EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's victory at the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

On September 10, 1813, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry led the American Navy into battle against the British Navy. At the beginning of the battle, Perry hoisted his battle flag which read, "Don't Give up the Ship." Commodore Perry along with 557 patriots succeeded with a significant victory which ensured America's control of Lake Erie for the remainder of the war.

200 years later, we are recognizing this battle near Put-In-Bay for securing the Northern Frontier. We gather at Lake Erie to celebrate Commodore Perry's victory, the impact this battle had in the War of 1812, and the long-lasting peace between nations.

We remember that freedom is never free and that many have made the ultimate sacrifice, so that we may enjoy the freedoms our forefathers envisioned. Their service and dedication to country breathes life into the fabric of our nation.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I proudly salute Commodore Perry, the American Navy, and the American people on the Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial Celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CHASE RIBOUD

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Barbara Chase Riboud who is truly a renaissance women. Her talent as a novelist, poet, scholar and artist of the highest order, is recognized around the world. We are happy to claim her as a Philadelphian and are excited about the exhibition of the first comprehensive retrospective of her iconic Malcolm X Steles at the Philadelphia Art Museum. In short, we are deeply honored by her work, accomplishments and presence once again in Philadelphia.

Educated at the Philadelphia High School for Girls', Temple University's Tyler School of Art and the Yale University of Art, she is an internationally acclaimed visual artist whose work has been exhibited throughout Europe and America. Her public sculpture, Africa Rising, at the African Burial Ground National Monument in Lower Manhattan expressed as poetry, sculpture and historical novel is in tribute to the 17th and 18th century burial ground that yielded the remains of more than 400 mostly enslaved Africans in America.

Among her prestigious awards are the Carl Sandburg Prize for Best American Poet and being knighted in the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government. Her talent is only eclipsed by her career long commitment to make known the story of those who came to America, ". . . a stunned string of Black pearls like a hundred year centipede: one thousand. One thousand thousand. one million, three, six, nine, thirty million."

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIBEL P. CHAVEZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Maribel P. Chavez. After committing 31 years to public service with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Mrs. Chavez retires as Fort Worth District Engineer.

During her tenure, Mrs. Chavez has worked collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners to streamline and implement innovative projects in the Fort Worth District. Her oversight of the combined $3 billion DFW Connector and North Tarrant Express projects reflects her ability to manage complex regional highway projects through environmental clearance and construction.

Mrs. Chavez was diligent on smaller projects that were no less complex, but every bit as important to Tarrant County communities. Her cooperative effort with the City of Fort Worth to complete the long-awaited widening of East Rosedale, improvements at the Hwy. 287 and Berry St. interchange, and assistance to facilitate completion of Fort Worth's new Veterans Outpatient Clinic on Interstate 20 underscore her commitment and responsiveness.

Mrs. Chavez's career was also notable as she was the first female engineer hired by TxDOT and the first female TxDOT District Engineer. Additionally, she has been recognized for her many achievements including Woman of the Year by the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, Preservation Leadership Award by Historic Fort Worth, Inc., and by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for her guidance on the DFW Connector Project.

Her invaluable contribution to my annual Transportation Summits will be sincerely missed. It is my privilege to commend Maribel P. Chavez and wish her well in retirement. Her work will stand as a monument to her dedication for years to come.

100 YEARS OF MORONGO BASIN HISTORY; 2009 IN FOCUS

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Morongo Basin. It is the honor of a life time to be able to serve the people of the Eight Congressional District in Washington, D.C. As seen over the course of the Basin's 100 year history, this region maintains a strong sense of community and upholds many noble traditions. Today I am here to talk specifically about Ms. Mara Cantelo and the strong sense of volunteerism she brings to the community.

Over the past 100 years, there have been many shining moments to which we can remember the Basin. The year 2009 comes to mind when I think of its altruistic spirit. It was in 2009 that Mara Cantelo, a Coachella Valley native, received the Jefferson Award from the American Institute of Public Service in recognition of her steadfast and selfless efforts to help those who are less fortunate. Mara has been a paragon of benevolence in her community since 1984 when she co-founded Tender Loving Christmas with her mother Julie Tunstall.

As the name suggests, Tender Loving Christmas was dedicated to giving care and compassion, in the form of food, to those who needed it most in the holiday season. Since then it has grown to become Tender Loving Cause, and has taken to providing for the poor year round. This charitable labor of love has successfully fed nearly 3,500 impoverished people since its inception, and will undoubtedly serve thousands more in the future.

To the people of the Morongo Basin, thank you for including me in your 100 year project. The sense of volunteerism you and Mara bring to your community is admirable and a true beacon of inspiration to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF ORION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Orion, Illinois on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of their Central Park Band Shell.

Orion's Central Park Band Shell is the center piece of their village. It is a place where families and friends gather to enjoy the company of each other, their neighbors, and to take part in various events, including outdoor movies and concerts. It has hosted notable guests including Bill Allred's Jazz Band and Chris Vallillo, a nationally recognized folk singer and historian who proclaimed it one of the finest venues he had ever used.

The Central Park Band Shell has twice been threatened by demolition. It has survived all these years and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which has proved to be the catalyst for a community-wide preservation effort. In 2004, the Orion Band Shell was awarded Illinois' highest preservation honor, the Richard Driehaus Project of the Year Award, by Landmarks Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to recognize the village of Orion on this notable event, and am glad that places like this exist, helping to bring people together.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM A. ''BILL'' CRAIG

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Dr. William A. ''Bill'' Craig and his many accomplishments during his career.

