. We also knew that what we had in common was far more important than our different political philosophies.

Both of us were guided by the values we learned growing up in the plains of the Midwest—he in Mitchell, S.D., and me in Russell, Kan. Our lives were also transformed by the experience of wearing the uniform of our country during World War II.

We would both come to understand that our most important commonality—the one that would unite us during and after our service on Capitol Hill—was our shared desire to eliminate hunger in this country and around the world. As colleagues in the 1970s on the Senate Hunger and Human Needs Committee, we worked together to reform the Food Stamp Program, expand the domestic school lunch program and establish the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

More than a quarter-century later, with political ambitions long behind us, we joined together again. Soon after President Bill Clinton named George ambassador to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in 1998, he called to ask for my help in strengthening global school feeding, nutrition and education programs. We jointly proposed a program to provide poor children

with meals at schools in countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. In 2000, President Clinton authorized a two-year pilot program based on our proposal, and in 2002, Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. Since its inception, the program has provided meals to 22 million children in 41 countries.

In recent years, George and I had several occasions to get together and reflect on our lives, our political careers and our respective presidential campaigns. No matter how many times we replayed it, he never did defeat President Nixon and I never did defeat Bill Clinton. We agreed, however, that the greatest of life's blessings cannot be counted in electoral votes.

In 2008, George and I were humbled to be named the co-recipients of the World Food Prize. As we were called on stage to accept the award, we once again reached across the aisle, walking to the podium literally arm-in-arm. I began my acceptance remarks by saying that "The good news is that we finally won something. It proves that you should never give up."

There can be no doubt that throughout his half-century career in the public arena, George McGovern never gave up on his principles or in his determination to call our nation to a higher plain. America and the world are for the better because of him.

STATEMENT BY ADMINISTRATOR SHAH ON THE PASSING OF SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

Senator George McGovern was a tremendous leader in the global movement to end hunger and malnutrition, and his partnership and friendship to the U.S. Agency for International Development will be irreplaceable. Senator McGovern's ties to our Agency date back to his appointment by President John F. Kennedy as the first Director of Food for Peace in 1961. He noted that this time at USAID was key to making him a lifelong champion of combating hunger, a commitment that has shaped global institutions and impacted millions of people around the world.

In his 18 years in the U.S. Senate, he sponsored numerous health and nutrition programs and served as chair of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. In addition to fighting hunger in the United States, he also teamed up with Senator Robert Dole to successfully pass the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which provides school meals to millions of children around the world each year. He played an instrumental role in helping establish the UN World Food Programme and was appointed as the UN's first Global Ambassador on World Hunger in 2001. He was recognized for his great leadership as co-Laureate of the World Food Prize in 2008.

Senator McGovern's tireless dedication to ending hunger and malnutrition helped encourage a renewed focus on food security around the world, including President Obama's global initiative Feed the Future. Across more than six decades of public service, he inspired countless others with his leadership, friendship, and commitment, always taking the time to mentor and coach young people.

Senator McGovern will be greatly missed, but his legacy has left us inspired and reenergized to carry his mission forward.

[From the Daily Beast, Oct. 22, 2012]

ROBERT SHRUM ON FRIEND GEORGE MCGOVERN, THE PROPHET POLITICIAN

(By Robert Shrum)

Written off today as history's greatest loser for his 1972 presidential drubbing, the

senator should be remembered for moving America forward on innumerable issues, from Vietnam to gay rights, says friend and former speechwriter Robert Shrum.

When I was first called and told that George McGovern was in hospice care, I was overwhelmed with sadness. Yes, at 90, he had lived a long and extraordinary life, but when I talked with him in recent years, he was tirelessly immersed in public events, acutely insightful, a political leader retired from office though never from caring or speaking out. He had an undiminished sense of the possible, and how to push the boundaries. In him, that combination was not always seen or credited—in part because he was so genuinely principled, and of course because he so decisively lost in 1972.

So I think of him, and will write of him here, as a great undaunted man, often intentionally misunderstood, caricatured by opponents on the right and inside his own party, but who nonetheless lifted the vision of the nation—and in his friend Robert Kennedy's phrase, "made better the life of the world."

I am not an objective observer. He was a shining and shaping force in my life. He trusted me to help with his acceptance speech for the Democratic presidential nomination when I was still in my 20s and had come to his campaign only weeks before the convention. He taught me about foreign policy and farm policy, and how to sip a vodka martini. When I worked for him in the Senate, he and his wife, Eleanor, one of the sharpest and sweetest people I ever met, took me on my first European trip, and then again to Asia. It's a journey that has never ended and without them might never have started.

In his last gift of public service, as the American ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome under President Clinton, and for a while even under President George W. Bush, George and Eleanor happily let me guide them around museums and churches—and restaurants—I'm certain they had been to before. It was a reprise of my days there more than two decades earlier, when we were on our way home from India, Pakistan, and Vietnam, and they changed our stopover from London to the Eternal City because I so yearned to see it. My wife, Marylouise, who loved to cook risotto for George as much as he loved to eat it, more than once said he was a second father to me. In that, I was not alone.

In the mid-1970s, when George had many years ahead of him, and fir more to give, I decided to write a book called *Losers* about presidential candidates who, despite defeat and the blame that inevitably follows, had moved America forward in transformational ways. George would have been the concluding chapter. I sat down with one of the leading publishers in New York who dismissed the idea. Nobody, he said, wants to read about losers. Then he wondered if I'd be interested in ghostwriting a book for Nixon attorney general and Watergate criminal John Mitchell. I wasn't and I doubt Mitchell would have been interested in me.

When I told George, he laughed. Maybe I could refute "our" speeches on the Watergate cover-up during the '72 election. The irony was that George had been entirely right then, and his criticisms had been largely dismissed. President Nixon might have been impeached, but George was still written off as history's biggest loser.

History itself has bigger claims and a longer view. George, who bridled at being labeled an isolationist or an extremist—he was neither, but he was only human—also had a certain equanimity about the stereotype, a belief that what he had cared for, stood for, and accomplished mattered more than what was said about him. But in death if not in

life, he deserves a fair accounting of who he truly was, and the differences he made.

George would reject similar counsel of caution to address an openly gay political organization in Los Angeles. He was the first United States senator ever to do so.

For example, his famous 1972 call to "Come Home, America," smeared then by Nixon's henchmen and since then by the neocons as a slogan of weakness, a policy of withdrawal from the world, was in reality a summons to honor defining American values and national interest. It surely was a demand to end the Vietnam War but also to pursue a "just and decent" activism abroad that in the end would strengthen our national security—and our claim to be the "last, best hope of earth." For this, the decorated bomber pilot of World War II was reviled by the campaign of someone who had spent those dangerous years playing poker in the South Pacific. But the standard George raised has a lasting and fateful relevance. How much better off we would be now if his warning to refuse the wrong war and instead rebuild our own country had been heeded as the Bush administration plotted to plunge into Iraq.

George was as right about Vietnam as he was about Watergate. And another caricature hurled at him in 1972—that he favored "acid, amnesty, and abortion"—is in retrospect a partial label, but in the main a tribute. He never favored the legalization of hard drugs. But amnesty for those who in conscience could not serve in Vietnam, which he saw as an essential part of healing the wounds of war, was granted within four years by President Carter. And a woman's right to choose was secured by the Supreme Court just months after George lost 49 states.

He also changed forever the way we nominate presidential candidates. The McGovern Commission he led reformed the process, breaking the grip of party bosses and ceding the power to voters in primaries and caucuses. He secured fair representation for women and racial and ethnic minorities that now encompasses LGBT Americans too. He put the people back in the party, and he's the reason the Democratic Party looks like America. The McGovern model has been tweaked, but it remains fundamentally the same, and it's been adopted by Republicans as well as Democrats.

George could achieve this, and more that I will honor him for here, because of perhaps the least noticed truth about him. He was a great politician. He was a college professor first elected to Congress in conservative South Dakota in the Eisenhower sweep of 1956. But there were lines he wouldn't cross even if it was politically prudent. He lost his first bid for the Senate in 1960 because he spurned the advice to avoid a campaign stop with John F. Kennedy, who was deeply unpopular in the state. (Eighteen years on, facing a tough re-election campaign, the one he would finally lose, George would reject similar counsel of caution to address an openly gay political organization in Los Angeles. He was the first United States senator ever to do so.)

After the 1960 election, the president-elect called him and said: "Hi, George. This is Jack. I'm terribly sorry I cost you that Senate seat." Kennedy then appointed him director of the new White House Office of Food for Peace.

The episode forged his friendship with Bobby Kennedy, and soon after Teddy, and it left him with a lifelong passion to end the plague of hunger in the world and the shame of hunger in America. He took that passion with him when he won a Senate seat two years later by a mere 597 votes. He would be elected three times in all, a remarkable record in a state that usually disagreed with him but respected his authenticity and the

steadfastness of his beliefs. He turned his vulnerability into an asset.

As he declared for president in 1972 against one of the strongest primary fields in the modern era, he seemed to have few assets. Starting out far behind, in single digits, he triumphed as the anti-war candidate; he also maneuvered adroitly in states like Wisconsin, where he appealed to blue-collar voters with a proposal for property tax reform. He had a masterful strategy, and he assembled a masterful organization of the young and the talented.

George was unlucky too—and in politics, genius is often luck. He wasn't going to beat Nixon, but the contest could have been much closer. And he might have survived to run the next time. Then he selected his running mate, Missouri Sen. Tom Eagleton, in the way it was customarily done then—with a few questions and no formal vetting. The choice blew up when the press reported that Eagleton, who had offered the reassurance that there was nothing embarrassing in his background, had undergone a series of shock treatments for depression. Eagleton was replaced; George fell 20 points behind and stayed there. The collateral result was the elaborate process for picking a vice-presidential nominee that has prevailed ever since. It's one legacy George would have preferred not to create.

It's telling that in the 2012 campaign, the stronger position on abortion and women's issues is the one he had 40 years ago. He was ahead of his time, and he was a reshaping influence on our times.

He not only opposed the Vietnam War but afterward proposed the reconciliation that was delayed until the 1990s. Gerald Ford might have gone for it—he discussed it with George—but flatly ruled it out 10 days after Ronald Reagan announced a challenge to Ford's renomination.

George advocated normalization of relations with China in a series of lectures in 1951, at the height of the Korean War. He did it again to far more attention—the lectures had provoked only a venomous response in the local newspaper—on the Senate floor in 1966, during the escalation of the Vietnam War. He called for an end to the embargo on Cuba a decade later and twice visited the island to meet Fidel Castro.

Review what I have recounted so far: events have proved him correct, as they will on Cuba. He was to a very real degree the politician as prophet. He had no meanness, but there was steel in his convictions. His Senate colleagues squirmed in 1970 as he reproved them before a vote on setting a deadline to withdraw from Vietnam: "Every senator here is partly responsible for that human wreckage at Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval, and all across our land—young men without legs, or arms, or genitals, or faces, or hopes."

Yet he could work with those on the other side, including the usually intractable right-wing senator from North Carolina, Jesse Helms. George made peace with Nixon, who had plotted to blame him for the shooting of George Wallace, and visited Nixon's home in New Jersey. George McGovern never yielded in his beliefs, but he never hated either. Indeed he treasured his relationship with the conservative icon Bill Buckley, whom he debated repeatedly on *Firing Line*. For one taping of the show in 1984, the team of McGovern and Shrum bested Buckley and George Will, persuading an audience at the Yale Political Union to vote for Walter Mondale over Ronald Reagan. After the election, Buckley said the same thing both to George and me: "As Yale goes, so goes Minnesota." George joyfully repeated the line.

It was his inner core that made him a torchbearer of ideals. But it was his temperament, his respect for others, that let him collaborate with Bob Dole to save and

expand the Food Stamp Program. Millions of people in America who may not remember his name will not go hungry today because of George—and others half a world away are alive and whose children are alive because of his service from Food for Peace from 1961 to 2001, when he resigned as ambassador to the U.N. food agency.

His is a dual legacy, of ideas and of so many individuals he brought into politics who stayed to make their own mark.

