

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. I join the community in celebrating OHA on this historic occasion.

We are grateful to have a museum and research center that reminds us that we have inherited a special place to live because of the people and events that have come before us. Onondaga County New York's rich history is intertwined with many key periods in our country's history, including the building of the Erie Canal, women's suffrage, emancipation, the history of Central New York's Native Americans, the Haudenosaunee, also referred to as the Iroquois Confederacy. OHA's recent jubilee celebration was built around the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the same year the association began.

OHA's mission is to inspire people's understanding that the history we share as a community is the foundation for our future together. Its purpose is to encourage a diverse audience from the neighborhoods of Syracuse and the communities of Onondaga County to explore, appreciate and utilize their past. OHA offers engaging exhibits and programs, pursues partnerships with other cultural organizations and community groups, and develops and cares for a definitive collection related to local history. In addition, OHA operates a museum and research center in Syracuse, New York.

We take comfort that OHA will continue to document our history in Onondaga County and that its work will serve as a guide to future generations. Simply stated, OHA is our bridge to the past, present and future of Onondaga County. We are a stronger community because of the exceptional work of the OHA's staff, Board, and community supporters.

Once again, I congratulate OHA and all the individuals who have helped to preserve this extraordinary organization over the past 150 years.

HONORING JARED T. BLANKENSHIP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared T. Blankenship. Jared is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities

of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jared has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jared has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jared has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared T. Blankenship for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE
NONPROFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, of course Congress should make sure the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration and other government agencies are funded sufficiently to help communities recover from natural disasters like Sandy. H.R. 592, the Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013, would add "houses of worship" to the list of eligible entities that can receive direct government assistance from FEMA. Religious institutions are important to our communities. Unfortunately, as drafted H.R. 592 is unconstitutional.

In 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously held that a government subsidy used to construct buildings at colleges and universities was constitutional only if the buildings could never be used for religious activities. Two years later, the U.S. Supreme Court held that no taxpayer funds could be used for maintenance and repair of facilities in which religious activities take place. The types of buildings that this bill seeks to make eligible for direct government funding—houses of worship—are inherently used for religious activities and the bill would have the effect of unconstitutionally funneling taxpayer money for religious activities. Under current law, houses of worship are eligible for Small Business Administration loans to help rebuild in the wake of a disaster like Sandy. Thus, there is already federally available aid that is neutral in its application that churches, synagogues and other houses of worship can avail themselves of without implicating the government in providing direct support to religious institutions. And private insurance companies have long provided such policies for houses of worship.

As I have since Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey, I will continue to push for the maximum possible funding—including disaster recovery loans—for all New Jersey communities impacted by this and future storms.

HONORING MR. EDWARD
NORTHROP

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize a man who has served his country, created hundreds of new jobs in my district and is a loyal father and husband of over 50 years. I am proud to say he is one of my constituents and would like to thank him for a lifetime of dedication and commitment to his country.

Edward D. Northrop, Jr., graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1962. He then served 20 years in the United States Army from 1962–1982, graduating from both Airborne and Ranger schools. He served 2 tours in Vietnam in the 4th Infantry Division, serving for the Red Warriors, C Company and as HHQ Company Commander. During this time, he received many awards, including the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star and Army Commendation Medal for Heroism. Ed retired as a LTC in 1982.

Later that year, Ed became a Burger King Franchisee and currently owns six locations—four of which are in my district—employing 180 Georgians. Due to his commitment to excellence, Ed has achieved some of the highest volumes of any Burger King restaurateur in the Southeast. He also is committed to serving the franchisee community through his work with the National Franchisee Association, NFA. Through NFA, Ed has served as President of the New South Coalition of Burger King Franchisees, on the NFA Board of Directors and on NFA's Government Relations Committee for over sixteen years.

Ed is also very active in his local church and served on the vestry multiple years. He is also involved in local adopt a school programs as well as the Special Olympics program.

On behalf of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, thank you, Ed, for your unwavering commitment to your country, your family and the NFA. We are proud to call you one of our own.

CONGRATULATING KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kansas State University, the oldest public university in the state of Kansas, on its 150th anniversary. Kansas State University holds a special place in my heart as my alma mater, and today, I still proudly wear my K-State purple.

Originally founded as Bluemont Central College in 1858, Kansas State University began

● 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.

as an institute of higher education serving 29 students from working class and farm families in the Kansas Territory. In 1863, during the Civil War, Bluemont College became the Kansas State Agriculture College, the first land grant university under President Lincoln's Morrill Act, and was only the second public institution of higher education to admit men and women equally.

Today, more than 24,000 students from all 50 states and more than 90 countries around the world study at one of Kansas State's three locations: the main campus in Manhattan, better known as the Little Apple; the College of Technology and Aviation in Salina; and the new state-of-the-art Olathe campus, which is currently preparing graduate students in the innovative fields of bioscience and biotechnology.

Kansas State University is among the top 75 public universities, and offers more than 250 undergraduate majors, 65 master's degrees, 45 doctoral degrees and 22 graduate certificates in multiple disciplines. The university ranks first nationally among state universities in Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, and Udall scholars with 135 recipients, and the Kansas State University College of Engineering was recently named one of the best undergraduate engineering programs in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Kansas State has a wonderfully supportive community, better known as the K-State family, and it is serious business. Let me give you an example. Six years ago, students created the K-State Proud campaign. Driven by the idea of how a family takes care of one another, the Proud campaign established a culture of philanthropy and to date has raised more than half a million dollars to fund 300 scholarships for students who are struggling financially due to challenges from health issues, natural disasters, or family tragedy. This is in addition to the \$200 million in scholarships, grants, loans and work study Kansas State distributes each year.

With 16 men's and women's athletic programs, more than 475 student organizations, and more than 20 club sports, cultivating a positive and encouraging sense of student life is a high priority. The Princeton Review recently ranked Kansas State as second in the nation for excellent campus and community relations and No. 14 for quality of life.

If you ask anyone what they remember most about their time at Kansas State University, they will tell you without a doubt, it is the people. It is where they met their best friends, their husbands or wives, and it is where they hope their children choose to attend.

Graduates of Kansas State University have gone on to do many great things for this country, and I am not only referring to those who entered public service as a member of the House, Senate, or even the Kansas governor. Notable Kansas State alums include: presidents of colleges and universities; chairmen and CEOs of major companies, Olympic gold medalists, Emmy Award winners, as well as the creator of the snooze alarm, and the inventor of the Space Pen.

On this historic anniversary, it is my honor to recognize my alma mater, Kansas State University, on 150 years of excellence. I can only image the remarkable things the future holds for Kansas State and the talented individuals it will educate and inspire. Congratulations.

BARBARA J. WRIGHT

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

BARBARA WRIGHT, WORKERS RIGHTS CENTER,
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

My name is Barbara J. Wright, and I am a resident of Madison, Wisconsin. I have been married twice in my life, both times to husbands who were born in other countries. I have two children from my first marriage. Cesar Gabriel Moran, 39, is a firmware engineer in St. Paul Minnesota and Nickolas James Moran is a jazz musician here in Madison.

On July 27th, 1972, I married Cesar Edmundo Moran in Magdalena del Mar, Lima Peru. I was 19 years old and he was 18. We were married for 25 years. He had been studying in Platteville, Wisconsin at the University of Platteville. When we left the country to travel to Peru (we hitch-hiked there!), he lost his student visa. After we married in Peru, I returned to the US and filed for him to get a permanent resident visa (a green card). He had to stay in Peru until it arrived. I sent the form to the INS along with \$25 dollars, both of our birth certificates, our marriage license, and a letter from the police to say we had committed no crimes. In a month he was able to pick up his permission to travel and his green card at the American Embassy in Lima and return to the US, so we could both go to college.