After receiving a bachelors degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University, Dr. Craig began his civil service career in 1960 with Dr. Werhner Von Braun's Astrionics Laboratory before moving to the Army Ballistic Missile Defense Agency in 1970, and then as a charter member to the Army Missile Command's Missile System Software Center when it was established in 1976.

Since 1988, Bill Craig has served as the Director of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Software Engineering Directorate (SED). Through his leadership, the SED, as an organization, attained a Level 4 rating against the Software Engineering Institute's (SEI's) Software Capability Maturity Model in 2000. During Dr. Craig's tenure, the SED has experienced significant growth, greatly expanding its customer base as well as enlarging its facilities. As one of only three Life Cycle Software Engineering Centers in the Army, the SED provides software and systems engineering support for most of the Army's major weapon and aviation systems. Under the leadership of Dr. Craig, the SED organization is the responsible agent for the development and fielding of numerous Army Systems, including: Joint Battle Command-Platform and the Aviation Mission Planning System. Also, the SED, in partnership with the Program.

Executive Officers and Program Mangers, has established numerous Aviation and Missile System Integration Laboratories for the analysis and test of tactical systems and software. These laboratories provide the capability for Joint Services Interoperability Certification as well as Intra Army Certification. The SED also is responsible for development and deployment of the America's Army Program. This program includes the public game, weapon systems trainers, and Army recruiting applications.

The SED collaborates with a number of other organizations/agencies, including: Space and Missile Defense Command for Cyber Security, Jackson State University for Homeland Security, and as a Technology Transition Partner with the Software Engineering Institute. The SED has also made significant progress in workforce development, in partnership with the University of Alabama in Huntsville, including a very robust Co-op Program, and advanced degrees in Software Engineering and Systems Engineering. These opportunities allow the expansion and growth of the SED workforce to remain relevant in the complex areas of the digital world.

Dr. Craig is a highly respected leader and visionary in the community and a strong proponent of the greater Tennessee Valley area. In 2004, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Additionally he serves on the advisory board for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Other honors include induction into the Order of Saint Barbara, an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery Association, recognition as supervisor of the year in 1985 by the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women, and the first recipient of the Joseph C. Moquin Award given by the Huntsville Association of Technology Societies in 2006. In 2010, the Tennessee Valley National Defense Industrial Association presented Dr. Craig with the Medaris Award for demonstrating technical excellence in promoting the defense preparedness for the nation.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIREMAN'S FUND

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of a California company that has dedicated itself to serving the residents of our state for 150 years. Founded in San Francisco, the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company has been protecting the future for individuals, families and businesses since 1863. The Fireman's Fund name, which is well-known across California, emanates from the founder's arrangement to pay 10 percent of the company's profits to support the widows and orphans of firefighters who died in the line of duty. That tradition continues today through the company's Heritage Program, providing fire departments throughout the nation with life-saving equipment and training. Working in combination with its employees, agents and brokers, the company has distributed more than $30 million to support firefighters for safer communities since 2004, with over $8 million contributed in California. The company has also been a benefactor for numerous charities in the San Francisco Bay Area and its generosity has added tremendously to the vitality of our communities.

Over the past 150 years, Fireman's Fund's contribution to our nation's history extends far beyond California. The Fireman's Fund has insured the construction of some of our nation's most treasured landmarks, including the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge and even Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. During our nation's most trying times of crisis, the company delivered on its promises. Following the Chicago Fire of 1871 and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, the Fireman's Fund played a critical role in rebuilding after the devastation. The company was also present when needed most for many displaced people after the Northridge earthquake of 1994, which devastated much of Southern California.

Throughout its history, the Fireman's Fund has prided itself on also being innovative; it prides itself on being the first insurance provider to write a standing grain policy in the U.S., the first carrier to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance, and the first company to add ''green rebuild'' insurance to their offerings for homes and businesses. Back in my hometown of Bakersfield, California, Fireman's Fund remains one of our region's largest agricultural insurers, providing essential risk control services to hundreds of farm producers in my Congressional District. Its 150 years of service has established a name and reputation which resonates well with insurance agents and brokers who distribute their product in our local communities.

Today there are more than 1,200 Californians working for Fireman's Fund. Together they make up a great company that remains one of California's most enduring financial institutions. Given the time of rapid change in which we live, it is comforting to know that companies like Fireman's Fund still endure, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them well with the hope that they will still be protecting the future for individuals, families and businesses for another 150 years.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AND THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS BEDTIME STORIES LITERARY GALA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of Humanities Washington and the 15th anniversary of its Bedtime Stories literary gala in Seattle.

Since its founding in 1973, Humanities Washington has served the state with humanities programming, sparking conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across Washington State. As Washington State's flagship non-profit for the humanities, it plays a critical role in addressing an immediate and growing crisis concerning community identity and understanding, respect for other perspectives, and the ability of communities to work together to shape a better future.

Humanities Washington's work in cultural education—ranging from Speakers Bureau to Traveling Exhibits to Family Reading—promotes awareness of the history of local communities and its residents, provides opportunities for people to gather and learn more about their unique past and shared present, and nurtures relationships that enable us to move forward towards a more prosperous future.

The humanities—including history, literature, philosophy, ethics, law, and other fields of inquiry—encourage us to investigate, speak, listen, read, reflect, question, think, grow, and act. Using the disciplines of the humanities, Humanities Washington provides programs and experiences of lasting value, creating insight, understanding, wisdom, and a deeper

appreciation for a variety of perspectives and all that we share as Washingtonians and Americans.

