

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
HAROLD FRITZ

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Lieutenant Colonel Harold Fritz of Peoria, Illinois, who is one of only three living Medal of Honor recipients in Illinois today. The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest military honor and is awarded for personal acts of valor that go well above and beyond the call of duty.

Lieutenant Colonel Fritz, who went by "Hal," was born in Chicago and currently lives in Peoria. He was awarded the Medal of Honor due to his brave service in Vietnam.

During a jungle firefight, then First Lieutenant Fritz displayed exemplary leadership despite suffering serious wounds. Lieutenant Colonel Fritz was leading his 7-vehicle armored column to meet and escort a truck convoy when they suddenly came under intense fire from enemy combatants. Lieutenant Colonel Fritz' vehicle was hit, and he was seriously wounded. Realizing that his men were completely surrounded and outnumbered, Lieutenant Colonel Fritz leaped to the top of his burning vehicle and directed the positioning of his remaining vehicles and men.

Without thinking of his own safety, he ran from vehicle to vehicle in complete view of the enemy gunners in order to help his men. Armed only with a pistol and bayonet, he led a small group of his men in a charge which inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Despite being wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Fritz assisted his men and refused medical attention until all of his wounded soldiers had been treated.

Lieutenant Colonel Fritz is currently the President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and resides in Peoria. I wish him all the best and want to thank him again for his brave and dedicated service to our Nation.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL
MINERALS PRODUCTION
ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 761) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the so-called "National Strategic and Critical Minerals Protection Act," a bill that has very little to do with development of rare earth elements or minerals that are vulnerable to supply disruption.

The bill before us today is so broadly drafted that it would reduce or eliminate environmental review for almost all type of mines on public land, including common materials like sand, clay, and gravel. It needlessly limits judicial review of mining activities. And it arbitrarily prioritizes mining over every other use of public lands, including hunting, fishing, grazing, and conservation.

If the majority would like to encourage production of truly strategic and critical minerals on public lands, we should work together on a targeted solution that develops our natural resources while protecting our environment. Today's bill is not that solution. I urge a no vote.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF KAISER PERMANENTE'S SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS MEDICAL GROUP

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kaiser Permanente's Southern California Physicians Medical Group (SCPMG) on their 60th Anniversary. As a leading provider of health care services for more than 500,000 San Diegans this is truly an historic occasion for their organization. Since its modest beginnings in 1953, SCPMG has grown to become the nation's second largest private multi-specialty group practice. In 1967, Kaiser Permanente introduced the "integrated" model of healthcare to San Diego with the opening of its first hospital and medical center.

With over 1,100 SCPMG physicians in the San Diego service area, they provide care at two medical centers and 24 outpatient offices and annually see more than 2.9 million patients. They have established San Diego Medical Center as a premier destination for the treatment of strokes as well as having been certified a "baby-friendly" hospital. SCPMG sites also serve as academic institutions where SCPMG physicians help mentor Kaiser Foundation graduate medical residents and fellows.

SCPMG is helping to shape the future of health care in our nation through the use of advanced technology and the creation of innovative solutions that will have a lasting impact. I would like to commend SCPMG on their 60th Anniversary and thank them for their contributions to the community.

PROCLAIMING NATIONAL GEAR UP
WEEK IN EL PASO, TX

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the week of September 23, 2013 as National GEAR UP Week at Socorro Independent School District and Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, TX.

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded, competitive grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP serves low-income, minority and disadvantaged students and their families from underserved communities who might be the first person in their family to go to college. The program provides multi-year grants to states to deliver resources to students and their families, starting in middle school and onward, to help them achieve their dreams of attaining a postsecondary education.

GEAR UP includes interventions such as tutoring, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, financial education and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for low income, minority and disadvantaged first-generation students and their families. The program is built around public-private partnerships, enlisting resources from government, business and community groups to support low-income students as they prepare to enter and succeed in college.

The GEAR UP-SOAR (Solutions for Optimal Academic Readiness) and GEAR UP-Proyecto MAS is a partnership of the Socorro Independent School District, Ysleta Independent School District and the University of Texas at El Paso. Over 8,000 El Paso students have benefited from their participation in these GEAR UP Projects focused on college readiness.

The program helps the University of Texas at El Paso, Socorro Independent School District and Ysleta Independent School District fulfill their missions to provide a quality education for all students, helping them achieve their highest potential. I thank GEAR UP for increasing the number of low-income and minority El Paso students who are college ready, and helping these students enter and succeed in higher education.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF CLAUDIA TERENCIA NESBITT WALKER

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Pastor Claudia Terencia Nesbitt Walker who turned 70

• 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.

years old on September 2, 2013. Pastor Walker was born and raised on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands to the late Mary Matilda Henry and Austin Nesbitt. In honor of Pastor Walker's 70th birthday, I acknowledge her many contributions to the island of St. Croix. Pastor Walker is a lifelong business woman, culture bearer and community religious leader.