My marriage to Cesar ended in 1998 although it was a few years till we were legally divorced. In 2004, I married Youssef Amraoui, from Morocco. We were married in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 6th, 2004. This time getting Youssef permanent residence status took more than 5 years. Between the legal fees to file all of the petitions and to pay the immigration lawyer, Irene Wren at Wren and Gateways Law Group, it cost almost \$12,000. Luckily, Youssef had filed for a waiver by himself with no lawyer, so that he did not have to leave the country while he waited for his case to be determined. Imagine getting married and having your new husband have to go back to his country and wait five years to see each other again.

Because the INS was now under the wing of Homeland Security, there were many additional steps which meant additional delays. When I asked Irene why things were taking so long she said that there was a huge backlog of cases, between 4 and 6 years of cases. She said Homeland Security insisted that each case be reviewed by the FBI and since it was not a criminal case, it gathered dust in someone's inbox for a long time.

One time, Homeland Security called and demanded that Youssef come to Milwaukee alone to be "interviewed". We were waiting for a formal interview in Milwaukee that is now a part of the process, but this was not it. The man who called tried to intimidate me when I said that Youssef was not coming alone. I said that either I or the immigration attorney would go with him (I was petrified of his being taken into custody or forcibly removed or never hearing from him again). This man tried to convince me that Youssef could be a "sleeper agent", and they needed to interview him. Because I owned a restaurant and could not leave, I sent the attorney with him. Youssef said they kept him in a room that had shackles but did not shackle him. Irene said this was a scare tactic because Moroccans and other Muslims were all suspects because of the attack on 9/11. They

just wanted to see if he would come or he would run. That was a horrible day.

It seemed like every time we would reach the end of the process there would be more forms to fill out, more fees to pay, and more of an indefinite wait. At one point in the process, the fees were doubled. We paid the majority of our discretionary income to this process. Youssef's parents were old, and he lived in fear that they would die before he was able to go and see them. You have to have permission to leave the country once the papers are filed. If you leave without permission, you cannot come back.

I know many people here who are undocumented. The press has been talking a lot about a "path to citizenship". I think very few of the people saying this have any idea what is really involved. Because of the high fees of immigration attorneys, the many steps of the process and the time involved, many will have a hard time coming up with the money for this process.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE GREEN BROS. PHARMACY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Green Bros. Pharmacy in Stockton, CA, which closed its doors in 2012 after 82 years of business. The Green Bros. Pharmacy was one of Stockton's last remaining independent pharmacies.

This pharmacy, operated by Charlie Green, opened 82 years ago in downtown Stockton, and has served thousands of people throughout the area. Mr. Green has been a tremendous advocate on behalf of pharmacies and patients for decades. He served as president of the San Joaquin Pharmacists Association, the California Pharmacists Association, and the American Pharmacists Association, drawing on his firsthand experience about the needs of independent pharmacists and patients in San Joaquin County and across the country. Mr. Green worked tirelessly to improve our health care system. In addition, Mr. Green taught at the University of Pacific in the Pharmacy Department, educating and mentoring young students. I've had the pleasure of meeting with these students when they visit our nation's capital each year and know their dedication and commitment to our community. I know that Mr. Green played a part in their development as professionals. In recognition of his dedication, work ethic, and exemplary work, Mr. Green was presented with the Daniel B. Smith Excellence Award.

Independent pharmacies are essential to our communities, and businesses like Green Bros. have been a staple of neighborhoods across the country because of their personalized service, affordable prices, and ability to help patients.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of Green Bros. Pharmacy to San Joaquin County, as well as other independent pharmacies across the country.

HONORING KYLE ALLEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Allen. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kyle has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Allen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
NICOLE A. VILLARUZ**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nicole A. Villaruz, who has served as a valued member of my staff for the past eight years. Nicole joined my staff during my first term in Congress and has since become my District Director. This month, Nicole will be leaving my staff to work for California State Senator Michael Rubio in Bakersfield, California. Nicole's years of service to the people of Central California in the 16th and 20th Congressional Districts, spanning from Kern County to Merced County, deserve to be commended. Her character truly exemplifies the spirit of the San Joaquin Valley. Her strong work ethic, coupled with her positive attitude and zest for life make her true champion for the people of Central California. It is only fitting and proper that she be recognized by my colleagues in Congress.

Nicole has a long history of community service and involvement. While attending Delano High School in Delano, California, Nicole was a member of the Key Club, the National Honor Society, and was a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Federation. Along with her academic pursuits, Nicole was also a member of the ASB Senate and was head cheerleader during her senior year. In 1996, Nicole was named Delano's Junior Miss for the Class of 1997. She went on to California's Junior Miss, where she received top ten honors. In 1997, she earned the Good Citizens Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Clearly, her many endeavors during her teenage years served as an indicator for her commitment to service and leadership.

Upon graduating from Delano High School in 1997, Nicole attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the largest public university in the UC system, and one of the most prestigious. Nicole was a member of

Alpha Phi Sorority, where she held a number of leadership positions. She graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

In 2001, Nicole was named Miss Kern County with a platform promoting civic virtue. Shortly thereafter, Nicole joined my staff in Bakersfield, California as a District Representative. Nicole's passion has always been helping others. As a District Representative, Nicole met with a number of constituents and organizations, often recognizing their needs and working hard to resolve their problems—whether it meant cutting through red tape when dealing with federal agencies, or leading constituents to the correct branch of government.

Nicole became my District Director in 2011 and she relocated to my Fresno district office. Her years of expertise and knowledge were essential in guaranteeing the success of my District offices. Nicole served as a mentor to many members of my staff—her guidance often helping them reach their full potential and ultimately ensured the well-being of our constituents.

Nicole's work and service has been recognized by many organizations. Most recently, she was honored by the Delano Chamber of Commerce with their Hazel Boone Award for her superior service. She currently volunteers for Distinguished Young Women of California (formerly California's Junior Miss) and serves as a choreographer/dance instructor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I recognize Ms. Villaruz today for her many contributions to my Congressional offices in Fresno and Bakersfield. It has truly been an honor to watch her grow professionally. She is an exceptional leader and will undoubtedly continue to do great things for our Valley.

HONORING DR. MARVIN E.
ROBINSON**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Marvin E. Robinson in business leadership and community service.

Dr. Robinson received his undergraduate degree at Southern University, where he served as president of the student body and found great success in his athletic pursuits as the co-captain of the Jaguar Tracksters. He began his career with the Congress of Racial Equality, first working as Field Secretary and then serving as Southern Regional Director during the early 1960s. Dr. Robinson earned his juris doctor from Howard University School of Law in 1968.

Continuing his work for racial equality, Dr. Robinson assisted in the development of a high school specializing in business and management during the height of desegregation of the school system. As the first director of this school, he oversaw a student body of 1,500 youth.

Dr. Robinson's entrepreneurial spirit soon drew him to the Xerox Corporation, where he was responsible for the operations, telecommunications, and planning for Xerox's Office Products Division facilities across the na-

tion. Based on his success in this position, Dr. Robinson became Assistant to the President of Community Affairs at Xerox, responsible for the creation and implementation of a community involvement program. This program established Xerox as an excellent corporate citizen in Dallas.

Dr. Robinson moved on from Xerox in 1985 to purchase a Burger King Franchise. With his business acumen, he was able to increase the restaurant's gross income by over \$150,000 in just one year.