This year also marks the 15th anniversary of one of Humanities Washington's signature events: Bedtime Stories. Bedtime Stories is an annual literary celebration featuring critically acclaimed Northwest writers unveiling new short stories created specifically for dinner galas in Spokane and Seattle. National Book Award Winner Charles Johnson has called it ''the region's premier literary event.'' Johnson is one of the founders of the gala, and will receive the 2013 Humanities Washington Award at Bedtime Stories in Seattle on October 4.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my congratulations to Humanities Washington for 40 years of excellent, necessary work sharing the humanities with Washingtonians. I salute Humanities Washington as it works to ensure that the humanities are key to civic life for generations to come.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about one of our Nation's most coveted rights. The freedom of religion granted to all Americans by the First Amendment. Our Founders knew this was one of the freedoms worth fighting for.

In 1775 the Continental Congress under the advisement of General Washington created the chaplaincy. They knew the war ahead would not only try every Soldier physically, but also spiritually. They knew these Soldiers would need guidance, sound advice, and a helping hand to discharge their duties.

Many times throughout the early beginnings of this nation the Congress has come together to reaffirm the importance of the Chaplaincy. In 1791 the Congress empowered the President to employ a chaplain. Since then the chaplaincy has been an intricate part of our Nation's service men and women. The task of these chaplains has long been to facilitate the religious and spiritual needs of the Armed Services.

Recently members of the House of Representatives repelled an attack on the Chaplain Corps, led by senior leaders in the Pentagon. Leaders in the Pentagon attempted to circumvent current DoD regulations by allowing Atheist Chaplains to serve in the military. Such a policy destroys the historical intent of the Corps, and its current ability to address service member's spiritual needs. Pentagon leadership has no right to bypass DoD regulations as it deems fit.

This episode brings to mind a quote I heard from an Army Soldier, ''A Service member's faith is not a weapon but a shield.'' It is no secret that many people going to war encounter some type of religious conversion. Those already observing a religion attribute their successful return from combat to their deity. Why put someone's religious guidance in the hands of a counselor with indifferent feeling towards a belief system.

A chaplain's duty puts him in the foxhole, the cockpit, or at sea. I listen to a service member's deepest fears and often present when they celebrate their highest moments. In both, their handling of the situation is dictated by faith. Congress needs to adhere to a new battle cry; faith under fire is faith worth fighting for.

I stand today with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remind Congress of the free exercise clause in the constitution that ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion prohibiting the exercise thereof.''

COMMEMORATING THE 230TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF PARIS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 3, 2013, as the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, thus ending American Revolutionary War and declaring the ''United States to be free, sovereign and independent states.'' The Continental Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris on January 14, 1784.

I am proud to represent Virginia's First District, frequently referred to as ''America's First District,'' which is home to Yorktown where the Revolutionary War ended on October 19, 1781. With the help of our French allies, the decisive Battle of Yorktown resulted in the surrender of the British Army commanded by British lord and Lieutenant General Lord Cornwallis.

A resolution of the Continental Congress, dated October 29, 1781, called for a ''Yorktown Monument to the Alliance and Victory''. The Senate Committee on Military Affairs in its report dated March 16, 1880, stated that ''the surrender at Yorktown was the crowning success of the revolution, and its event should be commemorated by national authority.'' The grounds were secured and the cornerstone laid on October 18, 1881. Today, the Yorktown Battlefield, site of the last major battle of the American Revolutionary War, is administered by the National Park Service and is part of Colonial National Historical Park.

Virginia's First District has a rich history of military service, beginning with the Revolutionary War and continuing today. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris and recognizing the significance of the Battle of Yorktown.

IN HONOR OF AZEM HAJDARI: LEADER OF ALBANIA'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Azem Hajdari, an Albanian democratic leader and parliamentarian who was assassinated in 1998. Today, September 12, marks the 15th anniversary of his tragic death.

Born in 1963 into a working class family, Azem Hajdari grew up in Albania's mountainous northern region of Bajram Curr. While he was a student in Tirana, Albania's capital, the collapse of the Soviet Union led to increased popular unrest in the communist states in Central and Eastern Europe. In Albania, thousands took to foreign embassies in an effort to escape the country. As political and social tensions continued to escalate, in December 1990, students began protests against their worsening living conditions.

Azem Hajdari was committed to democratic change in Albania and quickly emerged as a leader of the student movement. The student demonstrations helped to precipitate the fall of the regime, and Azem then became one of the founders of the Democratic Party, the first non-Communist political party in Albania since the Second World War. He became the Democratic Party's first chairman and was elected in 1991 to the Albanian parliament, where he championed democratic reforms.

In 1997, Azem was shot inside the Albanian parliament and severely injured, yet he refused to be intimidated. He persisted in his mission to build democracy in Albania despite several additional attempts on his life. However, on September 12, 1998, Azem was murdered as he stepped out of his party's offices in Tirana.

Azem Hajdari's death shocked the nation and he was posthumously recognized as a martyr for democracy. Through his words and actions, he taught the people of Albania that freedom is not given—it must be won, through struggle, determination, and faith.

During the conflict in Kosova, Azem also supported the Kosova Freedom and Independence Movement. He was a close friend of Kosova's President Ibrahim Rugova and dedicated significant time and energy to the Kosovar cause.

Today, Albania has made great strides. It has a vibrant political system and is a member of NATO, and Albanians are able to travel freely throughout Europe. Kosova also is a free and independent country, aspiring to join the European Union. Both Albania and Kosova are building strong democracies, just as Azem dreamed.

Azem Hajdari has received many awards after his death, including Albania's ''Order of the Flag'' on what would have been his 50th birthday earlier this year, the ''Honor of the Nation'' award, and the ''Gjergj Katriot Skenderbeu'' (''Skanderbeg's Order''), which was conferred by Albanian President Bujar Nishani and former presidents Alfred Moisiu and Bamir Topi.