There was his proposal for tax simplification—lowering rates and closing loopholes—which predated the reform Reagan negotiated with the Democrats by 14 years. The notion is still at the center of campaign conversation today, in the bastardized form Mitt Romney exploits to conceal his giveaways to the wealthy. George would be the first to denounce it; as he once said: “Money made by money should be taxed at the same rate as money made by men”

Those who enlisted with George in 1972 constitute a legion of significance in our national life, foremost among them the young Yale Law student who was our co-campaign manager in Texas, BM Clinton, along with friend Hillary Rodham. As president, Clinton would cast himself as a centrist Democrat, and George sometimes thought he was wrong, for example, on gay rights and the Defense of Marriage Act. (Clinton now thinks he was wrong too.) But George was also fiercely loyal to Clinton and quietly proud that he had started out in the McGovern campaign, in one of the toughest and most hopeless states.

I have been fortunate. Two leaders were at the center of my life in politics. I was graced by their friendship and the privilege of a place in their campaigns and their causes. Ted Kennedy was the greatest senator in a century, and maybe ever. George McGovern served in the Senate for a little more than a third as long, but he too had a singular greatness. He too changed America—and brought us close to the best America.

I will never forget what happened as the 1972 landslide poured in on us. I walked into the candidate's suite where he was standing over the sink, shaving. His assistant Jeff Smith, who ran the traveling party, was crying. George put down his razor and said: “Jeff, it's OK. It's OK. We'll wake up in the morning and our lives will go on.” Jeff choked back his tears and replied: “That's easy for you to say.”

It wasn't, of course. And things weren't always easy for him, in politics or in a life where he lost two adult children, his daughter Terry and son Steve. He spent his last years without his Eleanor. But he got up in the morning, and for him life didn't just go on. He made it count, in his youth and his age, in office and out, in victory and defeat.

People close to George admired him because he held himself to a higher standard. We loved him for the person he was.

It has been used as a term of derision, but I will always be proud to be a McGovernite.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF JOSEPH
WAMPLER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Hood River County Sheriff Joe Wampler. My long time friend, Sheriff Wampler is retiring on January 1, 2013, capping a career in law enforcement that dates back to 1973 when he

began working for Hood River County at the age of 19 as a seasonal Marine Deputy. Sheriff Wampler has dedicated nearly four decades to duty, honor and service to the citizens and visitors of Hood River County, Oregon.

Joe began his full-time career in law enforcement in my home town of Hood River as a patrolman with Hood River Police Department, steadily rising through the ranks to that of captain. He was elected sheriff and took office in 1993. At that time, the entire patrol division had four vehicles to share, prompting Sheriff Wampler to institute a vehicle replacement program that endures today. Every deputy on his watch now has their own dedicated vehicle, improving response time and reducing vehicle maintenance.

During Sheriff Wampler's five terms in office, the agency acquired much needed, specialized equipment to assist with rural law enforcement and search and rescue needs. Today, the office has three airplanes, a snow cat, snow machines, ATV's, a mobile command vehicle and a mobile command trailer just to name a few.

This equipment has aided the sheriff's office in numerous search and rescue operations, including a December 2006 mission that gained national attention. Sheriff Wampler led the search effort for three missing climbers on Mt. Hood, personally piloting the department's Piper Cub airplane to look into one final tip before making the difficult decision, after two weeks of searching, to focus on recovery of the climber's remains. His personal passion for the residents and visitors of Hood River County is an inspiration.

Additionally, Sheriff Wampler was one of the founding members of Northern Oregon Regional Corrections (NORCOR), the regional jail facility in The Dalles. NORCOR, which opened in 1999, replaced Hood River and Wasco Counties' aging jail facilities and gave Sherman and Gilliam Counties a dedicated jail. NORCOR gave Hood River County over 40% more jail space with minimal financial impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Sheriff Joe Wampler. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation not only for his dedication to service, but also for his unwavering commitment to his community. Please join me in wishing him a very long and happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties, I was unable to make votes on Monday, December 17, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both H.R. 4604 and S. 3193.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM C. COLEMAN, JR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American patriot, an accom-

plished state and national leader and a wonderful personal mentor and friend, William C. Coleman, Jr. passed away on December 13, 2012. With the passing of Bill Coleman, the Central Florida community and our country has lost one of the outstanding figures of our time.

Born in Tennessee, Bill was first introduced to Central Florida when he would frequently visit his grandparents who lived in Lancaster Park. Hours after graduating High School, Bill enlisted in the United States Army.

During World War II, as an Army Paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division, he landed in France in June of 1944 during the Normandy Invasion behind enemy lines. After his capture and survival as a Prisoner of War, he returned to civilian life. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and POW medal. His passion to aid those who served in our nations military never faltered. Bill would make two more jumps into Normandy; one in 1994 and another in 2004 to mark the 50th and 60th Anniversary of D-Day.

Bill enjoyed a successful real estate career and also taught the subject to many at Rollins College as well as launching what has been decades of community service. He was an active member and leader in numerous organizations including the University Club and Republican Party of Florida. In Central Florida, he was a Charter Member of the Tiger Bay Club, a founding Member of the Central Orlando Kiwanis Club and President of the Central Florida Veterans Council. In addition, Bill served as Chairman of the Orange County and Orlando Mayor's Advisory Council as well as serving as the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation's first President. Countless community organizations and events were successful because of his tireless work and support.

Bill Coleman was elected to the Florida State House of Representatives in 1955 and later served as Florida's first Secretary of Transportation. At the national level, he was selected by President George W. Bush to serve as United States Commissioner of Public Buildings.

Bill Coleman's tireless efforts to aid American Veterans were instrumental in securing a new VA Hospital and extensive medical complex in Central Florida scheduled to open next year.

To honor the service and memory of our veterans and military, Bill also helped to lead and support memorial projects to commemorate and recognize their contributions to keeping America free.

While Bill's family has lost a loved one, I have lost a wonderful friend and mentor. From my very first days in Central Florida 40 years ago, Bill Coleman never stopped assisting or inspiring me. He, more than anyone in the community, helped me be part of numerous civic endeavors, veterans' programs and Republican Party and leadership positions. For this special guidance, assistance and friendship I will forever be grateful.

As we honor and recognize Bill Coleman's many life achievements, our sympathy is extended to his wife, Toni, and family. Bill's passion for our veterans was only exceeded by his love of his wonderful wife and children. They include his sons Kevin and Billy and his daughter Kim as well as eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In closing, my colleagues, I ask you to join me in both paying tribute and recognizing the life and service of William C. Coleman, Jr.

HONORING MR. LEON PAGE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leon Page, who passed away last Monday, December 10, 2012.

Mr. Page was a community leader and philanthropist who helped organize Franklin Bank and Trust and served as chairman of the bank's board of directors for 45 years.

In his 90 years of life, Mr. Page helped open and lead what became the largest bank in Franklin, Kentucky, an area I have the privilege of representing in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Mr. Page was active in all facets of the community. He was instrumental in industrial development in Franklin and Simpson County and was active in various community organizations. Having served as President for both the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Rotary Club, Mr. Page also helped organize the Caveland Girl Scout Council and was treasurer of the Quarterback Club.

Leon Page served on the Kentucky Bankers Association and various boards and councils at Western Kentucky University. He also established a scholarship fund at Western Kentucky University that awards a four-year scholarship to a Franklin-Simpson High School graduate who majors in business each year.

I join the family, friends, and entire Franklin, Kentucky community in mourning the passing of this great man. He demonstrated the best of the values found throughout the First Congressional District of Kentucky. He is someone who, despite his personal success, will best be remembered as inspiring and helping guide others to achieve success for themselves, and a man who graciously gave back to a community that had given him so much.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAM "CAPTAIN"
COLES, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing first responder from Columbia, South Carolina. Abram "Captain" Coles, Jr. passed away on December 12, 2012, at the age of 87. He devoted 35 years of service to the Columbia Fire Department that he helped integrate, and this remarkable man will be sorely missed.

Abram Coles, Jr. was born July 7, 1925 in Hopkins, South Carolina to Abram and Patsy Gunter Coles. He was educated in the public schools of Richland County and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia in 1943.

After graduation, Abram was inducted into the U.S. Navy and served from 1943 to 1946.

One of the highlights of his tour of duty was accompanying General Patton on his return from Europe to the United States.

After completing his military service, Abram enrolled at Benedict College in Columbia, and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. In 1953, he became one of the original eight African Americans to join the Columbia Fire Department. He was assigned to the Harden Street Fire Station. While employed as a fireman, he taught classes and rose through the ranks to become the first African-American Captain in Columbia.

Abram was also very active in many professional organizations including the South Carolina Firefighters Association, and was the 2002 President of the Retired Columbia Firefighter's Association. He was also a member of the Townsmen's Club of Columbia, where he served as president for several years.

Abram was an avid bridge player and enjoyed gardening and fishing. In his spare time, he painted homes and businesses and enjoyed repairing just about anything.

Abram was baptized at an early age at Zion Benevolent Baptist Church in Hopkins. After relocating to Columbia, he joined First Calvary Baptist Church and served there for many years. Later, he became a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church of Columbia where he served with the men's club until his health declined.

He was married to Lillie Mae Weston for 33 years until her death. In 1988, he married Jacqueline Parks. Abram had one daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of this ordinary man. I, like so many others in Columbia, South Carolina, am proud to call Abram Coles, Jr. a friend. He made a lasting impression on his community and all who knew him, and that is a tremendous legacy.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR DANIEL
INOUYE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Senator DANIEL INOUYE of Hawaii. Senator INOUYE was an extraordinary leader, family man, and American hero. He leaves behind his wife Irene and son Ken, as well as countless friends and constituents who mourn his passing. He was 88.

Senator INOUYE served nobly in World War II and was awarded a Medal of Honor. He then continued to devote his life to our Nation and the State of Hawaii by becoming the state's first congressman as well as a nine-term senator. He was eventually appointed to the prestigious position of Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and in his work he was always mindful of strengthening our national security and fulfilling our promises to our veterans. Many of my constituents have family and friends in Hawaii, and I know they all directly benefited from his hard work and commitment to the values of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator INOUYE was a model of integrity, courage, and bipartisanship. His

presence will be sorely missed, but I know his memory will inspire our leaders in years to come. I extend my thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones. I hope they find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 627 & 628, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes.

MOROCCAN AUTONOMY PLAN

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I ran for Congress because I believe in the greatness of the American people, the nobility of our national ideals, and the eminence of our principles and rights that have made America that shining city upon a hill.

But there are still many peoples who yearn for freedom and basic human liberties. The Sahrawi people of Western Sahara have been trapped in dreadful and oppressive conditions for over thirty years with the support and enabling of a compromised and corrupt Algerian government and its puppet regime, the Polisario Front.

The Polisario instituted mass kidnappings of Sahrawis from their homes into the Tindouf region in Western Algeria. The majority of these refugees have remained warehoused and imprisoned in Tindouf's sprawling camps for 35 years.

The Polisario partners and collaborates with the likes of Cuba, whose military distributes food in the camps on a quid pro quo basis and "educates" children who have been reportedly stolen from their parents, and Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb.

The Government of Morocco has advanced an Autonomy Plan that does address these issues and provides a clear, simple, transparent and democratic solution to the long drawn out Sahara crisis. This is where America's support should lie.

Mr. Speaker, the United States can and must continue to advance fundamental human rights, freedom and democracy as we, in this chamber, continue to work together for peace, justice, and human dignity in the Western Sahara.

THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE IN THE WESTERN
SAHARA

The Moroccan initiative comes in response to repeated requests of the United Nations Security Council and several of its key members, including the United States, that Morocco propose a solution to this longstanding problem that could facilitate the opening of negotiations for a "just, durable and peaceful" political solution.