In 1988, Dr. Robinson was named the President and CEO of Accommodations, Inc., a concession management company. He purchased the company and became its sole owner in 1995.

Dr. Robinson is a pillar of the Dallas community not only because of his leadership in business, but also because of his community service. Dr. Robinson has been involved in the Dallas County Salvation Army, the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, the Advisory Council for Technical Vocational Education, and Dallas Dash with the Disabled, among many other local organizations. As a patron of the arts, Dr. Robinson served as the Board President of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre for twenty years. In 2007, Dr. Robinson received the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence in Community Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the significant contributions that Dr. Robinson has made to the Dallas community. As a business and community leader for decades, he has worked hard to change Dallas for the better.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
INDIANOLA**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Indianola, Iowa, for earning the Connected program's Connected certification. Indianola is the first community in the state of Iowa and the third in the country to garner this technology designation.

The Connected certification is a title applied to communities that display top-tier proficiency in the access and utilization of broadband-supported technologies. This coveted certification is awarded by Connected Nation and its subsidiary Connect Iowa, who advocate for broadband access on the state and national levels.

The City of Indianola is one of more than 30 communities across Iowa actively participating in the Connected program, and the first to become formally certified. Indianola has a team in place that has developed a comprehensive plan to increase broadband access by assessing the broadband landscape, identifying gaps, and establishing manageable goals. Attaining the Connected certification adds to the long list of desirable attributes that make Indianola such a great place to raise a family or grow a business.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the City of Indianola for its commitment to embracing and efficiently utilizing technology for the benefit of its residents and businesses. It is a great honor to represent the citizens of Indianola,

and all of Warren County, in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating the City of Indianola in being selected to receive this certification, and I wish the city and its people continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
JONATHAN TATE, SR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., as he celebrates 50 years as pastor of The Anointed Temple Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God in Gulfport, Mississippi.

He began his work with the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God as an elder, and soon emerged as the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas District Overseer. After many years of dedication and commitment, he now serves as the Mississippi, Louisiana & Texas Diocese Bishop under Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God Presiding Prelate, Bishop G.W. Ayers.

Bishop Tate has served his Church and community in the highest regard and during that time has received numerous honors from local and national organizations, ranging from the NAACP to the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. A scholar, he holds the degree of Master of Theology in Biblical Studies and is a Certified Counselor. Bishop Tate has been married for 56 years to Reverend Mother Shirley Tate, who has faithfully worked alongside him. They are the parents of seven children, seventeen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A notable spiritual leader in the South Mississippi, I am proud today to acknowledge Bishop Tate, Sr., and his many accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., and congratulate him on 50 years as pastor.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF MIKE HIGGINS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Michael R. "Mike" Higgins, a member of professional staff with the House Committee on Armed Services, for his retirement from his dedicated service in the House of Representatives, for safeguarding America families by promoting a strong national defense.

Mike has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. His career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion.

I have had the pleasure of working with him throughout my 12-year tenure in Congress and I know firsthand of his professionalism. He has brought a variety of skills to his role

with the committee, including a bright intellect, a strong work ethic, and a deeply felt commitment to serve the United States and the service men and women of our United States military. He is truly an asset to the committee and will be sorely missed when he retires in February 2013.

Mike is a military personnel policy expert and it is no accident that people have been at the center of his professional life. His empathy for the needs of the people he serves and commitment to respond to those needs is evident in all that he does. As part of the committee staff, Mike has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of military members and their families. His record and reputation will remain vibrant long after his departure.

As Mike embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, and may his life be filled with health and happiness.

HONORING MAXIMILIAN E.
GALLEGOS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Maximilian E. Gallegos. Maximilian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Maximilian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Maximilian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Maximilian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Maximilian E. Gallegos for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BILL BARRS AS THE
2013 DODGE COUNTY ROTARY
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Bill Barrs as this year's 2013 Dodge County Rotary Farmer of the Year. It is certainly an honor that he richly deserves for his role in Georgia's agricultural community.

A native of Laurens County, Bill attended Abraham Baldwin College where he majored in plant science. After graduation, he worked

with the Griffin Warehouse until he began his farming operation in 2003. Since then, his farming operation has grown to 800 acres with cotton and peanuts as his primary row crops—two vital products of Georgia agriculture industry. He also cuts and sells quality hay from more than 150 acres of grassland. Married with two children, Bill and his family are active members of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of the great people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing Bill for his service to our community and our State.

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH INTO
THE EFFECTS OF CONTAMINATION
ON REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of federally supported women's health research; especially reproductive health research in regions of the country that have high contamination such as Superfund sites.

The reproductive health effects of environmental toxins can have significant ramifications for bone, cardiovascular, neurological, and sexual health, resulting in serious health conditions such as osteoporosis, heart attack, and stroke. In the state of Illinois, we currently have 70 Superfund sites that could pose a health threat to nearby communities. While the Federal Government supports a strong portfolio of research into the health implications of exposure to chemicals at these sites, there is a noticeable lack of reproductive health research in this area. It is essential that Congress supports this important area of research.

Northwestern University is developing one of the first major studies on the impact of Superfund contaminants on our reproductive health. The study will examine the reproductive health impacts of exposure to metals including zinc and lead that are present near a former zinc smelter site on the Illinois River near the Village of DePue, Illinois. The site is one of over 30 similar zinc and lead smelter sites across the country, so understanding the health impacts at DePue will help determine best practices for future disposal of those toxic chemicals.

Northwestern has also spearheaded an effort to update the scientific guidelines that the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, uses to determine the threat of environmental toxins to our reproductive health. The Guidelines for Reproductive Toxicity Risk Assessment have not been reviewed or revised since 1996. I strongly support their effort to ensure that the scientific guidelines adequately account for the reproductive health threats posed by toxins to both sexes and across the lifespan. This will help ensure that the EPA has the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific guidance to assess the risks of chemicals in our environment on our reproductive health.

The environmental effects of toxins threaten the health of more than 10 percent of men, women, and children. It is critical that we increase support for research into the reproductive health implications of different environmental exposures.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL MELVIN SPIESE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of Major General (MajGen) Melvin Spiese on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Marine Corps. I commend MajGen Spiese's career and offer my sincerest thanks for his more than 36 years of dedicated service in protecting our nation.

In 1976, MajGen Spiese was commissioned via the NROTC program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and he began his long and successful career in the United States Marine Corps as a rifle platoon commander with 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.

Nearly four decades later, MajGen Spiese retires now from his post as both Deputy Commanding General of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) and Commanding General (CG) of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB).

As Deputy CG of I MEF, MajGen Spiese oversaw the daily activities of 57,000 Marines and Sailors, the largest warfighting organization in the Marine Corps. From the moment he became Deputy CG, he provided critical direction to the staff and allowed the CG of I MEF to successfully focus on his concurrent duties as Commander, Marine Forces Central Command.

Simultaneously, as the CG of 1st MEB, MajGen Spiese successfully transformed the organization from concept to an operational, warfighting organization. MajGen Spiese developed establishing orders and planning documents that were firsts of their kind for Marine Expeditionary Brigades, pushed his staff to 48-month planning cycles rather than the standard 12 months, and integrated 1st MEB into major Marine Corps, Navy, and international training events such as JAVELIN THRUST with Marine Forces Reserve units, DAWN BLITZ with the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group Three and THIRD Fleet, and IRON FIST with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

Through the development of the MEB Order, MEB Training Continuum, Capstone Document, and yearly I MEF Campaign Plans he leaves an established path for future Marine leaders to follow.