On the 15th anniversary of Azem Hajdari's untimely death, the Albanian people will once more honor a truly historic leader of Albania's democratic movement. On this day, September 12, Albanians from across the country and from around the world, including Albanian Kosovars, will gather to remember Azem and escort him to his final resting place in Tirana's Martyr's Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, Azem Hajdari was a stalwart champion of democratic values and hero to many Albanians. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Azem Hajdari for his historic contributions to building democracy in Albania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 448. I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 2052.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Pilgrim Baptist Church was founded in September of 1916, as a part of the dreams and work of the Union Grove Prayer Meeting Club who met in the home of Deacon John A. Finnie at 242 East 42nd Street. Because of its steady growth the club was constantly seeking larger space and after three months the founder and first Chairman of the Deacon Board, Mr. John A. Finnie, his wife, Juanita, Georgia Hansberry, L. Whitley and S.S. Harkness joined together to organize a Church. The group asked for and received help from several ministers. Mrs. Finnie suggested the name, Pilgrim Baptist Church and organized the Pilgrim Senior Choir.

The Church immediately took off and in January 1917, Reverend Jessie D. Luck of New York became its first Pastor. Pilgrim experienced great growth and in 1922 Pilgrim Baptist Church purchased Kehilath Anshe Ma'ariv Synagogue located at 3301 S. Indiana Avenue. This edifice had been constructed in 1891, and designed by the famed architect Louis Sullivan and engineer Dankmar Adler. The initial drawings were prepared by draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright. Upon the passing of Reverend Watson, Reverend R.T. Schell and Assistant Pastor, Reverend C.L. Franklin carried on until the Pulpit Committee found what they considered to be the right man who could handle the continued growth and expansion of the Church. That man was masterful, the Reverend Junius Caesar Austin, a nationally known pulpiteer pastor, financier, organizer and Convention President. He liquidated the debt, renovated the structure and bought a house for the church's founder, built a community center, gymnasium and housing project and established missions in Africa.

In 1931, Thomas A. Dorsey known as the "father of Gospel Music" joined Pilgrim and organized the Pilgrim Baptist Church Gospel Chorus at the request of Pastor Austin. Some of the members of that chorus were legendary singers such as Mahalia Jackson, Sally Martin, Roberta Martin and Clara Ward.

During Pilgrim's ninety-six year history nine Pastors have served:

Jessie D. Luck—January 1917–July 1917

J.E. Jones—July 1917–October 1919

Samuel E.J. Watson—May 1920–July 1925

Junius C. Austin, Sr.—January 1926–August 1968

Junius C. Austin, Jr.—February 1969–December 1991

Floyd W. Davis—February 1992–April 1999

Hycel B. Taylor—November 2001–May 2005

Keith E. Gordon—January 2007–March 2010

Tyrone E. Jordan—October 2010 to Present

The Historic Pilgrim Baptist Church has been home to many renowned and distinguished people, among them are:

Ministers: Reverend Clarence Cobbs, Reverend J.B. Felker, Reverend Elmer L. Fowler, Reverend Stroy Freeman, Reverend Louis Rawls, Reverend Richard Keller (Pastor of Pilgrim Jr. Church).

Entrepreneurs: Oscar Brown, Attorney/Real Estate, Delois Barrett-Campbell, Barrett Sisters, Bessie Coleman, First Black Woman Aviator, S.B. Fuller, Fuller Products Company, Mahalia Jackson, Gospel Singer, Sally Martin, Gospel Singer, Lee Randolph, Professor, Jack Johnson, First Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Claude Holman, President Pro-Tem of the Chicago City Council.

Outstanding Artists who have performed at Pilgrim: James Cleveland, Aretha Franklin, The Edwin Hawkins Singers, The Staple Singers, Albertina Walker, Inez Andrews.

Pilgrim was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement and on many occasions the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King delivered sermons at the church.

In 1973, Pilgrim Baptist Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by Chicago's City Council and was later designated a Chicago Landmark on December 18, 1981. In December 2001, the Church was placed on the National Ten Sacred Places to save list by Partners for Sacred Places, a Philadelphia based religious preservationist group.

In January 2006, the Historic Pilgrim Church was ravaged by fire. The fire virtually destroyed the interior; but the exterior walls are still standing.

In 2010, designs were unveiled to raise Pilgrim Baptist Church, a historic architectural landmark from ashes. Pilgrim has been rolling for 97 years and will keep on rolling. I salute you.

CONGRATULATING SUNNYSIDE LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Congratulate Tucson's Sunnyside Little League girls' softball team on winning the 12–and-under Little League World Series.

On August 14, 2013, the Sunnyside Little League became the 2013 Little League Softball World Series champions by defeating the McLean Little League (Virginia) team 9–0. This victory marks the first West Coast team to win the Little League Softball World Series in more than 23 years.

These extraordinary young ladies finished the Little League World Series with a 5–1 record and became the first team in Arizona to win a title in this division and only the third to win it all in any softball division.

In the championship game, the girls from Sunnyside put on a show in front of a crowd of about 2,300 people at Alpenrose Stadium in Portland, Oregon by scoring two runs in the bottom of the first inning and not letting up. Arizona's red-hot offense blew the game wide open in the bottom of the fourth inning, nearly reaching the 10-run rule.

I like to extend my deepest congratulations to the Sunnyside Little League girls and to the coaches that contributed to the overall success and victory of the team.