After nearly a decade of trying to bring the Polisario and Morocco to agreement to conduct a referendum to determine the territories future, Kofi Annan, then Secretary

General, and James Baker, then Personal Envoy for the Western Sahara, reported to the Security Council that it was not possible to achieve agreement between the Polisario and Morocco on the central issue of who should be permitted to vote in a referendum. Consequently, Annan and Baker recommended that the Security Council encourage Morocco and the Polisario to enter into direct negotiations to find a compromise political solution. The Security Council accepted the assessment of Annan and Baker that a referendum would not be possible, and began a process carried through several years of UNSC resolutions calling for direct negotiations.

James Baker proposed two such compromise political solutions based on the underlying assumption that the proposals would allow Morocco to remain sovereign in the Western Sahara, but that the territory would benefit from a substantial autonomy that would allow it to become self-governing. Morocco accepted the first Baker proposal as the basis for direct negotiations, but the Polisario refused. The Polisario accepted the second Baker proposal, but Morocco refused since it did not allow for direct negotiations between the parties on the terms of the arrangement. The Moroccan proposal is the first and only proposal to come from one of the Parties to the conflict in response to the Security Council encouragements. In various forms, the Polisario has continued to insist that the referendum be held, and threatens a renewal of hostilities and the eviction of the United Nations peacekeeping force from the territory under its control, despite the fact that the Security Council repeatedly has made clear that this solution is no longer viable.

SUMMARY OF THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE:

The initiative is the product of a year long internal and foreign Moroccan consultation process. All sectors of the Sahrawi population were included in the consultations and the views of foreign governments and expert international authorities were sought before the plan was finalized for presentation to the United Nations.

The plan itself represents an outline for a political solution that traces what Morocco considers to be the broad scope of an autonomy arrangement for the Western Sahara. It does not go into extensive detail on its various aspects on the assumption that such specific arrangements should be the result of direct negotiations rather than the imposition of only one of the parties to the dispute.

The plan provides for a local elected legislature that would subsequently elect an executive authority. It also would establish a separate judiciary for the autonomous region with competence to render justice on matters specific to the autonomous status of the region. The legislature would elect a chief executive.

The formula proposed by Morocco would ensure majority representation in the legislature for Sahrawi inhabitants of the autonomous region, while also ensuring credible legislative representation for non-Sahrawis who have been long-time residents in the territory. Residents of the autonomous region would also continue to elect representatives to the national legislature.

The government of the autonomous region would have exclusive authorities on some issues, shared authority with the central government of Morocco on others and consultative rights on authorities that remain reserved to the central government and that effect the region.

The autonomous government would control local administration, local police, education, cultural development, economic development, regional planning, tourism, in-

vestment, trade, public works and transportation, housing, health, sports and social welfare. It would have taxing authorities to support these functions and would continue to receive funding from the central budget as well. It would be able to establish foreign regional trade relations offices and would have consultative rights on other sovereign foreign agreements affecting the region.

The central government would retain exclusive jurisdiction over the normal elements of sovereign authority: national defense, currency, postal, and foreign affairs and religion, over which the Monarchy has a special status in Morocco.

The chief executive of the autonomous region would be elected by the legislature, but would be invested by and serve in the name of the Monarchy.

The initiative also envisages transitional bodies to guide the central government and the autonomous authority through the initial stages of implementation of the plan.

All individual rights guaranteed under the Moroccan Constitution would continue to apply to all residents of the autonomous region.

MOROCCAN INITIATIVE FOR NEGOTIATING AN AUTONOMY STATUTE FOR THE SAHARA REGION

I. MOROCCO'S COMMITMENT TO A FINAL POLITICAL SOLUTION

1. Since 2004, the Security Council has been regularly calling upon "the parties and States of the region to continue to cooperate fully with the United Nations to end the current impasse and to achieve progress towards a political solution."

2. Responding to this call by the international community, the Kingdom of Morocco set a positive, constructive and dynamic process in motion, and pledged to submit an autonomy proposal for the Sahara, within the framework of the Kingdom's sovereignty and national unity.

3. This initiative is part of the endeavors made to build a modern, democratic society, based on the rule of law, collective and individual freedoms, and economic and social development. As such, it brings hope for a better future for the region's populations, puts an end to separation and exile, and promotes reconciliation.

4. Through this initiative, the Kingdom of Morocco guarantees to all Sahrawis, inside as well as outside the territory, that they will hold a privileged position and play a leading role in the bodies and institutions of the region, without discrimination or exclusion.

5. Thus, the Sahara populations will themselves run their affairs democratically, through legislative, executive and judicial bodies enjoying exclusive powers. They will have the financial resources needed for the region's development in all fields, and will take an active part in the nation's economic, social and cultural life.

6. The State will keep its powers in the royal domains, especially with respect to defense, external relations and the constitutional and religious prerogatives of His Majesty the King.

7. The Moroccan initiative, which is made in an open spirit, aims to set the stage for dialogue and a negotiation process that would lead to a mutually acceptable political solution.

8. As the outcome of negotiations, the autonomy statute shall be submitted to the populations concerned for a referendum, in keeping with the principle of self-determination and with the provisions of the UN Charter.

9. To this end, Morocco calls on the other parties to avail the opportunity to write a new chapter in the region's history. Morocco is ready to take part in serious, constructive

negotiations in the spirit of this initiative, and to contribute to promoting a climate of trust.

10. To achieve this objective, the Kingdom of Morocco remains willing to cooperate fully with the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy.

II. BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE MOROCCAN PROPOSAL

11. The Moroccan autonomy project draws inspiration from the relevant proposals of the United Nations Organization, and from the constitutional provisions in force in countries that are geographically and culturally close to Morocco. It is based on internationally recognized norms and standards.

A. POWERS OF THE SAHARA AUTONOMOUS REGION

12. In keeping with democratic principles and procedures, and acting through legislative, executive and judicial bodies, the populations of the Sahara autonomous Region shall exercise powers, within the Region's territorial boundaries, mainly over the following:

Region's local administration, local police force and jurisdictions;

In the economic sector: economic development, regional planning, promotion of investment, trade, industry, tourism and agriculture;

Region's budget and taxation;

Infrastructure: water, hydraulic facilities, electricity, public works and transportation;

In the social sector: housing, education, health, employment, sports, social welfare and social security;

Cultural affairs, including promotion of the Saharan Hassani cultural heritage;

Environment.

13. The Sahara autonomous Region will have the financial resources required for its development in all areas. Resources will come, in particular, from:

Taxes, duties and regional levies enacted by the Region's competent authorities;

Proceeds from the development of natural resources allocated to the Region;

The share of proceeds collected by the State from the development of natural resources located in the Region;

The necessary funds allocated in keeping with the principle of national solidarity;

Proceeds from the Region's assets.

14. The State shall keep exclusive jurisdiction over the following in particular:

The attributes of sovereignty, especially the flag, the national anthem and the currency;

The attributes stemming from the constitutional and religious prerogatives of the King, as Commander of the Faithful and Guarantor of freedom of worship and of individual and collective freedoms;

National security, external defense and defense of territorial integrity;

External relations;

The Kingdom's juridical order.

III. APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE FOR THE AUTONOMY STATUTE

27. The Region's autonomy statute shall be the subject of negotiations and shall be submitted to the populations concerned in a free referendum. This referendum will constitute a free exercise, by these populations, of their right to self-determination, as per the provisions of international legality, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

28. To this end, the parties pledge to work jointly and in good faith to foster this political solution and secure its approval by the Sahara populations.

29. Moreover, the Moroccan Constitution shall be amended and the autonomy Statute incorporated into it, in order to guarantee

its sustainability and reflect its special place in the country's national juridical architecture.

30. The Kingdom of Morocco shall take all the necessary steps to ensure full integration, into the nation's fabric, of persons to be repatriated. This will be done in a manner which preserves their dignity and guarantees their security and the protection of their property.

31. To this end, the Kingdom of Morocco shall, in particular, declare a blanket amnesty, precluding any legal proceedings, arrest, detention, imprisonment or intimidation of any kind, based on facts covered by this amnesty.

32. Once the parties have agreed on the proposed autonomy, a Transitional Council composed of their representatives shall assist with repatriation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed elements who are outside the territory, as well as with any other action aimed at securing the approval and implementation of the present Statute, including elections.

33. Just like the international community, the Kingdom of Morocco firmly believes today that the solution to the Sahara dispute can only come from negotiations. Accordingly, the proposal it is submitting to the United Nations constitutes a real opportunity for initiating negotiations with a view to reaching a final solution to this dispute, in keeping with international legality, and on the basis of arrangements which are consistent with the goals and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

34. In this respect, Morocco pledges to negotiate in good faith and in a constructive, open spirit to reach a final, mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute plaguing the region. To this end, the Kingdom of Morocco is prepared to make a positive contribution to creating an environment of trust which would contribute to the successful outcome of this initiative.

35. The Kingdom of Morocco hopes the other parties will appreciate the significance and scope of this proposal, realize its merit, and make a positive and constructive contribution to it. The Kingdom of Morocco is of the view that the momentum created by this initiative offers a historic chance to resolve this issue once and for all.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARC BOLDT

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and dedicated public servant. Marc Boldt was born in Vancouver, Washington, and has been a resident of Hockinson, Washington since 1985. I've known Marc since I was young and my family lived close to his farm where I picked blueberries along with my brothers. Marc was elected to the State Legislature in 1994 from Washington's 17th Legislative District where he served 5 terms as a state representative, until he was elected to the Board of Clark County Commissioners in 2004. His second term will end at the close of this year.

Throughout his time as an elected official, Marc Boldt has provided strong leadership and a willingness to put the people of Clark County first. He has been a business advocate, a tireless supporter of the agricultural community,

and a friend to the people he was elected to serve.

Adding to all of this, Marc and his wife Dawn have six children and three grandchildren. Marc is a current member of the Clark County Farm Bureau and has served over 18 years as a local youth leader and Sunday school teacher. He is a former member of the Hockinson School District Curriculum Committee and the Future Farmers of America—Clark County Chapter. Marc has served over 10 years as a local 4H Leader.

I believe his deep roots in our community have provided him with the passion and energy to serve the people who live here. When he's not in Commission meetings or visiting farms and businesses throughout the county, you'll find him serving the community in some other way. In the month of August, there's only one place to find Marc—the Clark County Fairgrounds. He'll be serving up BBQ sandwiches or handing change to customers, all in the name of supporting Young Life to try and provide a positive influence in the lives of Clark County teens.

His work on behalf of the people who live in Clark County has earned the respect of people of all political stripes.

While his service on the Board of Clark County Commissioners will end in January of 2013, Marc will no doubt continue to serve the people of Southwest Washington as a community leader. He is a loving husband, father, grandfather, public servant, and a friend to all. Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary man and public servant, Marc Boldt.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2012, I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 627 and "aye" on rollcall 628.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF JUSTIN KUNICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of a great Western New Yorker, Justin Kunick. Teacher and coach to many but inspiration to all, Kunick encouraged those around him to rise above the obstacles and put forth their best effort in the classroom, on the field and in all other arenas.

No stranger to obstacles, Kunick faced his first when he was born with a heart defect and underwent surgery to save his life. Two years later further complications temporarily paralyzed the right side of his body forcing him to become dominant from his left. With a complicated medical record, one of the last places you would expect Kunick to be attracted to was the baseball diamond, but that's exactly what happened.

Although he had lost the ability to operate fully from his right side, it did not stop him from pitching more games, 36 to be exact, than anyone in Keuka College history. After college Kunick left New York State, moving to Florida to teach chemistry and coach the game that he had come to love. He spent the next six years as an assistant coach at Ridge-wood High School before moving to Fivay as its schools head coach.

At Fivay, Kunick rebuilt the baseball program instilling discipline and encouraging perseverance. He developed close relationships with his players and created a reputation as a coach who would do anything for his boys. Eventually a new team motto sprouted from his leadership, rise above.

In February, Kunick encountered a new hurdle after being diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. Living up to his team motto, he quickly underwent surgery and was back on the field the next week. In and out of the hospital, Kunick watched over his team contacting them by phone and text messages between innings.

On April 27th Justin Kunick lost his battle with cancer at the age of only 32. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in his students and players. Kunick believed that you could overcome anything life threw at you; as long as you were giving it your all, you were rising above.