I offer MajGen Spiese my warmest congratulations and hope that he enjoys a rich and rewarding retirement with his wife Filomena and their children D'arcy, Lindsey and MG and their grandchildren Lucy and Christian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the career of MajGen Melvin Spiese.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HALT INDEX TRADING OF ENERGY COMMODITIES OR HITEC ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Halt Index Trading of Energy Commodities, or HITEC, Act. I am reintroducing this bill, which was H.R. 5186 in the previous Congress, with Representative DELAURO because urgent action is still needed to protect our nation's oil and refined product commodities markets from artificial and excessive levels of volatility caused by the trading practices of certain Wall Street traders. Since 1991, Wall Street investment banks such as Goldman Sachs have created and marketed a new financial product known as commodity index funds, which are really energy speculation funds, gasoline gambles. These energy speculation funds track the financial performance of one or more commodities. If a speculation fund has an investment in oil and the value of oil goes up, then the value of the fund goes up; if the value of oil goes down, the value of the speculation fund goes down.

These investments have had an adverse effect on the operation of the markets for the commodities that comprise the funds. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been invested in various energy speculation funds, artificially inflating the prices of our commodities. While these energy speculation funds may be driving up prices for many different commodities, they are having an especially pernicious effect on energy commodities. According to testimony submitted to the House Natural Resources Committee, excessive speculation added nearly \$1.00 to the per gallon price of gasoline last spring, and energy speculation funds appear to have been largely responsible. Due to the activities of these energy speculation funds, Wall Street investment banks have profited by introducing new and unprecedented levels of volatility and speculation into oil and refined product markets.

Energy speculation funds have changed the very nature of our commodities markets. Traditionally, the commodities market was dominated by companies who actually used the commodities to hedge the business risk associated with oil or refined products prices. Large oil, gasoline, diesel or jet fuel consumers such as airlines, trucking firms, and shipping services were the largest participants in these markets. Indeed, in 1996, companies who actually bought oil on the commodities market so they could use it owned 93% of the oil futures or derivatives in that market. Now, however, these companies only own 37% of the oil futures or derivatives in that market. The bulk of the remaining 63% is owned by speculators who have invested in these energy speculation funds, none of whom will actually use any of the oil or natural gas in which they have invested.

Given how much these energy speculation funds have hurt consumers and business, one might at least think that these energy speculation funds are good investment vehicles. Yet, all evidence is that they have provided mediocre returns in recent years. According to the Wall Street Journal, Standard and Poor's popular GSCI index provided just .08% in annual

returns in 2012, far below the returns of the S&P 500. Worse, in 2011, the returns from the GSCI were actually negative. Unsurprisingly, institutional investors like pension funds are moving away from investing in energy speculation funds: Not only do they hurt average Americans and business, but they do not even provide excellent returns for their investors. In truth, the only group of people who seem to be benefiting from the existence of these funds is Wall Street.

Despite only being 22 years old, energy speculation funds have already had a profound impact on our country. They have increased the size of our commodities market. They have increased the volatility of our commodities prices. They have hurt consumers' wallets and small businesses by making them pay more at the pump. They have slowed the growth of our economy by requiring that we devote even more money to energy instead of creating new jobs. They do all these things, and they do not even provide much benefit to their own investors. These energy speculation funds are a danger to our economy, our financial system, and the average American's wallet.

The HITEC Act will restore order to our energy commodity markets and end this experiment. The bill will ban all new investment in energy commodities like light sweet crude oil, natural gas, heating oil, and gasoline by these commodity index funds from the date of enactment. The day the President signs this bill, energy speculation funds will not be allowed to grow any more if they count speculators among their investors. Existing energy speculation funds that continue to count speculators among their investors will then have two years to wind down their investments. As the average length of a "spot" commodity contract is one year, this should allow energy speculation funds that continue to house speculators more than enough time to wind down their investments in a fair and orderly fashion.

This bill does not prohibit energy speculation funds from investing in agricultural commodities like wheat or corn, nor does it prohibit those funds from investing in metals such as gold. The bill also does not implicate trading of electricity in any way, shape, or form. Instead, this bill just prohibits energy speculation funds from interfering with our energy commodities, a market that determines the prices for the fuels that power our economy.

This bill will end an unnecessary and harmful source of excessive price volatility that has only served to benefit Wall Street traders and has harmed our economy by pumping up oil, gasoline, and other refined product prices. Enactment of this legislation will address one major source of the pain American consumers have recently been feeling at the pump, and I once again urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor this critical legislation.

HONORING SHILO G. OSBORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shilo G. Osborn. Shilo is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and

leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shilo has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Shilo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Shilo has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shilo G. Osborn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRIUMPH OF
AGRICULTURE EXPOSITION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the Midwest's premier indoor farm events, the 47th Annual Triumph of Agriculture Exposition.

The 47th Annual Triumph of Agriculture Exposition, or Ag Expo, will be held this coming March 6 and 7 at the CenturyLink Center in neighboring Omaha, Nebraska—mere miles from Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Triumph of Ag Expo is regarded as one of the country's largest indoor short-line farm machinery shows and remains the ideal opportunity to see new short-line farm equipment, products, and techniques under one roof.

Mr. Speaker, the work ethic of Iowa's farmers and the value that it provides to our nation cannot be overstated. It is a great honor to represent fine farmers and farming communities in the state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I commend the efforts of the Mid-America Farm and Ranch Machinery Council for sponsoring this year's Ag Expo, and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing all of our farmers a successful and plentiful harvest in 2013.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAMELA
GREEN-JACKSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Pamela Green-Jackson, Founder and CEO of the Youth Becoming Healthy Project (YBH), on being named a recipient of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal by President Barack Obama. Ms. Green-Jackson, along with the other medal recipients, will be honored at an event at the White House in Washington, DC on Friday, February 15, 2013.

An Albany, Georgia native, Ms. Green-Jackson serves as Public Affairs and Community Relations Specialist at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, a role she performs exceptionally well. She attended Albany State University and graduated from LaGrange Col-

lege with a degree in Organizational Leadership. She also earned a Master of Science in Management degree from Troy University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University.

After watching her only brother, Bernard, suffer from obesity-related illnesses that led to his death at the young age of 43, Ms. Green-Jackson founded Youth Becoming Healthy (YBH), a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing childhood obesity and helping young people develop healthy lifestyles through nutrition, fitness education and physical activity programs.

With obesity being the second leading cause of preventable death and the number one health threat in the U.S., Ms. Green-Jackson took it upon herself to lead the effort in implementing changes in schools and in policy to prevent children from suffering like her brother did. She has worked with school food service managers to promote healthier school lunches and vending machine contents as well as to implement safe physical activity programs. Expanding to the surrounding community, Ms. Green-Jackson spearheaded the Albany Savannah Family Wellness Challenge, which aims to engage the entire community in making healthy lifestyle and behavioral choices by creating a family and community support system.

Established in 1969, the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Nation's second-highest civilian honor, recognizes American citizens who have performed meritorious deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens. The President calls on members of the public to nominate people in their lives who have demonstrated commitment to service within the community, who have helped their country or fellow citizens through an extraordinary act, whose service relates to a long-term or persistent problem, and whose service has had an impact on others' lives. Ms. Green-Jackson was named as a 2012 Citizens Medal recipient because of her work in schools and the community to combat obesity in youth and promote healthy lifestyle patterns that will serve them now and into the future.

Prior to receiving this prestigious honor, Ms. Green-Jackson was also named a 2009 CNN Hero for superior leadership, community service, and being an excellent role model and mentor. She was also recognized as the Department of Defense's 2010 Women's History Month STEM Winner for the Marine Corps and has been awarded the King Dream Award and the Congressional Black Caucus Leadership & Unsung Hero Award, among many others.