I give my most sincere thanks to the Sunnyside girls for representing Tucson, AZ with such great pride and passion. These girls are heroes and role models and deserve recognition for their accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 9th, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Nos. 448 and 449. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both Roll No. 448 and Roll No. 449.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE THOMPSON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne Thompson of Denver, Colorado as he will be honored later this week by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Post #5061, for over 40 years of committed service to Colorado's neediest veterans. Wayne Thompson's is one of the exceptional stories of lifelong dedication to public service. Mr. Thompson enlisted in the Navy in 1951 and was stationed in Korea, Japan, and Vietnam over his four-year military career.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1932, Mr. Thompson began his career in public service in 1960 at the U.S. Department of Labor. While there, he worked on a task force dedicated to helping veterans find jobs. In 1974, Mr. Thompson was assigned to work in Denver and has called the Centennial State home ever since. Mr. Thompson served under multiple Governors of Colorado over the course of thirty years as a top advisor on veterans' health and employment issues. As a member of the VFW for nearly fifty years, Mr. Thompson played key roles in the establishment of numerous veterans' homes in Colorado, the funding of the Western Slope Military Cemetery, and the long-awaited construction of the new veterans' hospital in Denver.

Mr. Thompson's commitment to veterans extended beyond his work in government. In 1972, Mr. Thompson co-founded the United Veterans Committee, a non-profit coalition of veteran service organization which advocates for veterans and their families in Colorado. From 1980–1990, Mr. Thompson served on the Colorado Board of Veterans' Affairs and from 1986–1990, he was its Chairman. He has also served on the board of the Fitzsimmons State Veterans Nursing home since its opening.

Since coming to Colorado, Mr. Thompson has been a devoted champion of the state's veterans at every level and continues to work for the people of Colorado every day. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Wayne Thompson for his unwavering support of the veteran community in Colorado and a lifetime of public service.

H.R. 3069—THE SHIELD OUR STREET ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this bill, introduced on September 9, 2013, would establish two public safety grant programs.

Section 2 establishes Shield Police Hiring Grants, to be implemented by the Attorney General, to provide grants to law enforcement agencies that operate in Elevated Need Localities. An ''Elevated Need Locality'' is a county (or unit of local government which is not part of a county) which (1) has a crime rate above the national average, and (2) has had budget reductions during the most recent 5-year period. These law enforcement agencies could apply to the Attorney General to receive funds to hire law enforcement officers, or to rehire officers who have been laid off due to budget reductions.

Grants would last for three years and may be extended by two years at the discretion of the Attorney General.

One hundred million dollars for each fiscal year 2014 through 2019 are authorized to be appropriated for this program.

Section 3 establishes Shield Public Safety Enhancement Grants, to be implemented by the Attorney General, to provide grants to units of local government that has jurisdiction over all or part of an Elevated Need Locality. Local governments could apply to the Attorney General to receive funds to enhance public safety in a number of ways, such as purchasing public safety equipment, funding public safety programs, making infrastructure improvements for the purpose of enhancing public safety, purchasing and installing street lights to deter crime, funding activities related to crime labs, and funding public defender programs. Non-profit organizations operating in Elevated Need Localities may also apply for grants under this program to fund initiatives designed to reduce crime in these jurisdictions.

Grants would be for one year but may be extended at the discretion of the Attorney General.

One hundred million dollars for each fiscal year 2014 through 2019 are authorized to be appropriated for this program.

IN HONOR OF MOLLY SALMI AND HER 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Molly Salmi for her 25 years of dedicated service to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—and the American people.

Molly Salmi, who joined the Committee as a Staff Assistant, has continued to advance through the ranks to her current position as Deputy Director of Workforce Policy thanks to her unparalleled professionalism and extensive knowledge of the policies that affect literally every working American.

Molly personifies the best qualities of public service—demonstrating tireless enthusiasm and an unyielding commitment to sound public policy. Beyond her contributions to policy, Molly has invested in the lives of countless young staffers and interns, offering advice, guidance, and direction, while setting an example of decorum and grace.

Molly's great work through the years has earned her the respect of seven separate Committee Chairmen—Republicans and Democrats alike—as well as her colleagues on both sides of the aisle, which is no small feat in a world too often mired in partisan posturing.

For all of the above—and so much more—Molly is more than a trusted colleague: she is an invaluable member of our committee family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to attending a classified briefing on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, I missed one recorded vote on September 9. I would like to indicate how I would have voted had I been present for that vote.

On rollcall No. 448, H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013, I would have voted ''yea'' to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ANN MAGGIO

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Ann Maggio, who passed away at age 90 on July 6, 2013. Ann left behind her daughter JoAnn, son Anthony, daughter-in-law Tracy, and grandson Andrew and the Suydam Street home she lived in for 75 years.

Ann, a longtime civic leader, moved to Ridgewood in 1938 when her parents bought a house on Suydam Street, where she lived for the remainder of her life. In 1944, after graduating from Hunter College, Ann went on to work for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company before she married Anthony Maggio in 1948. Together they had two children, Joann and Anthony.

As a resident of Ridgewood, Queens, she witnessed dramatic changes and became an instrumental part of her community. Ann first made her mark in Ridgewood's civic life by transforming the Grover Cleveland High School athletic field. Working with the police to establish a baseball and softball program, Ann kept the area from being vacant and was instrumental in making the athletic fields a reality for the community.

Ann continued to be an active member of the community, dedicating much of her time to a better Ridgewood. Whether it was keeping the neighborhood free from graffiti or promoting the safety of residents, Ann Maggio truly defined what it meant to be a civic leader.

The legacy she leaves behind exhibits the love she had for her community. Besides her family, nothing was more important to Ann than her love for her neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Ann Maggio for her service to the people of Ridgewood.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MONARCAS ACADEMY

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of Monarcas Academy, a non-profit organization dedicated to adolescent soccer teams in Stockton, California. In July of 2013, a Monarcas Academy team won the U.S. National Cup XII in the under age 15 (U15) group. This team also won the 2013 California State Championship, 2013 San Diego Surf Cup, and the 2013 Santa Clara Sporting Invitational.