Mr. Speaker, today I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in celebrating the life and spirit of a great man who lived with enduring principles. It is my privilege to honor Justin Kunick's memory today.

HONORING THE STEVENS FAMILY
IN AMERICA, 11 GENERATIONS
ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John Stevens Family on all of their great accomplishments as entrepreneurs and philanthropists, and to share the history of the family that founded the Stevens Institute of Technology. Stevens Institute of Technology was founded in 1870 and is named for a distinguished family of engineers and inventors who have made tremendous contributions to our nations' maritime and railroad systems. Stevens' 55-acre tree-shaded campus occupies part of the family's original estate, near the edge of the Hudson River at Castle Point in Hoboken, New Jersey overlooking Manhattan.

Stevens, also known as "The Innovation University," has a student population of more than 6,000 students and over 37,000 alumni. Alumni have leadership positions in many industries including construction, power generation, telecommunications, green energy, biotechnology, transportation, green energy and the financial community.

Today there are more than 400 descendants of the Stevens family throughout the United States and abroad. On October 6, 2012, they came to Stevens Institute of Technology for their first family reunion in more than 30 years to reconnect, to learn about their family history, and to gain an understanding of the many ways the university

founded by their ancestors 142 years ago has contributed to our society.

The most notable member of the family was Colonel John Stevens III. During the Revolutionary War, he was appointed to be a captain in Washington's Army at age twenty-seven. Later he was promoted to Colonel, and collected taxes for the American cause as Treasurer of New Jersey. After the war in 1784, he purchased land that is now Hoboken, and includes the current campus for Stevens Institute of Technology.

In 1798, Colonel Stevens was the first inventor to build and sail a steamboat on the Hudson River. The Colonel's boiler design, his twin screw propellers, and the steam ferry he ran between Hoboken and New York were among his many outstanding "firsts." His steam ship, the Phoenix, captained by his son Robert was also the first steamship to sail the ocean, in 1809. On land, Colonel Stevens purchased the first American locomotive, the "John Bull." The John Bull is now on display at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC.

The Colonel's sons also developed an aptitude for innovative engineering. His son Robert invented the T-rail for railroads, which is still in use today on railroads throughout the world. Robert also invented the ferry slip, a supporting iron rod for projecting guard beams on steamboats, and made several other improvements to ferries and steamboats. A second son, Edwin A. Stevens, founded the university as a part of his estate. Edwin built and operated New Jersey's first railroad. His experiments also resulted in the iron-clad warship. A third son, John Cox Stevens, was a sailor and joined the syndicate that built the schooner "America" and became the first winner of the famed America's Cup racing series. He also founded the New York Yacht Club and this year was inducted into the Yachting Hall of Fame, on October 13, 2012 at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Other notable Stevens family descendants throughout the years include former Member of Congress, Millicent Fenwick (R-NJ), who was also appointed by President Reagan as the first U.S. Ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, a U.S. Ambassador to Spain, a casualty and a survivor from the Lusitania, a member of the first class of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the current CEO of Habitat for Humanity International and more.

I applaud the John Stevens Family for all of their contributions and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their great accomplishments. I wish them all continued success and thank them for their dedication to making New Jersey and our country greater for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH KING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate a distinguished member of the Alabama business community, Mr. Keith King, P.E., who is soon to retire from Volkert & Associates, Inc., after 52 years of service.

A 1958 graduate of Auburn University's School of Civil Engineering, Keith King was

hired by David G. Volkert as a project engineer in 1960.

Over the last five decades, Mr. King has witnessed many changes in the Mobile-headquartered engineering company which has grown to become one of the top-ranked engineering, planning, and environmental consulting firms in the United States.

Keith served as president from 1983 until 2007 and CEO until 2011. Volkert, Inc. has grown continuously and opened operations centers in 11 States employing over 600 associates.

As an accomplished professional engineer, licensed in eight States, Keith King has obtained national recognition for many of the projects he has engineered and managed. He was Chief Engineer for the Interstate 10 Twin Bridges over Mobile Bay, which was named one of the Ten Outstanding Engineering Achievements of 1978 by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

He was principal-in-charge of the Alabama State Docks' McDuffie Coal Export Facility Project, which in 1984 received the Engineering Excellence Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council of Alabama.

In 1992, Volkert's Cochrane/Africatown U.S.A. Bridge over the Mobile River was named one of the Outstanding Engineering Achievements by NSPE and received the Federal Highway Administration Award of Excellence.

All three of these projects are in the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. Mr. King, himself was inducted in 2001 and Volkert, Inc. was honored in 2002.

Keith has worked hard to improve the areas of licensure, continuing professional development, ethical standards, and professionalism. His involvement includes two terms on the Alabama Licensure Board, the Business Council of Alabama (Chairman, 2000-2001); Alabama Society of Professional Engineers (President); National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) (Vice President-Southeast; Chairman, National Membership Committee and Licensure and Qualifications for Practice Committee); Fellow Member of American Society of Civil Engineers and NSPE; Member of the American Consulting Engineers Council.

He remains actively involved with Auburn University, where he has chaired the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council and served on the Auburn University Board of Directors.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Keith and his lovely wife, Julia, as well as their entire family. Additionally, I wish them both a long and happy retirement, including plenty of deep-sea fishing.

CONGRATULATING THE NIGHT-HAWKS OF NORTHERN GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that goes, the "third time is a charm." In the case of the football team at Northern Guilford High School, the new expression should be, the "third time is perfection." That is because this football team, located in the

Sixth District of North Carolina, just won its third straight state high school football championship. This time, however, the title capped a perfect 15-0 season.

On December 1, 2012, the Nighthawks of Northern Guilford High School defeated Charlotte Catholic 64-26 to capture its third consecutive NCHSAA Class 3-AA championship. Senior T.J. Logan led the way by rushing for an unbelievable 510 yards and scoring eight touchdowns. This was the third straight title for longtime Head Coach Johnny Roscoe. In 2010, Northern Guilford went 14-2 to win the first championship. In 2011, the Nighthawks completed a 14-1 season to secure its second straight title. This year, no one stopped the Nighthawks on the way to a 15-0 season that culminated in their third crown in three years.

What is left for Northern Guilford to accomplish following this three-year run? I'm sure Coach Roscoe, always the perfectionist, could point to many areas for improvement during the season and the title contest. But it is hard to argue against perfection. I think Ed Hardin, the outstanding sports columnist for the (Greensboro) News & Record stated it best: "We might never see anything like this again in these parts," Hardin wrote, "and in the coming years we'll look back and debate about this team. Was it the best we ever saw? Was the remarkably talented (T.J.) Logan the best player we ever produced in Guilford County? You could make that argument. The game played out like the season. Fast start, confounding moments and then brilliance."

That brilliance was a team effort all the way and led by Coach Roscoe, who has been around football for four decades. Coach Roscoe was ably assisted by Brian Thomas, Ben Hepler, Richard Burton, Todd Sharp, Lee Meekins, Chris Vaughan, Chris Harris, and Justin Davis. All of these coaches will tell you that the Nighthawks' perfect season was also due to the fine efforts provided by Team Trainer Justin Ollis, Assistant Trainer Valerie Smith, Team Physician Kirstin Shepperson and Team Managers Jenne Livingston, Sydney Monroe, Taylor Phillips, Ashlyn Thomas, and Mercedes Wiglesworth, along with Ball Boy Britt Thomas.

Every one of the 2012 champion Nighthawks can take pride in the completion of this perfect season. They include: Tre Purcell, C.J. Freeman, Brett Welch, Cameron Harris, Mook Reynolds, Robert Willcox, T.J. Logan, AJ Love, Nick Jones, Austin Coltrane, Justin Wallace, Daniel Kelly, Matt Page, Burney Sindab, Tucker Hord, Molic Scott, Chris Ripberger, Malik Parker, Matthew McGarry, Max Maynard, Rory Bergen, Bernard Sindab, T.J. Ruff, Josh Parker, Johnny Loflin, Jacob King, Ryan Johnston, Nick Fryer, Mason Monroe, TyShawn Reese, Austin Simmons, Josh Covington, Max Klietsch, Dylan Hakala, Trey French, Eric Hong, Josh Steele, Kamen Smith, Chris Forlano, Trevor McKee, Steven Branz, Jalen Hollins, Malik Hampton-Prioleau, Andrew Keen, John Wagoner, Tristen Simmons, Alex Hasler, Carlos Williams, Terrell Headen, Bret Unkel, and Duncan Taylordean.

A winning season also requires support from school administrators and leaders and Northern Guilford has a winning team there, too. Congratulations are appropriate for Principal Will Laine, Assistant Principals Doug Foutty and Travis Ward, and Athletic Director Brian Thomas. All can take pride in three straight state championships.

Last, but far from least, we have to mention Nighthawk Nation. I am sure that everyone associated with the football team will tell you that Northern Guilford's formidable fan base spurred them on to victory. No doubt that the students, parents, faculty, staff, and supporters of Northern Guilford football are beaming with pride following a third state championship.

The seniors on this team will move on to their next adventures. For the returning Nighthawks, I am sure they have already begun their dreams of four in a row. If that happens, I plan to be back here again next year offering my own congratulations. For now, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate and thank the football team at Northern Guilford High School for showing us how perfection can be achieved. The third time is a charm indeed.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS FOR THE NE COAST OF THE U.S.

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (ROC), also known as Taiwan. Immediately after Hurricane Sandy hit the the Northeast coast on October 29th and 30th, many foreign governments and non-governmental organizations offered generous help to the United States. The Republic of China government (Taiwan) offered \$1.3 million to aid in relief and reconstruction efforts.

On November 16th Taiwan donated \$1 million to two charities, United Way International and Habitat for Humanity International, two of the leading relief agencies. The rest of the funds were distributed to the state governments of New York and New Jersey, which were among the hardest hit areas.

A ceremony marking the transfer of funds to the two charities was held in Washington, DC, on December 6, 2012. On behalf of the current 11th Congressional District, soon to be the 9th Congressional district of New York, I recognize the ROC for their generous contribution and show of good will towards the United States. As parts of the Northeast coast continue to rebuild, on behalf of my constituents, I am grateful to those who have offered their assistance. I thank the ROC and look forward to continuing a long lasting and fruitful friendship.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR HARRY MASON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of a remarkable public servant and dear friend, Mayor Harry Mason. In November, Mayor Mason retired after 20 years as chief executive of Pine Hill, Alabama.

In his best-selling 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*, former NBC Television anchor Tom Brokaw told the story of what he believed was the greatest generation any society has ever produced. ". . . These men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. When they came back they rebuilt America into a superpower."

Harry Mason was a product of that historic generation; a native of Southwest Alabama, a hardworking local businessman, and citizen who stepped up to serve his country and his home town because it was the right thing to do.

As an assistant engineer in the Merchant Marine during World War II, Harry was aboard the S.S. Sea Porpoise when it landed 3,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy during the second wave of the famous D-Day invasion to liberate France. On July 5, 1944, the S.S. Sea Porpoise was damaged by a German mine. The ship's complement of 159 crew and passengers, including Harry, were uninjured and the ship survived.

When he returned stateside to civilian life, like so many others of our "Greatest Generation" Harry eagerly rejoined the workforce helping his father run the family business. He invested his life and his heart in Pine Hill, and according to a recent article in the *Thomasville Times*, Harry wouldn't have had it any other way. "Except for the war, I never even entertained a thought of going somewhere else," he told the paper.

It wasn't long before Harry turned his passion to public service, first as a member of the Wilcox County Board of Education during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s. In 1991, he left his family business of running the Economy Store and instead ran for mayor.

Looking back at 20 years of leading his town, he has much for which to be proud. An expansion of the Pine Hill's water and sewer system and city limits come to mind. Perhaps most notably during his last year in office, Pine Hill landed one of the largest industries to come to Southwest Alabama in years. Harry joined state and local officials in welcoming Golden Dragon Copper to the Pine Hill area in February. When completed, this new factory is expected to employ 300 workers with the potential to reach 500.