In addition to her work at MCLB and YHB, Ms. Green-Jackson is also active in numerous community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and Legislative Affairs Committees, UGA Extension Advisory Council, Liberty House, and the Southwest Georgia Rural Health Collaborative.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Pamela Green-Jackson for her outstanding service to her community and her country. She is a dear friend and longtime supporter of mine and I know this award is well-deserved for she performs her numerous roles with humility, empathy and refinement. I commend Ms. Green-Jackson for her commitment to this worthy cause and her procurement of this esteemed and well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH AND JULIEANNA OGLE—RECIPIENTS OF THE TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU'S 2012 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Josh and Julieanna Ogle, two outstanding citizens of our community and a respected couple in the field of agriculture.

Josh and Julieanna were recently awarded the Tennessee Farm Bureau's 2012 Outstanding Young Farmer Achievement Award and the 2012 Environmental Stewardship Award, for their strong commitment to strengthening Tennessee's agricultural industry.

Both Josh and Julieanna grew up on family farms and attended Motlow State Community College. They have been married for 14 years and have three young children, Levi, Abi and Travis. The Ogles have continued the tradition of farm and family by partnering with Josh's parents at D&J River Farms. It is here that their agricultural achievements are translated into produce, growing roughly 4600 acres of cotton, corn, soybeans and wheat.

The Ogle's success is the product of hard work, an exceptional level of dedication and a respect for others that is unparalleled. Josh and Julieanna come from the old school line of thought that "it is better to give than receive." As such, they have volunteered untold hours at their local church and at cancer support fundraisers across the state of Tennessee.

While being highly-respected farmers, as well as a wonderful husband and wife, father and mother, the Ogles have still found time to impart their knowledge to farming's next generation by volunteering to speak to students of the Future Farmers of America organization.

Mr. Speaker, their work as mentors to young farmers is good news for Lincoln County as well as the entire state of Tennessee. If you think about all that the Ogles have been able to accomplish in their community and their industry, just think what will be achieved by future generations whose lives have been impacted by the Ogles.

On behalf of the people of Lincoln County, as well as Tennessee's entire Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate Josh and Julieanna Ogle as the 2012 recipients of the Tennessee Farm Bureau's achievement and environmental stewardship awards and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING MAINE WARDEN
GREGORY "GREGG" SANBORN

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember an exemplary individual and member of the Maine Warden Service whom we lost much too early in life.

Raised in Fryeburg, Major Gregory "Gregg" Sanborn rose through the ranks over 20 years to become second in command of the Maine Warden Service. For those who don't know, wearing the badge of a Maine Game Warden has to be one of the toughest jobs in the world. These highly trained law enforcement officers are responsible for patrolling miles of remote lands with little or no back up. A day on the job could require anything from braving extreme elements and rugged territory in search of lost hikers to catching and arresting well-armed poachers. Whether we hike, hunt or fish in the Maine woods, we all owe them a debt of gratitude for working so hard to protect our natural resources and keep us safe.

Being a Maine Game Warden was Sanborn's dream job and, throughout his career, he proved exemplary at it. As his colleagues eulogized at his memorial service, he earned the respect of all he came in contact with. On search-and-rescue missions, he wouldn't go home until the party was found. He would drive through the middle of the night and across the state to aid a fellow warden.

And few—if any—could break the law with him on the job. He issued more summons and warnings than any warden before him. Yet his fairness, calm demeanor and evenhandedness earned him the respect even of those he penalized. In his career, no one ever filed a complaint against him.

Sanborn also proved to be an effective leader and administrator. As Major, he strengthened the Maine Warden Service in the face of budget cuts while tightening recruiting standards to ensure that only the most qualified and passionate men and women were hired.

It goes without saying that Sanborn fought cancer bravely and honorably. As he said shortly before his death, "I lost, but I did not quit."

The loss is ours and his death at the age of 47 is tragic. Few Mainers will ever be missed by more. Over a thousand people attended his memorial service, and over a thousand people participated in a stem-cell drive in hopes of finding a match for his transplant.

I have no doubt the Maine Warden Service will carry on Sanborn's spirit and continue to do our state proud. But he was indeed a very special person whose loss will be felt for a long, long time. My thoughts go out to his wife and son, his family, and his brothers and sisters in the Maine Warden Service. I am truly grateful that our state had the privilege of benefiting from such a capable, committed, and good-hearted public servant.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL OF
FORD MOTOR COMPANY MANU-
FACTURING IN LOUISVILLE, KY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, the Ford Motor Company began assembling automobiles in a small facility at 931 South Third Street in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. There, 17 employees built as many as 12 Model Ts a day.

A century later, Ford remains an integral part of the economic, social, and cultural heritage of Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Between the recently retooled Louisville Assembly Plant and the Kentucky Truck Plant, Ford now employs more than 8,500 people in Louisville, where it continues to innovate and expand. On the road to that success, Ford and the River City have passed countless milestones together.

It was generations ago in Louisville when Ford began using the new automotive integrated assembly line, changing the old manner of building one car at a time and beginning a new era of industrial progress and growth.

It was in Louisville where one of the largest auto-worker union Locals in the nation, Local 862, was chartered on June 23, 1941, as the first United Auto Workers—Committee for Industrial Organization Local in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To this day, Ford and UAW maintain a strong relationship that has been critical to its success.

It was in Louisville where a revitalized Ford met the postwar economic boom with the debut and production of the 1949 Ford, the first vehicle integration of body and fenders, which would set the standard for auto design in the future.

It was in Louisville where Ford built the South's biggest manufacturing facility under one roof, and then built a bigger one in 1955—the one-million-square-foot Assembly Plant at 2000 Fern Valley Road—and, again, in 1969, built the largest truck plant in the world, the Kentucky Truck Plant on Chamberlain Lane.

And it was in Louisville where, facing a changing economy and an uncertain future for American manufacturing, I worked closely with Ford leadership and then-Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI to secure federal investments that would enable Ford to retool the Louisville Assembly Plant, hire more than 3,000 new workers, and begin making the vehicles of the future.

Today, the Louisville Assembly Plant is the largest Ford facility in North America, employing nearly 4,800 people who are producing a 2013 Escape every 44 seconds—faster and more efficiently than any other in Ford's history. The company supports tens of thousands of jobs throughout our region, helping strengthen Louisville families and our entire economic community. And in Louisville, we have shown the nation that the best days of American manufacturing haven't passed us by—they are signposts on the road ahead.

Mr. Speaker, as Ford Motor Company moves into the next 100 years of manufacturing in Louisville, I am confident they will continue to build on their impressive legacy, sustain our highly skilled Ford-UAW Louisville workforce, and work with leaders throughout our community to continue building innovative, world-class, high-quality vehicles for generations to come.

Congratulations to John Savona, Plant Manager of the Louisville Assembly Plant; Joe Bobnar, Plant Manager of the Kentucky Truck Plant; Steve Stone, Louisville Assembly Plant Building Chairman for the UAW-Local 862; Scott Eskridge, Kentucky Truck Plant Building Chairman for the UAW-Local 862; Todd Dunn,

President of the UAW-Local 862; and to all the employees and retirees of Ford Motor Company on 100 years of success in Louisville.

HONORING ZACHARY CULL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Cull. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zachary has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Cull for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET HEINTZ

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Margaret Heintz, a long time member of the Governing Board of EightCAP, Inc. Margret recently retired from her position at the age of 93—leaving as a highly respected and beloved figure within the community.