Year after year, Monarcas Academy athletes compete at high level soccer tournaments throughout California and the nation. The staff and players at the Academy helped create the Central Valley Soccer League, composed of 95 teams that provide youth development to local student athletes. In addition, Monarcas Academy works with Bfut Soccer Academy in Brazil on international soccer principles.

These efforts benefit our region's youth by promoting physical activity, team spirit, and community involvement. I am proud to represent the Monarcas Academy in Congress, and wish the Academy continued success.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Monarcas Academy, its U15 championship team, and its dedication to helping the youth in California.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over eighty-five Iowa World War II and Korean War veterans will travel to our nation's capital. Accompanied by volunteer guardians, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor.

For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank these heroes for their service to our nation and pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice that they made for our country.

This trip was made possible by the dedicated workforce at Quaker Oats' Cedar Rapids facility who raised all of the funds necessary to send these heroes to the nation's capital. The generosity of the Quaker Oats' workforce and those who donated to this effort demonstrates Iowans' commitment to honoring those who have served our nation in uniform.

Iowans know that we owe our veterans a debt of gratitude. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. Their generation and our country did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, the Greatest Generation defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,738,567,425,782.46. We've added $6,111,690,376,869.38 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUG VERBOON

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Verboon, an important figure in California's Central Valley who was recently named the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Agriculturalist and Ag Supporter of the Year.

Doug is a lifelong resident of Hanford, California and a fellow graduate of Hanford High School. Born into a farming family, agriculture is more than just his vocation; it is his way of life. He began his agricultural career alongside his father and grandfather as a third generation farmer on the Gold Top Ranch, located in Hanford.

Doug has been an active member of his local community for many years. He has been a trustee of the Pioneer School District for 16 years where he played an important role in establishing the Pioneer School District as the first charter school district in the State of California.

Doug is also a member of the Kings County Board of Supervisors, representing District 3. Additionally, he is a member of the Kings County Farm Bureau, the District Advisory Council for Sequoia Walnut, and the Future Leaders Board for Diamond Walnuts.

The Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's Agriculturalist and Ag Supporter of the Year Award is given to a local community member who has made immeasurable contributions to the agricultural community in Lemoore. I appreciate the time and effort Doug has enthusiastically devoted to the communities within the Central Valley. I am pleased that his service and commitment to agriculture, and his community as a whole, is being recognized with this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IRS ABUSE PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the IRS Abuse Protection Act of 2013, which requires the IRS to notify taxpayers when their records are accessed. Taxpayer information is the private information of the taxpayer and they have a right to know when, who, why, and what that information is used for.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill we hope to ensure people will not be threatened or intimidated by the federal government. This bill presses forth transparency and accountability. Despite what the President has said, the targeting of conservative organizations for extra scrutiny is a real scandal and is simply reprehensible. The thin line of trust between the individual and their government has been broken and we must work to rebuild it. I am strongly urging Congress to continue its investigation into the IRS and to make sure those responsibly are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. I am also joining other Members of Congress calling on Treasury Secretary Jack Lew to investigate the actions of the IRS.

I am committed to making sure the IRS is never again used as a political weapon against any group, conservative or otherwise and my bill will ensure that those responsible for using private information to quiet individuals and organizations that disagree with the President can no longer hide behind the wall of Washington secrecy and are held accountable for their actions.

Simply put, I believe when personal information is accessed; taxpayers have a right to know who accessed the information, why it was accessed, and what the information is used for as well as having access to the information and any reports generated from it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the IRS Abuse Protection Act of 2013 in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2013 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2013 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition or Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. We honor these outstanding individuals because they create a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today. Since the Medal's founding in 1986, more than 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

This medal is not about money, but about people who seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life.

Even in the midst of difficult financial times, this award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and in congratulating all of the 2012 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

2013 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Mohamed Mike Ahmar, Varoujan Altebarmakian, MD, William C. Anton, Bharat H. Barai, MD, Brian Boitano, Noreen Salah Burpee, Hon. Woody Burton, Wendy Y. Chao, Melvin L. Cheatham, MD, Alina Cho, Byung Chang Cho, Im Ja P. Choi, Jerry L. Chong, Esq., Candice Chulee, Seamus Connolly, David C. Dauch, Warren Will David, Vidyasagar Dharmapuri, MD, Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Russell J. Ebeid, John David Eckstein, MD, Dr. Jamshid Ehsani, Mia Farrow, Joseph Fiorentino, RADM Moira N. Flanders, USN (Ret.), LTG Michael Flynn, USA, Jamshid Ghajar, MD, PhD, Hossein Gharib, MD, MACP, MACE, Dore J. Gilbert, MD, LTC USAR, Hubert Guerrand-Hermes, Xavier Guerrand-Hermes, Yong Hwa Ha, Kenneth S. Hershon, MD, Victoria Shoghag Hovanessian, Yousef Javadi, Hratch Kaprielian, Ara Kevork Karajerjian, AIC, CPC, Patricia J. Kennedy, Rep. Peter T. King, Michelle King Robson, Vahid Kooros, Kenneth Julius Kovach, Jackson H. Kuan, MD, Christopher J. Kuelling, Esq., Arthur Bihua Liu, Captain Gordon A. Loebl, USCG, Dr. J. Phillip London, RADM Brian Losey, USN, James Lu, Col. Robert M. Lucania, USAF (Ret.), Christine Eliska Lynn, Fasha (Farshad) Mahjoor, Dertad Manguikian, MD, Yvonne Marceau, Danny Masterson, Gail J. McGovern, Hon. Gregory J. Melikian, USAF (Ret.), Mark R. Melton, David Merage, Gary Mervis, Robert S. Milligan, H.E. Albert Alexander Montague, MG Patrick A. Murphy, USA, Kikanza Nuri-Robins, EdD, MDiv, 1st Lt Steven Ortiz, MA ANG, Mahendra R. Patel, Ramesh J. Patel, David Anthony Pope, John Psaras, Bruce Ramer, Alma Rangel, Assistant Chief Joseph J. Reznick, Monsignor Robert J. Romano, Ronald J. Ross, M.D., F.A.C.R., Pardis Sabeti, MD, DPhil, Homa Sarshar, Kamala Saxena, MD, Jack G. Shaheen, PhD, H. John Shammas, MD, Thomas Sherak, Deputy Chief Steven J. Silks, Anthony Spavone, Stephen J. Squeri, Valavanur A. Subramanian, MD, Aso O. Tavitian, Silvia Tchakmakjian, George Solon Tsandikos, Russell Thayer Tutt, Jr., Col. Lee A. Van Arsdale, USA, (Ret.), Argyris ''RJ'' Vassiliou, Richard A. Vermeil, Frank A. Visco, Wyan Hua Wang, Dionne Warwick, Wim Wiewel, PhD, Dar-yih David Wu, Vahe Stephan Yacoubian, MD, Christopher G. Zizza.