An active presence in the community, Mayor Harry Mason has also served as a member of the board of the Bank of Pine Hill. However, of all his many accomplishments, Harry points to his 20 years' service as chief of the Pine Hill Volunteer Fire Department as his greatest.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I wish Harry and his wonderful wife, Mittie, the very best for a well-deserved and duly-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 629 and 630. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall 629—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—"yes."

Rollcall 630—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment—"yes."

IN TRIBUTE TO HOWARD AND SUSAN GROFF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, entrepreneurs and patriots Howard and Susan Groff.

The Groffs have owned Northwest Excavating Co., Inc. since the 1960s. Howard's father, Bob Groff, founded the company in 1959 under the name "Northwest Compaction." The company started out modestly, with two backhoes, an Arrow hammer, a skid loader, and a Gradall.

During the first few years, Northwest focused primarily on renting equipment and operators to local grading and sewer contractors. The company prospered during the 1960s due to the ever-increasing construction throughout Southern California. While maintaining a conservative approach towards growth, the company slowly added equipment to its fleet.

During the mid- to late 1960s, Howard and Sue bought the company. Howard often worked as equipment operator, mechanic, lowbed driver, or anything else that needed to be done, while Sue managed the finances. Howard, much like his father before him, undertook a conservative management approach toward the company. During the late 1960s and into the early 1970s, the company grew at a steady pace.

As a result of the company's early experience working for underground sewer contractors, Northwest began an underground utilities division. This division dug trenches for power and telephone lines by the foot, then backfilled and compacted the trenches. Howard did all the estimating and ran most of the jobs. He is now acting CEO while his son Robert has taken over the daily management duties. Sue has stepped aside from the financial end.

Howard and Sue owned and operated, along with their son Michael, Northridge Equipment Rental in five locations in California, which they sold in 2005. The Groffs have also developed, owned, and managed office and industrial buildings throughout the San Fernando Valley.

For more than 30 years, the Groffs owned their own auto racing teams with their sons as drivers, which included racing in the Indy 500 for several years. Howard and Sue also are major supporters of our military and veterans and have been a major sponsor of my U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly and Friends Operation Toy Drop at Naval Base Ventura County. In addition to voting in every election, they also actively support candidates who share their fiscal conservative convictions.

In addition to their sons Michael and Robert, Howard and Sue have a daughter, Debra, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to my friends Howard and Susan Groff for proving that conservative growth can build successful businesses and for proving their love for America by their generosity to our military men and women and by

taking an active role in the American political process.

CONGRATULATING THE SPANISH FORT TOROS FOR WINNING THE ALABAMA CLASS 5-A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the Spanish Fort High School Toros for their decisive 45–14 victory over McCalla's McAdory High School Yellow Jackets in the Alabama High School Athletic Association's (AHSAA) 5–A football championship on December 6, 2012.

Spanish Fort's already impressive gridiron record of capturing two state championships in seven seasons is all the more noteworthy since the Toro's young football program only debuted in 2006.

According to the Mobile Press-Register, both teams brought impressive records into the championship game at Auburn University's Jordan-Hare Stadium. "Spanish Fort had the pinball offense averaging 39.5 points per game. McAdory had the swarming defense that forged an unbeaten season through 14 games."

However, in the end it was Spanish Fort who dominated the field on both offense and defense, with 377 total yards, while holding the Yellow Jackets to just 187 yards.

The Press-Register further noted, "Spanish Fort (14–1) extended a school record for points in a single season to 598 with its 45–14 win."

The Toros took an early lead in the game with two touchdowns before the Yellow Jackets answered with seven points. The Toros then fired back with a vengeance—adding 31 points to the scoreboard.

Senior quarterback Joel Poe was named the Class 5–A MVP after completing 17-of-24 passes for 177 yards and running for a 10-yard touchdown.

The Toros's 5–A victory placed an exclamation point on another season for the record books for Spanish Fort.

Congratulations to Head Coach Mark Freeman, and Assistant Coaches Duane Davis, Shawn DeFoor, Joseph German and Greg Crager, as well as to the Toros players—Sammy Tolbert, Edward Autry, Maxwell Goodwin, Samuel Harris, Myles York, Joel Poe, Matthew Hall, Devonte Patrick, Deon Johnson, Blain Crain, Ronald Smith, Jonathan Cook, Darren Tate, Gunner Hendrix, Chason Milner, Tyler Johnston, Eugene Leach, Ryan Brooks, Trey Shabel, Kristian Cotton, Kylan Cotton, Cameron Harrison, Caleb Valrie, Jacob Goodwin, Tony Mitchell, Javon Brown, Dominique Woodward, Miguel Restrepo, Preston Hall, Alexander Theodore, John Campbell, Deonte Cyprian, Caleb Hughes, Stephan Holcombe, Keland Dotch, Marcus Walton, Stephen Wilson, Hayden Falkenberry, Brady Vincent, Delong Harrison, John Williamson, Thomas Johnston, Keion White, David Keener, Drew Kitchens, Jeremy Murray, Braxton Armstead, Justin Murray, Jacob Clark, Matthew Thompson, Todd Shetler, Robert Riley, Iverson Diego Delapena, Samuel Howard, Davoris Thomas,

Maurice Cole, Chase Holliman, John Stockton, Cody Shultz, Grey Curtis, Taylor Murray, Logan Mangum, Victor Dunning, Chase Rowe, Christopher Morehouse, Tyler Brentzel, Brad Andre, Grant Horst, Michael Eubanks, Owen Betts, Trevor Pfeil, Kaleb Hall, Ian Bjuro, Brandon Prince, Hamilton Biggs, Austin Grobe, Wilton Cox, Deandre Townsend, Robert Rella, Mitchell Meador, William Petersen, Jimmy Ogletree, Lawton McGahey, Hunter Wood, Roger Lawhon, Tyler Howell, William Nelson, Darius Johnson, Bryan Williams and Jonathan Hoover.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY HOLABIRD

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the many contributions Timothy Holabird has made to Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra counties located in north-eastern California.

Tim has combined experience and knowledge of the lands and people that define the region with a steadfast determination to help these rural communities. Federal agencies administer more than 80 percent of the land, and Tim has aggressively championed interests of people versus the seeming indifference and neglect of the bureaucracies. Bringing all parties together, establishing common goals and objectives, and actually solving problems has been his hallmark.

As four fires ravaged the area this summer, Tim pursued the interests and concerns of local citizens to the point of his own physical exhaustion. He personally bridged the communication gap with agencies attacking the fires and the communities immediately threatened. In the devastating aftermath of the fires, Tim worked with all parties to restore and salvage. In particular, he has been relentless resolving the immediate, critical issue of thousands of acres of lost grazing land.

Tim understands the appropriate role of government in land and resource management and has personally sacrificed to uphold the public's interests. Mr. Speaker, while it seems the aim of our government agencies is to restrict access and the productive use of our federal lands, Timothy Holabird remains a steadfast advocate for access and use by the very best stewards of this land—the local citizens.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST IN THE 1862 U.S.-DAKOTA CONFLICT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the conflict, reminding us of this tragic era in Minnesota's history, and how it has shaped the lives of the Dakota people to this day.

It is easy to consider history as a list of dates—a discovery, a war, a proclamation, an

election. We forget the complex human interactions that shape the past and continue to affect our communities today.

What has come to be known as the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 has its roots in the rapid expansion of Minnesota's population by white settlers, and the subsequent treatment of indigenous peoples. From 1850–1860, the numbers of white settlers in Minnesota grew from 5,000 to more than 170,000; in that same decade, Native Americans went from the majority of people in Minnesota to being outnumbered by whites 5–1. Treaties made between the Dakota people and the U.S. government pushed native communities off their ancestral lands with promises of money, food, and commodities. Forced assimilation policies further marginalized tribes by requiring the adoption of European style dress, hair, and culture. Tensions escalated when the government failed to pay promised annuities, a drought decreased the supply of food leaving many Dakota families hungry, and the U.S. government took back land set aside for Indian reservations, reducing the remaining reservation size drastically.

The first violent acts of the conflict occurred on August 17, 1862, when four young Dakota men killed five people at a farm near Acton, Minnesota. These murders divided the Dakota community; some argued it was time to go to war with the settlers who now claimed ancestral Dakota land, but much of the community wanted to maintain peace. Nevertheless, Dakota leader Little Crow led his Nation to War, understanding that the greater power of the U.S. government would most likely prevail.

The weeks of violence that followed in Southern Minnesota led to over 1,000 deaths. The U.S.-Dakota War is one of the bloodiest conflicts between a Native tribe and the U.S. government, surpassing both the conflicts of Little Big Horn and Wounded Knee. The War's end was marked by the largest mass execution in U.S. history, when 38 Dakota men were convicted in kangaroo courts and hung on December 26, 1862. Originally 303 Dakota men were tried and sentenced to death, but President Lincoln personally reviewed the cases and stayed the execution of those whose conviction was based on questionable testimony. Two additional Dakota warriors were forcibly returned from Canada and hanged at Fort Snelling in 1865.

Although the day of the execution stands out in history, the suffering of the Dakota people continued throughout the winter and into the coming years. Those Dakota who had surrendered to U.S. forces, many of whom opposed the war, were forced to march to an internment camp at Fort Snelling and suffer through a brutally cold winter filled with disease, food shortages, and assaults by soldiers and civilians alike. Hundreds perished over the winter, and those who survived were forcibly relocated to Western reservations where similar conditions led to more deaths. Some 6,000 displaced members of the Dakota community relocated to Canada and Western states and territories, and by the end of the decade a majority of the Dakota tribe had left its ancestral lands.

The U.S.-Dakota War reminds us of how the events of the past continue to reverberate to this day. Dakota tribe members are still dispersed over several states and into Canada as a direct result of this conflict. Most unfortunate, the Dakota Expulsion Act of 1863, a federal law making it illegal for Dakota people to

live in Minnesota, has yet to be repealed. In August of this year, members of the Dakota community took part in a walk through South Dakota to the Minnesota border, symbolizing the unjust forcible removal of all Dakota people from Minnesota in 1863.

The healing from the War is ongoing; honoring those we lost and remembering our complicated past should not be limited to anniversaries of the conflict. We should use this year of reflection to inform a more inclusive view of history, an appreciation of how far we've come, and recognition of all we must do to continue to support our Native communities today.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGG POLLACK, RECIPIENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S INNOVATORS UNDER 40 AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Gregg Pollack, winner of the Governor's Innovators Under 40 Award. Mr. Pollack is the founder and CEO of Envy Labs, a technology consulting company based in Orlando, Florida.

Envy Labs, which Mr. Pollack founded in 2009, specializes in website and mobile application design and development, and works on a broad variety of projects from web development to branding to user interface design. Through an open and creative work environment, Envy Labs focuses on producing excellent products and services while investing in their employees' personal and professional lives.

The Governor's Innovators Under 40 Award is one of Governor Rick Scott's 2012 Innovators in Business Awards, which are designed to recognize outstanding contributions toward growing and diversifying Florida's economy. The Innovators Under 40 Award is presented to Florida residents under the age of 40 who own or lead a Florida company with annual revenue of \$1 million or more and who have created at least 10 jobs since January 2011.

Through Mr. Pollack's direction, Envy Labs has grown and expanded to include a school with courses in coding and web design called Code School. Envy Labs is also active in the Orlando tech community, hosting tech events and camps downtown. Mr. Pollack is to be congratulated for the hard work and innovation he has demonstrated, and for the contributions to Florida's economy that this award honors. He is well deserving of this recognition. May his work inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

HONORING THE HOUSTON TEXANS ON WINNING THEIR 2ND STRAIGHT AFC SOUTH DIVISION TITLE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Houston Texans

on clinching their 2nd straight AFC South Division Title. The Texans are a relatively new franchise, established in 2002. They currently lead the AFC race for home field advantage throughout the playoffs. As an avid Texans fan, I am proud to honor the Houston Texans on this great achievement.