Her many years of involvement with EightCAP provided a vast array of community services to many in-need individuals contributing to programs like Head Start, and Michigan Works, as well as assisting as a senior companion, promoting charter school funding, and providing weatherization programs for low-income home renters.

Margaret has served on the EightCAP board for over 30 years, providing thorough oversight and a vast array of experience to the agency's many causes. During her tenure, she assisted in overseeing more than \$330,000,000 in State, Local, and Federal funding to state programs. These programs provided beneficial services to Ionia, Montcalm, Gratiot, and Isabella counties.

Margaret recently stated that her reason for retirement was to attend more to her large family of 8 children, 28 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren—further exemplifying her everlasting desire to give to others. On a personal level, Margaret has been a friend and an acquaintance of mine for over 50 years.

On behalf of the Fourth District of Michigan, I congratulate Margaret Heintz upon her retirement and thank her for her service to the people of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MICHAEL
CRAIN

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman KEN CALVERT, to ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring and remembering Officer Michael Crain of the Riverside Police Department, who died in service of our community.

Born in Anaheim, California, Officer Crain was raised in the Riverside area. After attending Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa for a year, Michael joined the United States Marine Corps as a rifleman in the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Battalion 1st Marines. He served two deployments in Kuwait and was promoted from Squad Leader to Sergeant. He was then stationed in Camp Pendleton where he taught Military Operations in Urban Terrain. For his brave service, Michael was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one star, a Certificate of Commendation, and the Rifle Marksmanship Badge.

After his honorable discharge, Crain attended the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy and, upon graduating, joined the Riverside Police Department, where he served our community for 11 years.

On February 7, 2013, Officer Crain was fatally shot in an apparent ambush by former LAPD Officer Christopher Dörner while he was on routine patrol and parked at a stoplight with a trainee officer. It is disheartening that a man who fought bravely for our country overseas has lost his life in such a senseless act of violence in his own community.

Officer Crain is survived by his wife Regina, ten-year-old son Ian and four-year-old daughter Kaitlyn. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends and urge our community, and the entire nation, to forever remember Officer Michael Crain.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on February 14, 2013, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 42.

A TRIBUTE TO MONTROSE'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the community of Montrose, California upon its 100th Anniversary. For over a century, this extraordinary community has grown and thrived as the center of local commerce for residents of the Crescenta-Canada Valley.

Montrose, literally meaning "pink mountain" in French, was named by French sailors enamored with the beautiful pink mountains that they could see from sea. The area was first inhabited by the Gabrielino-Tongva Indians and later settled by Don Jose Maria Verdugo who was awarded the land by the Spanish Crown. In 1913, the Holmes Watson real estate agency hosted an enormous barbeque to promote the new town of Montrose with the intention of garnering interest in the 300 acres of land available for auction. This is when the subdivision of Montrose took place. For the past century, Montrose has prospered, overcoming setbacks such as the flood of 1934. Recently, multiple bear sightings in the backyards of residents have brought Montrose to the public's attention.

Montrose Avenue was built as the main business district of the community and touted as the widest road in Los Angeles County. Although this plan never came to fruition, nearby Honolulu Avenue became the economic center of Montrose and in 1967 the Montrose Shopping Park opened. To this day Montrose has flourished with nearly 200 independently owned businesses; some of which include apparel, art, dance studios, restaurants, and bakeries.

Montrose has a diverse population of residents nestled in the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains and within a minute's drive of downtown Los Angeles. Every year, residents enjoy annual events such as the Montrose Christmas Parade, an Arts and Crafts Festival, and ceremonies honoring our veterans.

I am honored to recognize Montrose, with its rich cultural history and flourishing community and ask all Members to join us in congratulating Montrose upon its 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY BAUDLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Bradley Baudler, an 18-year-old 4-H'er of Fontanelle, Iowa, who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community from the 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is our country's largest youth recognition program based entirely on volunteer community service. The program was created in conjunction with Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals to honor middle and high school students for outstanding service to benefit others at the local, state, and national level. Since 1995, more than 345,000 American youths have participated in this excellent program.

Bradley was recently selected as one of Iowa's four distinguished finalists for creating a weeklong camp for 4th and 5th graders. Mr. Baudler's camp, "Brains and Basketball", consists of 14 teen mentors teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) lessons while mixing in basketball drills and techniques. Bradley's goal for the camp is to bolster young students' interest in STEM subjects through the popularity of athletics.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Baudler for his sincere dedication to positively impacting the lives of others in his community and beyond. Bradley's commitment to a cause greater than himself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans both young and old. Our future is bright with young people like Bradley, and it is an honor to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Bradley, thanking his supportive family, and thanking all of those involved in this wonderful project for their life-changing efforts.

HONORING DR. BEVERLY
MITCHELL-BROOKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas. Dr. Mitchell-Brooks, a native born Texan from South Dallas, is the first woman to lead the Dallas Urban League since its founding in 1967.

Dr. Mitchell-Brooks has proudly served as Dallas Urban League President and CEO since 1990, and has helped the Dallas Urban League to achieve its prominence. Under Dr. Mitchell-Brooks' leadership, the Dallas Urban League has grown to serve more than 60,000 clients by providing comprehensive employment training, housing and education services, and specialized ex-offender re-entry programs to low and middle income families throughout Dallas County. The Dallas Urban League has been praised for its remarkable success in implementing these programs, and has been the recipient of numerous federal grants in recognition of their successes.

Dr. Mitchell-Brooks is also widely recognized for her diverse achievements outside of her work with the Dallas Urban League. Dr. Mitchell-Brooks, in her capacity as an environmental specialist for the EPA and the City of Dallas, was charged with analyzing lead contamination in West Dallas, and consequently contributed to the closing of hazardous smelters in that area. She also served as Director of Public Affairs for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit, DART, system, where she expanded access to public transportation for working families by establishing the first crosstown bus route to Oak Cliff.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Mitchell-Brooks deserves great recognition for her endless efforts to empower members of the Dallas community. Dr. Mitchell-Brooks has demonstrated leadership in bringing community-oriented services to Dallas, and in making those services accessible to individuals of all backgrounds. She has devoted her life working to improve the quality of life for countless individuals, and I join with my constituents in expressing my incredible gratitude and appreciation for all that Dr. Mitchell-Brooks has done for Dallas, and the great State of Texas.

NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise awareness of Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders by observing National Marfan Awareness Month.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition affecting roughly 1 in 5,000 Americans. Marfan syndrome impacts the connective tissue throughout the body, which can lead to various health issues. Some of these health issues can be disabling or even fatal. In Marfan patients the largest artery in the body, the aorta, can weaken, enlarge, and rupture. By raising awareness today I seek to promote recognition and early diagnosis of Marfan syndrome so that serious cardiac events can be prevented.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment are the keys to managing Marfan syndrome and living a full life. I am pleased to announce that the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology have released new treatment guidelines for thoracic aortic disease. Since recognition and proper treatment are the major components of preventing the most serious health issues, I call on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to work closely with the Marfan syndrome community to raise awareness of these conditions and the new treatment guidelines.

While there is currently no cure for Marfan syndrome, efforts are underway to enhance our understanding of the condition and improve patient care. I applaud the National Institutes of Health, particularly the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculo skeletal and Skin Diseases for their research efforts in this regard. I encourage NIH to expand research efforts in this area moving forward.

On behalf of the Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders community, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing February as National Marfan Awareness Month.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join millions of people across the nation to celebrate Black History Month. This year's theme, "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington," acknowledges two pivotal impacts on American history.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation to end slavery in the South and to preserve a republic for all people. A century later, hundreds of thousands of people of all backgrounds marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., seeking equality for everyone in America.