HONORING KIMBERLY DOUMA, NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kimberly Douma, who has been chosen as Napa County Teacher of the Year for 2014.

Since 1991, Ms. Douma has taught kindergarten, first, and second grades at West Park Elementary School in Napa, California. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Douma has worked hard to serve her school community in the Napa Valley. She has been a member of the Napa Valley Unified School District Professional Standards Committee since 2010, served eight years as the West Park Leadership Teacher Representative, six years as the West Park Family Club Teacher Representative, and six years as the West Park School Site Council Teacher Representative. Further, Ms. Douma has offered free tutoring to at-risk children for the past three years and taught Before School Language Arts Intervention. Ms. Douma has co-chaired the West Park Elementary Carnival for the last 22 years, initiating various activities including the Visual and Performing Arts program, and the Food Booths and the Book Booth. She has been a member of the California Teachers Association and Napa Valley Educators Association for 22 years.

As a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church Ms. Douma has participated on the Long Life Learning Committee for five years, served as a Sunday School Teacher, a Vacation Bible School Chair, and hosted five years of Christmas and Easter Pageants.

Ms. Douma has received accolades for her outstanding contributions as an educator in Napa from various community organizations, including Teacher of the Year from the Napa Rotary Club, and the Young Church Woman Award from the Women United of the Napa Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Kimberly Douma grew up believing that teachers could be tour guides to adventure. Inspired by her late father who was also a teacher, Kimberly is beginning to teach the children of students she had early in her career, and continues to inspire and engage every child that has the privilege to call her ''Teacher''. It is fitting that today we honor her ongoing commitment to excellence in education.

RECOGNIZING COBRA MOTO

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Cobra Moto, a manufacturer of premium race-ready mini motocross bikes for youth riders that are proudly made in the U.S.A.

Designed and produced in Hillsdale, Michigan, Cobra bikes were recently ridden to victory by three youth national champions at the 2013 Red Bull Amateur National Motocross Championship in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. While I know the folks at Cobra were very excited at the results, this success doesn't come as a surprise to anyone in the motorcycling community.

Since 1993, Cobra has consistently delivered the most successful line of competition mini bikes in the country. Riders have driven these iconic little yellow bikes to more than 300 titles, a testament to the high standards Cobra demands from each one of their machines.

In this 20th year of producing quality competition dirt bikes, I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of Cobra and the riders who enjoy their quality machines.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. CHERYL A. MARSHALL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Cheryl A. Marshall who will be inducted as the seventh president of Crafton Hills College on September 27, 2013.

Dr. Marshall has had a distinguished career in the field of education. Having received her doctorate of education from the University of Southern California, Dr. Marshall has spent ten of the last twenty years as an educator in positions of leadership, changing the lives of her students for the better. As a member of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership's Education Council, she has contributed to the region-wide effort to address educational gaps and prepare our students for a strong presence in the workforce. As a former educator, I believe it is her specialization in educational management, strategic planning, and performance management that sets her apart.

A firm believer in the intrinsic value of education, Dr. Marshall fully understands and appreciates the vital role that education plays in our society. Having secured close to $9 million dollars in grant funding during her career, she has been able to safeguard various programs and services would always be available in order for her students to succeed. During her tenure as Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Marshall ensured Crafton Hills College received full accreditation within just two years. Such dedication, exemplified by Dr. Marshall, makes Crafton Hills College an excellent institution of higher learning.

In closing, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Marshall, her husband Patrick and their two children on her inauguration. I look forward to seeing Crafton Hills College grow and prosper under her experienced direction.

IN RECOGNITION OF COL. CHARLES JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary career of Col. Charles

Jackson who recently retired from his position as Assistant Vice President for Facilities at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas. For over a decade, he has competently overseen the rapid growth of new construction and renovation of numerous campus buildings. Prior to his work at UNT, Col. Jackson spent the majority of his career serving his country on active duty with the United States Air Force (USAF). As a registered professional engineer and member of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Col. Jackson has distinguished himself as an accomplished military and civilian engineer through his successful direction of numerous projects and developments, domestically and abroad.