I would like to submit the following article: "Texans Cement Supremacy in Division and Look Beyond" by Tom Spousta, printed in The New York Times, December 17, 2012:

HOUSTON—Arian Foster and Dwight Freeney embraced at midfield and, after a few heartfelt words, began pulling their shoulder pads over their heads. They exchanged jerseys, Foster giving up his Houston Texans No. 23 and Freeney handing over his Indianapolis Colts No. 93—one that will hang in Foster's collection to commemorate Houston's second consecutive AFC South division title.

The Colts officially acquiesced Sunday to the supremacy of the Texans, who own the AFC's best record at 12-2 but whose dominance somehow still remains questioned as the playoffs approach.

They beat Indianapolis, 29-17, in spectacularly efficient fashion before a raucous crowd at Reliant Stadium. A modest locker room celebration followed, but the Texans know a greater validation of their season will come with a top seed and home-field advantage for the postseason.

"You always have to bask in the moment of winning a division championship, but I think the expectations we put on ourselves and everybody puts on us are much bigger than that," said Foster, who had 27 carries for 165 yards, 131 of those coming in the second half. "We're proud of what we've done here, but we've got more to go."

Indianapolis (9-5) lost a chance to earn a wild-card berth with two games to play, including the season finale at home against the Texans, who gave the Colts plenty to fix before then.

Matt Schaub was 23 of 31 passing for 261 yards and guided an offense that did not commit a turnover. Eleven of those completions went for 151 yards to Andre Johnson, who caught a touchdown pass and surpassed 11,000 yards for his career.

Shayne Graham kicked five field goals, and Bryan Braman blocked a punt for a touchdown. Houston's defense atoned for its poor performance in last week's 42-14 loss at New England, allowing only one third-down conversion and sacking Andrew Luck five times, three of those coming from J. J. Watt.

Luck finished 13 of 27 for 186 yards behind an offensive line missing two starters. He threw a 61-yard touchdown pass to T. Y. Hilton and an 8-yarder to Dwayne Allen. But a key Colts drive in the second quarter resulted in their costliest error, when Mewelde Moore fumbled at the Texans' goal line after being hit by Watt and the ball was recovered by Tim Dobbins.

"We got back to what we are as a football team," Texans Coach Gary Kubiak said. "Protecting the ball, running the ball, playing solid defense. That's how we win."

Watt, who paid tribute to the shooting victims in Newtown, Conn., by writing the town's name on one of his gloves, finished with 10 tackles and now has an AFC-leading 19.5 sacks.

The Colts owned an odds-defying 8-1 record this season in games decided on the final possession, so there was no cause for panic after the Texans grabbed a 20-10 halftime lead. But Indianapolis generated little momentum in the second half and finished with 272 total yards, compared with 417 yards for the Texans.

"It was a tough loss for us," Bruce Arians, the Colts' interim coach, said. "We came

here with one idea and that was to win the division and we're not going to win the division. They did it, and my hat is off to the Texans, and we'll see them in a couple weeks."

RECOGNITION OF CYPRUS' PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Cyprus as their first rotating European Union (EU) Presidency comes to a close. The past six months have been lauded as a very productive presidency and I would like to honor the importance of this accomplishment for a small—yet still occupied and divided—country like Cyprus. Some of the most notable accomplishments show a continued commitment to human rights and democratic governments.

During Cyprus's presidency they oversaw the implementation of Iran sanctions—the toughest EU measure to date. The EU was also awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its longtime commitment to promoting peace, as well as reconciliation, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Furthermore, the EU focused on steps needed to eradicate human trafficking during the sixth EU Anti-Trafficking Day conference entitled, "Working Together Towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings: The Way Forward."

Mr. Speaker, as a friend and ally of the United States, I would like to congratulate Cyprus on a productive EU presidency. This is an important moment in the history of Cyprus and as a stable democracy dedicated to human rights and religious freedom; I wish to honor this significant event.

RECOGNIZING FUN SPOT ACTION PARK OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 BRASS RING AWARD FOR THE BEST FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN THE COUNTRY FROM IAAPA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. John Arie and his family on Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando, Florida having received the 2012 Brass Ring Award for the Best Family Entertainment Center in the country from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. This is a prestigious award and deserves special recognition for the hard work and dedication that went into this outstanding accomplishment.

The Arie family is well deserving of this recognition for their unfailing dedication and leadership in the family entertainment center industry. In receiving this award, they have demonstrated many character qualities, including enthusiasm, diligence and remarkable

service. The forty-plus years of service the Arie family has provided in owning, operating, and developing Fun Spot Attractions is a true testament to the significant importance of small businesses.

This is not the first time that Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando has been recognized for their commitment to excellence in the tourism industry across Central Florida. Fun Spot has been chosen and honored two prior times by the IAAPA for their standards of excellence in promoting and advertising the family entertainment center industry.

The efforts of Mr. Arie and his family to serve the Central Florida community are to be commended. It is not often that such a strong commitment to service is found within one family. I wish them great success as they have the opportunity to undergo a 10-acre expansion that will triple the size of the Orlando Fun Spot Action Park.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Mr. Arie and his family for their hard work, dedication, and leadership on this well-deserved award. May their investment to community and small business inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

**DON'T LET FOREIGN AID FALL
OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF**

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as negotiations to avoid the "fiscal cliff" enter the final stages, it is important that we keep in mind the potentially devastating consequences of across-the-board cuts. This is true not only for domestic programs, but also for foreign assistance, which represents less than one percent of the federal budget and is one of the most cost-effective ways of protecting our interests across the globe. Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and the world's resources are used wisely.

In this regard, I commend to my colleagues an excellent op-ed by Sharon Waxman, vice-president of the International Rescue Committee. Her article in *The Hill*, "Don't Let Foreign Aid Fall off the Fiscal Cliff," outlines the importance of foreign aid in saving lives and easing suffering for millions around the world.

**RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON OF THE WYOMISSING
SPARTANS HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM**

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School football team of Berks County, Pennsylvania on their undefeated season and on capturing the PIAA District III AA State Championship.

The Wyomissing Spartans set a Berks County record for points scored and wins in a season, finishing with a perfect 16–0 record. The Spartans are the first team in Berks County history to win a state title in football at any level.

The Spartans' championship roster includes: Gerald Burns, Thomas Paolini, Corey Unger, Spenser Lloyd, Sean Smith, Joseph Cacchione, Scott Kuczala, Brian Walters, Rahul Kalani, Adam Chaffe, Caleb Naylor, Juche Jackson, Bern Donahue, Chase Hartman, Alex Anzalone, Brandon Faust, Eric Waxler, Brandon Gonzalez, Mason Smith, Scott McAvoy, Justin Causa, Jonah Bowman, Sam Debell-Mitton, Peter Geyer, Josh Hart, Jack Baker, Sam Weaver, Peter Bonino, Josh Pappas, Shane Hasenauer, Connor Reedy, Chris Eaton, Jeremy Bell, Will Kroppe, Anthony Colon, Jeriko Reyes, Cody Cox, Ben Wertz, Sean Reusing, Logan Jones, Dan Sweitzer, Wyatt Metzger, Finnegan Daly, Brian Bamberger, Jon Olmeda, Sean Clark, Nate Hain, Jack Wertz, Liam Reedy, and Daniel Faust.

The champion Spartans were coached by Head Coach Bob Wolfrum and Assistant Coaches Tom Baldwin, Andrew Siggins, Al Silveri, Todd Zechman, Steve O'Neil, Richard Hoffmaster, Nick Wojciechowski, Frank Ferrandino, Bill Hartman, Steve Brunner, Chris Bickley, Corbett Babb, Ty Smith, and Jim Delp. In addition, the School District's Athletic Director is Corbin Stoltzfus.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments, undefeated season, and state championship victory, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players, coaches, and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School Football Team of Berks County, Pennsylvania for their incredible and unforgettable season.

HONORING BARRY RUTENBERG

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Barry Rutenberg, from Gainesville, Fla. Barry is the 2012 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and has been deeply involved in helping housing—and his fellow builders—get back on course.

After suffering the worst housing downturn since the Great Depression, Barry's steady leadership at NAHB during the past year has paid great dividends as he has presided over a solid recovery for the industry. Housing starts and single-family sales are projected to jump 20 percent for the year, and the number of improving housing markets has soared from just 12 in September of 2011 to more than 200 in December of 2012. Meanwhile, home prices have stabilized across much of the Nation, helping to put more workers on the job and making housing a net contributor to economic growth.

As chairman of NAHB, Barry has provided a laser-like focus to help get housing back on track by working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to get pro-housing bills introduced and passed. NAHB played a pivotal role in

authorizing and preserving the National Flood Insurance Program for an additional five years. This put to an end the many short-term lapses the program has endured in recent years—along with the delays and canceled home sales those lapses have caused home buyers and home builders.

Under Barry's direction, NAHB instituted a nationwide Protect Homeownership campaign that featured several rallies in key political swing states during this past election season. This effort to elevate housing on the national agenda sent a powerful message to the electorate that Americans value homeownership and Congress must support pro-housing policies that will create jobs and help local communities to flourish.

In normal times housing accounts for more than 17 percent of the Nation's total economic output. Building 100 single-family homes creates more than 300 full-time jobs and generates millions of dollars of tax revenues which increase the property tax base that supports local schools, police and firefighters across the land.

To help housing return to its position as an engine of economic growth, Barry instituted an aggressive agenda at NAHB. He made it a priority to help protect housing tax incentives that are vital to renters and home buyers; prevent expensive, pointless regulations from impeding home building and dampening the recovery; and to push for a balanced solution to overhaul the Nation's housing finance system that retains a federal backstop in the event of a catastrophic situation while providing a stable, affordable supply of credit for home buyers and limiting taxpayer exposure.

He also maintained a regular presence on Capitol Hill, meeting with lawmakers and testifying on behalf of the Nation's home builders on how small businesses and consumers would benefit from smarter and more sensible regulation.

I commend the efforts of Barry Rutenberg and NAHB to ensure that housing remains accessible and affordable to America's families and an important national priority.

**HARRIS COUNTY VETERAN'S
COURT PROGRAM**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the United States of America entered the War on Terror, many things have changed with what our troops encounter overseas. Our soldiers are not only fighting a war where guerrilla tactics, suicide bombings, and targeted killings are used, but they are fighting over values and morals versus territory. This war has not been in one specific country, but takes place wherever our enemies are attacking or hiding.

A lot has changed in this modern day war, but thankfully a lot has changed with how we help our troops when they return home. 2.4 million Americans have fought in Iraq or Afghanistan and the Department of Veterans Affairs have diagnosed roughly 200,000 of those Americans with post-traumatic stress disorder with many more that have gone undiagnosed. Many of these men have come home and are still fighting internal demons from these perilous places that they have returned from.

Thankfully, Harris County Texas District Judge, Marc Carter, an Army veteran himself noticed that many of the defendants coming through the Harris County courts were veterans who had recently come home from fighting overseas. Judge Carter is judge of the 228th Criminal District Court of Texas. He replaced me after I served as judge in that court for 22 years.

Judge Carter and other members of the Harris County community recognized this problem in 2009 and took the initiative to create the first veteran's court in the state of Texas. The Harris County Veteran's Court Program specifically works with first time misdemeanors and felonies. If veterans choose to go through the program instead of going to prison, it requires two years of probation and treatment.

The reason why the Veteran's Court Program is so successful is because it addresses the root of the problem, which is PTSD and drug abuse. Many of these veterans are still mentally over seas fighting for ours and their lives and these programs give them the help they need to readjust back into society. Since 2008 veteran's treatment courts have been created in 27 States.

These men have been to the darkest places on earth to protect the American people and although there is a lot we owe our veterans, most importantly, we owe them a second chance.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER TOM G. WEILER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Tom G. Weiler, United States Navy.

For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Weiler, a proud submariner and graduate of the University of Notre Dame, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Weiler executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Weiler directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Weiler took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and de-

velop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Weiler's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Weiler for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. After spending eight of the last eleven years stationed in Hawaii, which included multiple patrols in the Western Pacific and a 12-month deployment to Germany, Lieutenant Commander Weiler is headed to the England as the only U.S. Navy submarine officer to participate in the Royal Navy Submarine Command Course in Portsmouth, England in 2013. Following this distinguished opportunity to train with the British Royal Navy, Lieutenant Commander Weiler will embark on his journey to become an Executive Officer of a United States Navy submarine and attend the Submarine Command Course. After this intense course of instruction Lieutenant Commander Weiler will return to sea and to leading Sailors as he goes back into harm's way to execute his trade as submariner in the "silent service" of this great Nation. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Weiler will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Tom Weiler are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Weiler, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Sailors you are charged with leading. Fair winds and following seas . . . and GO IRISH!