It was also where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A

Dream" speech which echoes through the nation even until this day. Both events marked the beginning of endless opportunities for minorities serving as foundations for the structure of public organizations of the 21st century.

Fighting for equality is a constant struggle that requires the efforts of all of us in our time. As we celebrate the 150th year of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March of Washington, we must keep working towards progress by reducing poverty and encouraging higher education in our communities.

I have dedicated my life to promoting equality for all as I continue to remember the racial and social injustices that took place many years ago. I will remain persistent in advocating for progress alongside my fellow Colleagues in Congress.

THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to one of the single most important environmental crises facing our Nation and the global family: the threat of global warming. This past Tuesday, President Obama spoke in this chamber about the necessity of addressing global warming in order to avoid imminent, disastrous consequences.

The science of global warming is clear and empirical: the earth's atmosphere is getting warmer, due to an increase in carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.

As a result, we are experiencing more violent and turbulent storms, longer drought seasons, and dangerous and costly wild fires in our nation's wooded areas and forests. Now is not the time to debate whether global warming is real or not, but to begin bringing together elected officials, the scientific, business, environmental, and NGO communities to come up with a comprehensive and sustainable clean energy road map for America.

I strongly agree with President Obama that Congress must take immediate action to address climate change. America is one of the most technologically advanced, innovative, and wealthiest nations in the history of the world. We already have the scientific expertise and resources needed to reduce our carbon emissions and quickly transition to clean sources of energy that can power our homes, factories, and automobiles.

The good news is that by quickly transitioning away from fossil fuels towards renewable sources of energy, we can create scores of new good paying jobs, while at the same time, reducing the threat of climate change—before it is too late.

There were those who once said that we couldn't increase the fuel efficiency of our vehicles—but we did. They said we couldn't reduce our dependence on coal—but we did. When I was just a child, there were those who said that our nation could not build the Hoover Dam and provide power to millions in the Southwest—but we did. The cries of impossibility are nothing new; I have heard them my whole life. They are just as misguided now, as they were then.

The Earth is getting warmer. Our best scientists having been telling us for decades that we need to address the problem, but we have not paid sufficient attention to them. We are literally at a do or die moment in our history. We've taken important steps to address climate change, but they aren't nearly enough, given the catastrophic implications of continued foot dragging.

America cannot afford storms like Hurricane Katrina or a Hurricane Sandy every year. Our farmers and our family tables cannot afford droughts year after year. Our children and grandchildren cannot afford a New York City flooded by higher sea levels, or a breadbasket that is too scorched to feed the country, or more frequent heat waves that place thousands of low-income and elderly persons in peril.

We must act now to speed up the transition to renewable resources, reduce carbon pollution, and usher in a new era of technological development. Remember—our automotive industry was on the brink of collapse. Yet, thanks to timely government investment and the efforts of our greatest asset—the American worker—we are now manufacturing the best cars in history.

We need to address our transportation concerns in an environmentally friendly way. There should be more electrically augmented automobiles filling America's garages and our roads. We need more Chevy Volts and Ford Energi's coming off the assembly lines in Michigan and other states. Auto emissions need to be even lower. We must invest in clean public transportation systems, such as light rail and electric bus transportation. America can, and should, be the envy of clean energy enthusiasts around the world.

We need to modernize our power grid to leverage wind and solar. Our rivers and tides are resources that we need to utilize. By creating clean energy through these technologies, we can ensure a stable future for our nation. We will ensure that our rivers are full, not dry. We will preserve thousands of miles of coastlines for our next generation. We will keep our farms green, our supermarkets well-stocked, and our families well-fed.

I encourage my fellow members to heed the President's call to action and pass bipartisan reforms that will lead to a future safe from the climate calamities.

HONORING THE WORK OF DR.
SOLOMON GOLOMB

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics at the University of Southern California (USC), Dr. Solomon Golomb. On February 2, 2013, Dr. Golomb was named a National Medal of Science laureate by President Obama for his outstanding contributions to the realm of communications technology. His innovation and dedication to the advancement of science has shaped our ability to communicate via cell phone as well as our ability to communicate in deep space.

Dr. Golomb had an illustrious academic career prior to working at USC. He received a

Ph.D. in Mathematics from Harvard University as well as two honorary doctorate degrees. He was a Fulbright Fellow, and is currently a member of the National Academy of Engineering as well as a Fellow at both the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He has received numerous awards and medals for his work including the USC Presidential Medallion and the Shannon Award of the Information Theory Society of the IEEE.

Dr. Golomb started his career at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he played a key role in formulating the design of deep-space communications for subsequent lunar and planetary explorations. After joining USC as a professor in 1963, he became one of the "Magnificent Seven" founders of the USC Communications Sciences Institute, which has made profound contributions to mathematics and engineering, particularly in interplanetary communications. His efforts have helped to make USC a center for communications research.

Dr. Golomb's contributions have touched our lives in numerous ways. His pioneering work in shift register sequences has extensive military, industrial and consumer applications. Today, millions of cell phones utilize technology based on Golomb's contributions to the field. His mathematical coding schemes made it possible for us to see clear video images from the Mars Rover Curiosity. And he has been referred to as "the godfather of Tetris" for creating polyominoes that inspired the invention of the tile-matching puzzle video game.

USC has long been a center for scientific innovation and I am proud to have such an incredible leader like Dr. Golomb working in California's 37th Congressional District.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY FLAKE, A
JOURNALIST'S JOURNALIST

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a journalist's journalist and a dear friend.

This week, Montgomery County was saddened to read the news about the loss of Nancy Flake, a journalist who cared deeply about our community.

A short, but valiant battle with cancer took Nancy away from us too soon, but I wanted the nation to know more about this amazing woman because I will always appreciate her diligence, her fairness and her obvious love for all things education-related.

William Gordon and Julia Ann Roberts welcomed their daughter, Nancy to this world in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on May 10, 1956. Nancy would continue to love all things 'Sooner' long after becoming a Texan.

She taught herself to read at age 4 and never stopped reading everything she could get her hands on. She loved music and was a self-taught guitar player. Nancy earned her journalism degree at the University of Central

Oklahoma and got to pursue her love of reporting here in Montgomery County where her reporting and columns, earned the respect of public officials like me, our community, Courier readers, and her peers who showered her with numerous awards.

But this passionate reporter was so much more than words on a page, she was a dedicated mother and friend. Mason and Marty can attest to both their mother's protective nature and her intense pride in their accomplishments in high school and now in college. Her friends have too many stories to recount here today of her willingness to listen to any problem, her wise counsel towards solutions and her ability to make them laugh even in the toughest of times.

Just last month, Nancy learned she had cancer and she fought it with the same strength, courage and humor she brought to journalism and has passed down to her sons, who were with her when she left this world to become Heaven's intrepid reporter.

Today, her sons, her father, brother, Bill Roberts Jr., his wife Jayne; her sister, Carol Starrett and husband David; numerous nieces and nephews and a myriad of friends, co-workers and members of the community she touched with her gifts, are saying goodbye at a special memorial service at The Woodlands United Methodist Church.

Booker T. Washington once said "Success in life is founded upon attention to the small things rather than the large things; to the every day things nearest to us rather than to the things that are remote and uncommon." Nancy helped us all understand and appreciate the every day things nearest to us in ways we might not have appreciated without her insight. She cherished the small things with her precious sons and now they will cherish wonderful memories knowing she is in our Lord's loving embrace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DONALD MCKINNEY TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA'S 49TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the exceptional work of Donald McKinney over the course of his 11 year service as a District Representative in my Vista, California office. In that role, Don was my principal representative to the communities of Oceanside, Fallbrook, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and military and veterans throughout the greater San Diego area.