As a young female entrepreneur, she opened and managed several businesses in Frederiksted, St. Croix including the Palm Gardens and West Haven restaurants and the Frederiksted Bookkeeping and Secretarial Services. Prior to opening her own business, she worked as an Office Manager for the largest woman-owned business on St. Croix—Abramson Enterprises.

Pastor Walker is one of the Virgin Islands foremost culture bearers having co-founded the St. Croix Heritage Dancers, Inc. in 1981 where she served as the quadrille dance group's first Treasurer. Pastor Walker was also Treasurer for the St. Croix Festival Committee for many years. A gifted alto, Pastor Walker was a leading member of the Frederiksted Moravian Church Choir.

Pastor Walker is a prominent member of the religious community on St. Croix. An ordained minister and Christian education teacher, she was a congregation member of the Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries where she was ordained in 1990. She was also ordained into the Ministerial Fellowship of the World Harvest Church in Columbus, Ohio. Pastor Walker is the Founder and Pastor of the Gospel Tent Ministries and an associate member of the International Third World Leaders Association. She has served as the Territorial Representative for Morris Cerullo World Evangelism and their Global Satellite Network. Pastor Walker was Treasurer for the St. Croix Ministerial Association and also served as President for the Frederiksted Moravian Church Women's Fellowship. She is the author of the acclaimed study manual entitled *Forgiven and Forgiving: Your Doorway to Freedom*.

Claudia Walker was a prominent Virgin Islands public servant. She was office manager for several Virgin Islands Senators including Senator Cleone Creque Maynard, Senator Douglas Canton, Senator Edgar Isles, Senator Luz James and Senator Alicia Hansen. Pastor Walker also served the Virgin Islands government for many years as Business Manager at the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs.

She lovingly raised a family of three children, and has four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pastor Walker on this milestone. I thank her for her many contributions to the island of St. Croix and the U.S. Virgin Islands and I join her friends and family in celebration as we pay tribute to her on her 70th birthday. Pastor Claudia Walker is the very best St. Croix and the U.S. Virgin Islands has to offer, and I wish her good health and continued happiness.

SEEKING A VIABLE U.N. PATH
FORWARD ON SYRIA

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer for the record and the benefit of my col-

leagues a recent op-ed in the Huffington Post by international affairs expert Jeffrey Laurenti. It outlines a sound broader approach to bringing the tragic civil war in Syria to an end. Although some of the circumstances have changed since he wrote this piece, the wisdom of his analysis and recommendation still shows.

[From the Huffington Post, Sept. 12, 2013]

SEEKING A VIABLE U.N. PATH FORWARD ON
SYRIA

(By Jeffrey Laurenti)

Public consternation in the United States and abroad about President Obama's planned "targeted, limited, and effective" punitive strike against Syria confirms the wisdom of his overall approach to the Syrian crisis the past two years.

In facing down the caws from Washington hawks for arming rebels, bombing missile sites, and trying to impose no-fly zone, Obama has gauged perfectly what Americans—and the world—expected of him: restraint. As he acknowledged last week, "I was elected to end wars, not start them."

The apparent large-scale use of chemical weapons by the forces of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad certainly adds a new factor to the calculus, both for Obama's personal credibility and international concerns about weapons of mass destruction. It may be enough to sway a critical margin in the Congress to let the president proceed with his planned strike, which we would have to hope might accomplish its objective without widening the war.

But there is a good chance the public and Congress will remain immovable and reject any kind of military involvement in Syria. With the prudent counsel that St. Luke (14:32) recorded for political leaders facing possible defeat, the president's team should already be working now on Plan B: an ambitious effort to shut down the Syrian civil war altogether.

Perhaps the administration conceives air strikes as the lever to push the Syrian resistance to the long-promised negotiating table with Assad's government. That might be a plausible strategy for wresting peace from the jaws of wider war. But even if this is the game plan, the administration should be laying the groundwork now for the diplomatic dénouement to come—which might even help it on Capitol Hill—in the U.N. Security Council.

Ah, the United Nations. The institution whose resolutions—and, by extension, whose Charter restrictions on the use of force—Obama seemed to dismiss last week as "hocus pocus," delighting his right-wing enemies and shocking the political support base at home that won him his party's nomination and the many publics abroad that had cheered his election.

(Those most shocked presumably include the Nobel Committee that awarded him its Peace Prize in 2009 for having "created a new climate in international politics . . . with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play," with "dialogue and negotiations . . . preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts.")