TRIBUTE TO TERESA VANZANT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Teresa Vanzant, in honor of her retirement after dedicating 31 years of public service to Kentucky's Rockcastle County Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Teresa's passion and commitment to public service was inspired by her father and my dear friend, the late Denver Miller, who also served as Circuit Court Clerk in Rockcastle County for three terms. Denver instilled in his family, the value of being an engaged citizen and giving back to the community. Denver's service as Clerk and Administrative Assistant to the Administrative Office of the Court also influenced his son, James Miller who serves as Rockcastle County's Jailer. The tireless dedication of this entire family will be a legacy long admired in our region.

Teresa Vanzant is also a role model for women in public service in our rural communities. In addition to her role as Circuit Court Clerk, she has volunteered for the Kentucky Women's Missionary Union, the Mt. Vernon Elementary Family Resource Center Council, President of Kiwanis Rockcastle, the Education Chair of Kentucky's Circuit Court Clerk's Association, Secretary of the Trust for Life, and a board member of the anti-drug Rockcastle County UNITE Coalition. Teresa works diligently, to not only serve her county, but to be a voice for opportunity and vision for generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a leader and dear friend of southern and eastern Kentucky, Teresa Vanzant, on her retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Teresa and her family all the best in the years to come.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 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 \$16,359,758,742,907.76. We've added \$5,132,881,693,994.68 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is a \$5 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ADOLFO JESUS
VALADEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 80th birthday of Adolfo Jesus Valadez.

Adolfo Jesus Valadez, the son of Mexican immigrants who came to the United States fleeing the Mexican Revolution, was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Adolfo attended local public elementary schools and in 1949, graduated from Central Catholic High School. He enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin to study business administration and pharmacy studies. However, his studies were interrupted when he was called to serve his country as part of the post WWII occupation forces. Adolfo served as an Army Corp medic in Germany, where he provided health care services to American troops and learned to speak German fluently.

When Adolfo returned to the U.S., he completed his studies at the University of Texas at Austin and received a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, one of the few Mexican-Americans at that time to receive an undergraduate degree. Adolfo moved back to San Antonio and worked as a registered pharmacist serving the city's poor in various settings, including the Stella Mares Clinic on the west side of the city. Eventually, he opened his own small

business—Lydia's Prescription Pharmacy—an independent pharmacy on San Antonio's south side. Adolfo provided high quality pharmacy services to the area residents while also mentoring many Mexican-American youth to pursue higher education in the health professions.

For over 30 years, Lydia's Pharmacy served the residents of the south side of San Antonio until Adolfo's retirement. During those years, Adolfo together with his wife Lydia, raised their family and served their community. In 1986, the family suffered the tragic loss of the youngest child, Rebecca Christina, "Becky". Despite this incredible loss, Adolfo and his family, with the love and support of family and friends, worked through their grief and continued to thrive. Adolfo and Lydia will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on January 26, 2013 and their remaining four children have led successful careers in law, health care, and public health. In addition to running a business and raising a family, Adolfo earned a second degree in business administration; found time to serve as a board member of the St. Peter's/St. Joseph's Children's Home; became a member of the Our Lady of Grace Knights of Columbus; and traveled with friends and family within the U.S., Europe, and Mexico. He is a longtime Spurs fan and enjoyed their first of four championships like most San Antonians did, by riding through downtown in an impromptu celebration! He is also a devoted grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

Again, please join me in recognizing a true community leader in San Antonio on his 80th birthday, Adolfo Jesus Valadez.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Portantino for his six years of service in the California State Assembly. A graduate of Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, Assemblyman Portantino started out with a successful career in the entertainment industry. He produced and co-wrote a multitude of film and TV productions, including independent historical films highlighting racial issues in American history.

Mr. Portantino was then elected to the La Cañada Flintridge City Council in 1999 with over 70 percent of the vote. As a member of the City Council/School District Joint Use Committee, he played a pivotal role in procuring funding and services for local public schools. Mr. Portantino continued to serve as a member of the Council for nearly eight years and served two terms as its Mayor in 2001 and in 2005. He resigned in 2006 upon his election to the California State Assembly.

During his years in the California legislature, Assemblyman Portantino served the 44th District with great distinction, championing tougher regulations on firearms and successfully passing 38 bills into law.

He presided as Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education and was a member of the Transportation, Government Organization and Public Safety Standing Committees. He also served as a member of the

Assembly Select Committees on the Preservation of California's Entertainment Industry, Foster Care, and Community Colleges. Assemblyman Portantino has been recognized by his community for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Gold Line and for his exemplary service as a state legislator.

As a strong advocate for transparency and accountability in state finances, and a champion of health care issues, Assemblyman Portantino will be missed in the Assembly and by his constituents, but I know he will continue to represent the needs of his community in any endeavor he chooses to pursue hereafter. I join my colleagues in thanking him for his service and wish the Assemblyman, his wife Ellen, and their children Sofia and Isabella, the best in this new chapter of their lives.

REMEMBERING JOE McNULTY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to remember a former member of my staff who lost his battle with cancer two weeks ago today.

Joe McNulty was my deputy press secretary and director of online communications. He worked for me from the summer of 2009 until this July, when he left to go to law school at the University of South Carolina. Joe was an important member of my staff and will be missed dearly.

Joe was an amazing individual and certainly left his mark on this world, as evidenced by the number of people who attended his memorial service at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Virginia on December 10. Aside from family, friends and co-workers, classmates from high school and college were in attendance as were friends and neighbors of his parents, Paul and Brenda, and three sisters, Katy, Anni and Corrie.

People came from as far away as Spain for the service. There were friends from the church he attended and members of his college club soccer team. His principal from Robinson high school came, as did the school's choral director. The current U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia was at the service (Joe's father was the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia from 2001–2006) as were several other assistant U.S. attorneys from the office and a number of U.S. Marshals.

Joe's passing also made Politico's Playbook, something everyone on Capitol Hill reads every day and Joe devoured every morning.

The service for Joe was deeply moving. The pastor of his church in Fairfax spoke at the service, as did the pastor of the church he started attending in South Carolina, where he was attending law school. Both talked about Joe's strong faith in the Lord.

Joe's best friend, Steve Brewer, talked about how they met as freshmen in high school and said Joe was the best friend anyone could ask for. He told a story about how on a recent birthday the Washington area was paralyzed by a massive snowstorm, yet Joe managed to dig out his car and drive across town so his best friend wouldn't be alone on

his birthday. That spoke volumes of Joe's loyalty and the value he placed on friendship.

Joe's older sister, Katy, spoke on behalf of the "McNulty Women." She reminisced about how she and "Joey" would play for hours on end as toddlers and that Joe was always a good sport about playing the things that his older sister always wanted. She also talked about how "Joey" cared about his sisters and always looked out for them.

His father, whom I have known since his days when he served on the House Judiciary Committee, described how Joe always put others first, even in his darkest hours. He emphasized how much Joe would want to thank everyone for all they have done for him through the years and for coming to his memorial service. He told a story about how as Joe was once being wheeled into an operating room he asked the nurses to stop so he could thank them and the doctors for all they were doing for him. One of the nurses said no one had ever done that before. That was Joe. Always putting others first.

Paul also stressed Joe's unwavering in his courage, especially as he received one piece of bad news after another yet always helped his family and friends get through all it. Paul said Joe referred to his courageous reaction to news about spreading cancer as "a leadership moment."

His family has carried on Joe's spirit, sending out this message a few days after the service: "On behalf of all the McNulty's, I [his mother, Brenda] just wanted to say THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for all of your selflessness over the weekend as you prepared, and on Monday for Joe's service. It was above and beyond anything we could ever hope for or imagine and we are so very grateful. . . . Every word spoken and every song sung ministered to us and to everyone there. So many people have been telling us that they appreciated the scriptures, were moved by the whole tone of the service, and gained a new appreciation for Joe and all he was about. We truly appreciate all you did to participate in the service and wish we could give you all a huge collective hug but mere words will have to do."

I was honored to speak at Joe's service on December 10. Below are my remarks:

I am speaking today on behalf of my entire staff, who worked with Joe and loved Joe. We extend our condolences to Brenda and Paul and the rest of Joe's family.

Joe started in the Wolf office as an intern but left as a vital part of our staff. He always wanted to be a prosecutor like his father. That drove him.

I know my staff would have liked him to have abandoned those plans for our own selfish reasons because of the talents he brought to the office. He always pushed us to find new and more creative ways to reach constituents. He was a trend setter on Capitol Hill for communicating online. Other offices would regularly reach out to him asking for advice. He also was active in the Republican Communications Association, serving as its treasurer and reinvigorating the organization with great speakers and social events.

Joe brought an incredible work ethic to the office. No job was too menial; no task insurmountable. He also had an unbelievable reservoir of energy. There were nights that he would play sports until the wee hours of the morning but be at his desk first thing in the morning ready to conquer the world.

He never really stopped working. My staff got an e-mail from him just the other day making sure we had seen an article on an

issue the office has put a lot of time and effort into.

Everyone who knew Joe well knew that he could be stubborn at times—stubborn in a way you don't often find in his generation; the kind of stubbornness that stems from deep integrity and a willingness to fight for what he believed was right.

It was this same quality that drove him to keep working even during the toughest hours of his fight against cancer. Even on the most challenging days, Joe would come in to the office ready to work, and work hard. We practically had to order him home to rest up. Joe had an uncommon drive and commitment to public service.

Joe had an infectious smile and a great personality. Everyone loved being with him and he was always setting up office outings for the staff. In small Hill offices, where everyone attended different schools, there are friendly rivalries, particularly among Virginia schools.

Joe was part of the JMU mafia in the office, which at one point outnumbered all the staff from other Virginia schools and they never let anyone forget that, especially that JMU once beat Virginia Tech in football. Joe was proud to be a JMU Duke and volunteered with the JMU Alumni Association and the JMU Politicos, the school's Capitol Hill networking group.

Joe loved to eat, and for a little guy he could eat. He holds the office record for eating six giant glazed donuts in one day. One of his going away presents was donuts.

Joe also valued public service, which led him to take the next step in his career: law school. Although we missed him after he left our office this summer, we were so proud of him for getting into University of South Carolina. He pursued his dream of law school, daring to envision a future even when so much was uncertain about the present.

I want to read from parts of an email Joe sent to the staff on his last day in the office this summer:

"I just wanted to say thank you to all of you one more time. It has truly been an honor and privilege to work with all of you. I have learned so much working with all of you over the past three years and each of you have encouraged me and taught me lessons that I will never forget. I think it is important for all of us to remember how blessed we are to have the opportunity to serve our country. I know it's hard to remember that on a daily basis but that is truly what you are doing when you work for a member of Congress. You are serving the people of your community and you ARE making a huge difference.

"... My time on Capitol Hill has also taught me that many people are really cynical and believe that all politicians are corrupt. "It's easy to reach a point where you think that it's too hard to enact real change or get the big things done. But this is a mentality I think we should try to suppress. If you believe in something and you want to enact change, then get in there and fight for what you believe in. That's what public service is all about. If you think you have good ideas that can help people, don't be afraid to fight for them. Don't let the weekly scandal or negative news story discourage you from trying to help people or make a difference in your country."

Joe wanted to make a difference. And he did. But it was a life cut painfully short. Joe was a man of faith and scripture tells us

In Ecclesiastes 7:2

"For death is the destiny of every man the living should take this to heart."

We here today should take it to heart.

In Psalm 103:15, King David said:

"As for man, his days are like grass. He flourishes like a flower of the field, the wind

blows over and it is gone and its place remembers no more."