Don's work was exceptional throughout his tenure, and he distinguished himself as a dedicated advocate for the Marines and their family members aboard Camp Pendleton. From housing and medical care, to transportation and infrastructure, Don took up any cause he believed would improve the quality of life for our Marines and dependents.

Shortly after I took office in 2001, we became aware of appalling conditions many Ma-

rine families were living in on base. The housing stock at Pendleton was worn out, some of it dated back as far as World War II, and many dwellings had mold contamination and other unsafe conditions. Don met repeatedly with base officials and over the course of many visits, carefully documented the housing conditions and assembled a binder of facts and photos. He walked miles and miles in the Pentagon halls meeting with any military or civilian leader who had a role in building or maintaining Marine housing. Don made sure that decision makers 2,000 miles away saw the pictures and understood the urgency so that it wouldn't get lost as just another line on a spreadsheet or item in a report. Marines and their families were living in these conditions, and that was unacceptable.

Today, Camp Pendleton provides some of the finest housing available to servicemembers and their dependents. Much of the older family housing has been torn down and replaced and the rest fully renovated. The base now has 29 new Bachelor Enlisted Quarters buildings. Don's advocacy raised awareness within the chain of command and contributed significantly to the improvement of housing quality aboard Camp Pendleton.

Don's work earned him the good-will of the Marine Commanders at Pendleton and he worked to ensure they had strong relationships with local leaders in adjacent communities. This paid dividends most recently when local, state and base officials work collaboratively to improve the flow of traffic at the Fallbrook Gate, reducing wait times to enter the base from 30 minutes to less than one minute. This small project provides a notable improvement in the quality of life for civilian and military personnel who commute to jobs on base each day.

Don facilitated more than 500 hours of negotiations between the Fallbrook Public Utilities District and Camp Pendleton to bring the sides to agreement to settle water rights litigation that has been pending for more than 50 years. A final draft settlement is now awaiting final approval at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Finally, Don was an advocate for improved medical care for autistic military children, working to make sure they have access to the most effective treatments and to raise awareness so they can gain access to the care they need and deserve.

In a last email to his colleagues, Don shared the experiences that were most meaningful over the years. Helping an injured Marine navigate a civilian bureaucracy to get a contractors license and a single mother clear an error by the Justice Department that allowed her to run a daycare center meant the most throughout his years.

Along with these notable achievements, Don did all of the things our aides do on our behalf when Congress is in session and we are away from our districts—countless meetings, appearances at the local Rotary or Chamber of Commerce luncheon, awards presentations and other public appearances.

I extend heartfelt thanks to Donald McKinney for his good work and exceptional service on behalf of the House of Representatives and the constituents of the 49th District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
RETIREMENT OF RUTH SARRO

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Ruth Sarro who is retiring on March 31st.

Mrs. Sarro began her career as a 4-H agent over 30 years ago. Working with the 4-H of Alabama was the fulfillment of her childhood dreams. As a child, Mrs. Sarro enjoyed participating in her local chapter. She competed in local, county, district and even state 4-H contests. Her fond memories led her to pursue opportunities within the 4-H system.

In 1980, she graduated from the University of Montevallo in Alabama and began working in the Bullock County extension office as a 4-H agent. In 1982, Mrs. Sarro transferred to the Calhoun County Extension office in Anniston, Alabama. During her years as a 4-H agent she worked extensively with schools and teachers in Alabama. In fact, she worked with over 22,000 students between 1980 and 2004.

In 2004, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System was restructured, and she became a Regional 4-H agent. She works with 97 volunteers in Calhoun, Cleburne and Randolph counties.

Mrs. Sarro will be remembered for her dedication to the 4-H systems of Alabama. She is a true success story of what dedication to a cause can bring about. Countless students, teachers, volunteers and members of the community have been inspired by her.

Mr. Speaker, we join her family and friends in celebrating Mrs. Sarro's retirement.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARNER ROBINS, GA

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing the city of Warner Robins, Georgia a very happy 70th birthday. It is appropriate at this milestone to reflect and celebrate their rich history and heritage.

From the days when the community was known as York. Growing to the tiny hamlet of Wellston, Warner Robins was born in 1943 with a population of no more than 75 residents. Little more than a train stop, the city became a boom town. From those early slow growing days, none foresaw nor heard the echoes of winged giants which would rever-

berate through their skies with the birth of Robins Air Force Base. Together the city and military community formed a renowned partnership unlike any in our great country.

From World War II to today's global conflicts, the men and women of Robins AFB have been an essential ingredient in our U.S. Air Force's ability to provide airpower for freedom around the world. That spirit of patriotism is reflected in the Warner Robins city motto "Every day in middle Georgia is Armed Forces Appreciation Day"—not just words, but a creed spoken and lived every day in Warner Robins by its government and citizens.

That constant theme throughout the years has been a mainstay of Team Robins. Staying ready when our nation was least ready has been the challenge of Robins to play a critical role in repair and supply, and the city to be work force ready. Warner Robins is proud to be home to a world class U.S. air force installation like Robins Air Force Base.

Likewise, the city's award winning education system and college presence, outstanding athletics and sports facility, renowned museum of aviation, and unique southern hospitality make Warner Robins—known as Georgia's international city—a great place to live, work, play and retire. We extend wishes to all the citizens of Warner Robins for seventy more years of excellence.

HONORING LIBERTY IN BAHRAIN

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, two years ago this month the people of Bahrain began a movement to seek constitutional reforms where power was shared with the people. They took to the streets impassioned by a desire to make sure that government serves the people, not the other way around. They yearned for the fundamental human right of freedom and aspired to have reforms that would grant them constitutional rights and self-governance.

Earlier this week, I met with three human rights defenders from Bahrain and they told me about some of the terrible atrocities that have occurred in their country as a response to the protests. They spoke of repression, harassment, and imprisonment. I fear that these responses not only threaten stability in the region but send a signal of oppressed liberty throughout the world. I was struck by the bravery of these young people and applaud their quest for liberty.

Our Constitution is critically important to us. The Bahraini people do not have that all important safeguard to their freedoms and they understandably want it. As Americans, we should welcome the Bahraini people's self-desire to have constitutional reforms and not take action to hinder it.

While I respect our history with Bahrain and our mutual foreign policy interests in the region, their government's actions over the last two years trouble me. It is my hope that the government of Bahrain takes the steps that they have promised their citizens and move towards the constitutional reforms that are so desperately desired by the people.

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN DECLERCK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Dylan DeClerck, a 17-year-old senior of Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community from the 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is our country's largest youth recognition program based entirely on volunteer community service. The program was created in conjunction with Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals to honor middle and high school students for outstanding service to benefit others at the local, state, and national level. Since 1995, more than 345,000 American youths have participated in this excellent program.

Dylan was recently selected as one of Iowa's four distinguished finalists for creating and organizing a baseball league for young children who could not otherwise afford to play our national pastime. Dylan promoted his league, "Opportunity on Deck", by meeting with local ball club officials for support and sponsorships. Throughout the summer, Mr. DeClerck organized clinic activities and promoted the league through local media. There is no doubt Dylan's selfless efforts brought immeasurable joy and lasting benefits to the young people that participated in Opportunity on Deck.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. DeClerck for his sincere dedication to positively impacting the lives of others in his community. Dylan's commitment to a cause greater than himself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans both young and old. Our future is bright with young people like Dylan, and it is an honor to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dylan, thanking his supportive family, and thanking all of those involved in this wonderful project for their life-changing efforts.