Col. Jackson received a B.A. in civil engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a M.A. in engineering/facilities from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He served as the commander of the 7th Engineering Squadron at Carswell Air Force Base at Fort Worth, Texas. His civil engineer leadership positions include duty assignments stateside in Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma and overseas in Japan, Germany and Belgium. Col. Jackson dedicated 30 years of his life as a civil engineer in the Air Force and achieved the rank of Colonel upon his retirement in May 1998.

Following his departure from the Air Force, Col. Jackson began employment at UNT as Facilities Maintenance Manager and was selected for his current position in 2005. Since 2000, the UNT campus has rapidly expanded to accommodate the growing number of incoming students. Col. Jackson has overseen the construction of four residence halls, seven major buildings and additional renovation projects. His proudest accomplishments include the Library Mall, the Net Zero Energy Lab, and the recent completion of the SMART project which will have a long-term beneficial impact for the UNT campus. Col. Jackson acted as a vital proponent of this project that will save the University over $3 million in utility and operation costs annually and ensure reliable systems to support UNT into the future. The SMART project recently received a Green Ribbon Award in the infrastructure category from the U.S. Green Building Council North Texas as the best example of the implementation of sustainable infrastructure design, construction or management practices.

On a personal level, I am grateful to Col. Jackson for his advice and expertise as a member of my Service Academy Board. As a USAF Academy graduate and higher education representative, Col. Jackson's role was to comprehensively screen and interview high school and college applicants wishing to receive a congressional nomination and to advise me upon the selection of qualified service academy candidates.

I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Col. Charles Jackson upon his exemplary service to our community, state and Nation and extend my warmest wishes upon a well-earned retirement. His positive contributions and dedicated efforts will continue to enhance the University of North Texas for years to come, and I am privileged to represent the University of North Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 449, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 2844.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

CONGRATULATING THE RIO RICO LITTLE LEAGUE JUNIORS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rio Rico Little League Juniors, this year's National Champions.

On August 16, 2013, Rio Rico (4–1) beat Goodlettsville, Tennessee 7–3 to capture the United States Championship at the Junior League World Series.

The Rio Rico Little League Juniors advanced through the state, regionals, and won the National Championship and represented the United States against the undefeated Asia Pacific Baseball Academy team from Taiyuan, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).

On August 18, 2013, Nogales and Rio Rico both came together in celebration of the Little League's success. The streets were filled with fire trucks, fans, and family members who eagerly and fondly received the team for the champions they are.

I like to extend my deepest congratulations to the Rio Rico Little League boys and to the coaches that contributed to the very success and victory of the team.

I also give my most sincere thanks to the Rio Rico Little League juniors for their wonderful performance and for representing all of Arizona with such pride, dignity, and courage.

HONORING CITY MANAGER TOM ROBINSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Robinson for his public service to the people of La Mirada, California. Tom began with the city in 1985 as the Community Resource Manager and, in 2008, Tom was appointed City Manager. After 27 productive years of service to La Mirada and its residents, Tom has retired.

During his tenure with the City of La Mirada, Tom always provided strong leadership and knowledgeable direction for major projects. Those numerous projects included the City's Community Services Master Plan, the Social Services Model Plan, and the development of the Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center.

Over the past decade, Tom has worked tirelessly to ensure La Mirada operates on firm financial footing and never outside its fiscal means. While the struggling economy has impacted many cities throughout Southern California, La Mirada has managed to maintain funding for all city services and capital improvement projects and Tom is a big reason why. It's no surprise La Mirada was listed by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the "Best Places to Live" in 2007.

As an active civic member, he has served as a member of the American Society for Public Administration, an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, and a member and former president of the Rotary Club of La Mirada. Robinson has been recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO). The award recognizes exceptional service and career achievement by public communicators.

From one public servant to another, I praise Tom Robinson and commend him on his many years of outstanding public service and dedication to the City of La Mirada and its residents. Let us wish him and his family the very best in retirement.

HONORING CRISTIAN ROLDAN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012–2013 GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am here to congratulate Cristian Roldan, who is the recipient of the 2012–2013 Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year Award. This is an amazing feat that deserves our recognition.

In 1985, The Gatorade Company established an award to recognize high school athletes across the country. Since then, more than 12,500 students have been honored with the award of State Player of the Year and 250 National Players of the Year. This prestigious list includes many top professional athletes such as Payton Manning, Lisa Leslie, and Derek Jeter. The Gatorade Player of the Year award is presented to high school athletes that have achieved athletic excellence as well as high standards of academic achievement and model character on and off the field. Cristian was selected as the National Player of the Year out of 400,000 boys high school soccer players.

Cristian, recently graduated from El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, CA. Cristian; a 5-foot-7, 165-pound midfielder; was without a doubt the catalyst of the El Rancho Dons boys' soccer team this past season leading them to a 29–2–1 record and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Division III title. Scoring 54 goals and 31 assists, he also helped the Dons capture the Division I title at the CIF Southern California Regional Soccer Championships. As the season came to a successful end, Cristian was awarded Most Valuable Player of the CIF Southern Section Division III.

In addition to his success on the soccer field, Cristian was a three-year varsity volleyball player, all while earning a 3.74 GPA his senior year. Cristian is a member of the California Scholarship Federation for his academic excellence and serves as a peer mentor in his spare time. Cristian has displayed

his exemplary character by serving as a volunteer coach for the American Youth Soccer Organization, participating in the El Rancho's Blue Pride service project, and for being a member of the Dons' College Bound Athletes Committee.

Cristian is the fourth boys Gatorade National Player of the Year from California and the first from Los Angeles County. Cristian intends to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington this fall.

What Cristian has achieved is something that deserves our recognition today. Cristian has displayed great academic and athletic achievement. I would like to recognize and congratulate Cristian Roldan for receiving the Gatorade National Player of the Year Award. I wish him a successful college career at the University of Washington.