It's apparent even as the cancer attacked his body, that Joe's soul was strengthened by his faith in Jesus, a faith which only grew in the face of circumstance that would dictate otherwise. In an e-mail to a staff member before leaving last summer he wrote:

"There is no way I could have gotten through my bout with cancer had I not had a foundation in Christ. Reading my Bible was the one thing that gave me hope and encouragement when I was in pain and sick."

We grieve Joe's passing but we celebrate his life and know he has entered eternal life with his savior and Lord. Our goal should be to live a life of faith so that we can one day join Joe in the House of our Heavenly Father.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2012, I was attending to a sick friend and comforting his family and was unable to vote on rollcall vote 628.

If present, I would have voted "yea" on S. 3193.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I did not return to Washington in time on Monday December 17, 2012 and missed two votes.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 4606—To authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes (rollcall 627), "yes" on S. 3193—To make technical corrections to the legal description of certain land to be held in trust for the Barona Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes (rollcall 628).

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ROBERT M. WALTEMMEYER

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Robert M. Waltemeyer of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), who will retire from the United States Army on January 11, 2013 after thirty years of distinguished service.

Colonel Waltemeyer was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1983. In 1987 he entered Special Forces (SF) and commanded his first SF detachment in Bad Toelz, Germany, where he implemented and supported operations throughout Southwest Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, and Africa. From 1997–2003 he commanded the 2nd Battalion 10th Special Forces Group where he conducted operations

throughout the Balkans. Following the events of September 11, 2001, Colonel Waltemeyer led the United States European Command's first war on terrorism mission through the Georgian Train and Equip Mission. In 2003 Colonel Waltemeyer conducted unconventional warfare operations in Northern Iraq, employing Kurdish, Christian and Arab militias to create a northern front in advance of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From 2003–2005, he served on the Joint Staff before taking command of United States Army Garrison Japan from 2006–2009. Upon leaving Japan Colonel Waltemeyer served as the Director of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) Regional Command South's Joint Border Coordination Center in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, where he led a combined staff comprised of United States, Afghan, and Pakistani military and security personnel.

Throughout his thirty years of service to the nation, Colonel Waltemeyer has earned numerous awards and decorations to include: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutists Wings, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Colonel Waltemeyer's military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Ramona, and his two children, Carrie and Sam, whose love and support has aided and strengthened Colonel Waltemeyer as he has served our great nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DOYLE EDWARD CONNER, SR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Doyle Edward Conner, Sr. Throughout his long and distinguished career in politics, Doyle Connor served the people of Florida for 40 years in both the Florida House of Representatives and as the Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner Conner served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout the state. All of Florida mourns the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant.

Commissioner Conner was a fourth-generation farmer who grew up learning the value of hard work on his family's farm in Starke, Florida where he helped raise cattle, grow strawberries and cut timber. Commissioner Conner was a born leader, and he was active in his community from a very young age. He participated in his local 4-H club and eventually became president of the Alachua County branch of 4-H. In 1947, he graduated from high school and enrolled at the University of Florida where he became involved in the Future Farmers of America (FFA), serving as the president of FFA at both the state and national levels.

In 1950, while still a 21-year-old student at the University of Florida, Commissioner Conner was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. Despite his youth, he quickly established himself as a serious and committed statesman who was respected by his

colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Due to his assiduous work ethic and natural leadership, Commissioner Conner quickly rose through the ranks of the Florida House of Representatives. In 1957, at the age of only 28, Commissioner Conner was elected as the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, becoming the youngest Speaker in the state's history—a record that still stands today. While serving as Speaker, he helped craft legislation to promote and advance Florida's agricultural industry, including the landmark Green Belt Law. He also worked to establish first-class agricultural labs to help eradicate numerous diseases and predators and pave the way for the further development of the Florida agricultural industry.

In 1960, after serving 10 years in the Florida House of Representatives, Commissioner Conner was elected as the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, a position that he held until his retirement in 1991. Commissioner Conner brought his vast experience as both a farmer and a legislator to his new role and helped expand Florida's output from \$900 million in 1960 to more than \$6 billion at the time of his departure in 1991. Commissioner Conner was a tireless worker, who traveled around the world to promote Florida agriculture and open new markets for Florida's farmers. He also expanded on his earlier legislative efforts to combat diseases, and under his leadership, Florida established a method for detecting the Mediterranean fruit fly which became the worldwide standard.

His excellence and leadership in Florida was recognized nationally, and he was even asked by President Kennedy to move to Washington to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After thanking the President for his offer, Commissioner Conner respectfully informed him that he wanted to keep his family in Florida and continue serving the state he so deeply loved. For his service to the agricultural industry, he was presented with numerous awards and recognitions. He was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame, Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame, and the Florida FAA Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Conner also had an unwavering commitment to educating young people to help advance Florida's agricultural sector. He maintained a life-long relationship with his alma mater, serving as the president of the University of Florida National Alumni Association, and in 1972, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Today, the University of Florida maintains a scholarship in Commissioner Conner's name, which is awarded to students throughout Florida who display leadership in FFA and 4-H.

Commissioner Conner served as a mentor to numerous individuals throughout his career. My wife Vicki and I both had the distinct privilege and honor of working for and learning from Commissioner Conner. His leadership and commitment to Florida helped inspire me and numerous others to pursue public service. His contribution to the state of Florida and our nation cannot be overstated, and his legacy will continue to inspire Floridians for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I am honored to recognize the life and service of a great man, Commissioner Doyle Conner. His contribution to Florida will never be forgotten. Vicki and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to the entire Conner family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2012, I was attending to a sick friend and comforting his family and was unable to vote on rollcall vote 627.

If present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4606.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's the most wonderful time of the year. Next week, Americans throughout the fruited plain will come together and pause from the bustle of their everyday lives to celebrate Christmas with the ones they love. To Christians, Christmas is the day to honor the birth of Jesus. The word "Christmas" actually comes from the words "Cristes Maesse," which literally translates to Christ's Mass. The word "holiday" derives its meaning from the words "Holy Day". It also means Grandma's apple pie, Christmas carols, wreaths, cookies, Santa, presents, ornate Christmas trees and other rich traditions that symbolize December 25th.

In the midst of the holiday cheer, we should never forget that some families will have an empty chair at their Christmas dinner this year. For some homes, the empty chair represents a loved one who is serving overseas. For others, the chair is a somber reminder of the warrior who served but never returned. As you celebrate the season within the warmth of your home, think of the families without a full house and the sacrifices they make not just at Christmas time but the other 364 days of the year as well. These families bear the burdens of war, and these burdens weigh heaviest during this time of year.

War at Christmas is not new, and this year will be no exception for those who are still on call serving America. But there is a special way to connect with our troops throughout the world. Each year in Southeast Texas, children and businesses in the community come together and volunteer to make handmade cards for our troops who won't be home for Christmas. It began when my office gathered dozens of cards for me to bring in my suitcase to visit NATO troops overseas. Then we teamed up with Operation Interdependence and the Red Cross to collect 6,000 cards. And every year since it has grown. This year a record-shattering 69,000 handmade cards from the community are on their way overseas. The cards come from all walks of life in the community from the third grader to the local business employee. Each card is different but their message is the same: Thank you. Texans are especially grateful during this time of year for that soldier, that warrior, that sailor, that airman who can't be with their families because they're representing the United States in lands far, far away. There is something about a warrior from the United States

opening up a handmade Christmas card from some kid in the United States. At that moment, the darkness of war seems to disappear because of the brightness of a child.

No matter what is going on in the rest of the world, the Christmas spirit of good will and generosity is alive and well in America. Random acts of kindness are seen throughout the nation whether it is a handmade holiday card, a charitable donation to a stranger to ensure that families get to eat a Christmas dinner or a toy drive for children who may not otherwise get to experience the joy of giving and receiving. Christmas really does bring out the best in America.

So next week pause. Eat Grandma's cookies, sing Christmas carols, open presents and enjoy your loved ones. Think of those who have an empty seat at the table this year because their husband, wife, son, daughter, mother or father is serving our country in lands far far away. And don't forget the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus that occurred over 2,000 years ago. Wish your neighbor a Merry Christmas, and be thankful that you live in a nation where you can.

And that's just the way it is.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS AND ESTHER WACHTELL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, Thomas and Esther Wachtell, patriots, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and community volunteers.

Tom and Esther own and operate Oak Knoll Ranch in Ojai, California. They produce and ship apples from their 10-acre orchard but more importantly, the ranch is their base for their many other efforts.

Tom and Esther both have had storied careers. Tom was a Navy lieutenant commander in the Office of Naval Intelligence, executive vice-president of Occidental Petroleum Corporation in Los Angeles, president of Merrit Energy in Los Angeles, an investor/consultant for Gulf Exploration in Covington, Louisiana, and, with Esther, co-proprietor of Eve's Apples in Ojai.

Esther is president of The Wachtell Group, a fundraising consulting company specializing in large capital campaigns. In addition, she was executive vice-president and president of The Music Center of Los Angeles, an investor with her husband in Gulf Exploration, and co-proprietor of Eve's Apples.

The lists of their community involvements are even longer. Tom's list includes founder/president of the Los Angeles Opera, director of the Performing Arts Council of The Music Center of Los Angeles, director of the World Trade Center in Los Angeles, director of the Good Hope Foundation in Los Angeles, a Republican Eagle, and a member of the Romney Finance Committee.

Esther's list includes founder/chair of the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at USC, trustee for Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, director of the Museum of Ventura County in Ventura, California, president of the Ojai Music Festival in Ojai; director of the Libbey Bowl Foundation in Ojai, and director for Ojai Community Bank.

Beneficiaries of their large philanthropic grants include Children's Hospital, Choate School, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library, the Music Center Opera, the Music Center of Los Angeles County, and the Republican Party.

In addition, Esther served as development chair for the Museum of Ventura County, raising \$7.5 million for the museum, and for Children's Hospital, raising more than \$1 billion, a record for the hospital. She also helped raise \$4 million to rebuild the Libbey Bowl as president of the Ojai Music Festival.

Both list their greatest accomplishment as raising three happy and successful children who are married to three wonderful spouses and who have given them 12 fantastic grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in paying tribute to our close friends Tom and Esther Wachtell, for their patriotism, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy, which has made our nation stronger politically and economically and made our world a better place to live.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.
LINDA J. HEWETT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda J. Hewett as she celebrates her retirement as co-director of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), Fresno Alzheimer's and Memory Center (AMC).

Dr. Hewett's lifelong dedication for assisting California's most vulnerable citizens began when she earned her nursing degree in 1968 from the Westminster Hospital in London, where she specialized in maternal and child health. In 1990, she received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University.

Dr. Hewett's passion for ensuring that people of all ages live a quality life led her to specialize in neuropsychology. After finishing her pre-doctorate work at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital and post doctorate at UCSF, Fresno AMC, she became the co-director of AMC in 1994. Dr. Hewett began as the Assistant Clinical Professor for the departments of Neurology, Family & Community Medicine, UCSF Medical School, Fresno Medical Education Program, and will retire as an Associate Professor for UCSF. In addition, Dr. Hewett has worked as the Senior Neuropsychologist at AMC since 2004, and from 2001–2003, she was the Director of the Gerontology Program at California State University, Fresno.

Dr. Hewett has served in many capacities over the past few decades. Because of her efforts to educate and spread awareness about Alzheimer's disease she has become a true champion for our Central Valley. Dr. Hewett's expertise is sought out from people all over the state and country. Due to her work with the California State Legislature, there are more Alzheimer's Research Centers that have provided invaluable resources for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

Thousands of families have been fortunate to receive the benefits of Dr. Hewett's care.

Her overwhelming knowledge and compassion is comforting to her patients and their families. I had the privilege to see Dr. Hewett's work firsthand as she personally treated peo-

ple very close to my heart. She made them feel comfortable and at ease, and I will always be grateful for the expertise and kindness that she provided to them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Linda J. Hewett for her service, compassion, and devotion to bettering the lives of others. We thank Dr. Hewett today for her outstanding contributions to the San Joaquin Valley and to the State of California.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 20, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's Report.