Ambassador Samantha Power, a committed multilateralist now representing America at the United Nations, last week declared, "there is no viable path forward in this Security Council." If the path we want the Security Council to travel is authorizing a U.S. military strike against Syrian government forces for the grotesque use of chemical weapons, she is likely right that Russia and China would vote no.

But even so, simply securing a nine-vote council majority would itself indicate to the

Congress and American people that the red line that U.S. action would be upholding is the world's, not just Obama's. And it would justify a General Assembly call for limited military action, giving the gold-standard international legitimation when discord paralyzes the Security Council.

Perhaps those votes are just not there. President Bush abandoned the effort to win a Security Council majority for his planned invasion of Iraq when he couldn't get more than four votes. But that was surely the canary in the mineshaft in 2003, warning against what proved to be a disastrous war.

There is another viable path that the United States could usefully pursue right now, taking advantage of both the shock of the Ghouta gas attack and the fears of a U.S. strike's unintended consequences. It could take a page from the Security Council's first successful initiative as the Cold War wound down: its Resolution 598 that forced an end to the Iran-Iraq war (in which, coincidentally, Iraqi gas attacks against Iranians also figured).

These might be core elements of such an initiative:

A demand for an immediate ceasefire by all forces in Syria—the government and the various insurgent factions—with a short deadline for compliance;

Imposition of full-spectrum sanctions, especially on arms, on any party that refuses to comply with the cease-fire;

A summons to the Damascus authorities, the Syrian National Council, and other relevant parties to attend the much-postponed Kerry-Lavrov-Brahimi peace conference, to be convened within 30 days, and to negotiate in good faith;

Dispatch of a capably sized United Nations ceasefire monitoring force to oversee the ceasefire, investigate and report violations, and protect U.N. weapons inspectors;

Establishment of a U.N. commission of inquiry to determine responsibility for the Ghouta attack and any other reported chemical weapons use, with a demand that the government and, in rebel-dominated territory, insurgent groups permit full, unfettered access for U.N. weapons inspectors to undertake their investigation of sites of alleged attacks—much as Resolution 598 created a commission to certify officially who had started the Iran-Iraq war (surprise conclusion: Saddam);

Referral of the commission's findings of responsibility for chemical weapons use to the International Criminal Court, or less ideally an internationally vetted Syrian tribunal, for criminal prosecution;

A demand that Syria declare to U.N. inspectors its chemical weapons stocks for their provisional surveillance;

A reaffirmation of the need to kick-start the delayed conference on elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East that was promised at the 2010 nuclear nonproliferation treaty review conference.

It does not help President Obama's global credibility for Washington to appear to disdain the U.N. inspectors' pending report—especially when his one Western partner, France, now insists on waiting for it. And it is certainly awkward for the president to hold the moral high ground when the pope is leading prayer vigils and writing to world leaders decrying the planned attack.

It may be that the world community places a thicker red line on unilateral use of force than on punishing poison gas. All the more reason for having Plan B in place to pick up the pieces.

HONORING SERGEANT JOHN F.
BAKER, JR.

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about John F. Baker Jr. of Moline, Illinois.

Sergeant Baker was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War for heroically rescuing wounded soldiers from an ambush and leading a daring counterassault. The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military honor and is awarded for personal acts of valor that go well above and beyond the call of duty.

He was accepted by the Army during the Vietnam War. As a side note, the Marine Corps said he was an inch too short. Remember that when I tell you that it was Sergeant Baker's strength that helped him save the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Sergeant Baker's unit was tasked with reinforcing a group of American soldiers pinned down in Vietnam, close to the Cambodian border. About 3,000 Vietnamese had taken cover in the surrounding brush. As the U.S. soldiers advanced, the lead scout was shot and killed, and the jungle erupted in enemy fire.

Sergeant Baker ran toward the front and helped destroy two enemy bunkers. Although he was blown off his feet by an enemy grenade, he willed his own recovery enough to make repeated trips through fire and smoke to evacuate wounded American soldiers, who were much bigger than he was. By the end of the hours-long conflict, his uniform was soaked in the blood of his fellow soldiers. In all, Sergeant Baker was credited with recovering eight fallen U.S. soldiers, destroying six bunkers and killing at least 10 enemies.

Sergeant Baker was honored in our home state of Illinois and in the Congressional District I serve in 2010 when the Interstate 280 Bridge over the Mississippi River was renamed the John F. Baker, Jr., Bridge. A monument also has been dedicated in his honor, in Rock Island, Illinois. Sergeant Baker passed away early last year. His family says they will remember his courage, strength, and love the most.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that over the years, my region of Illinois has been the home to many brave veterans who have served our country in times of war and peace, including those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Sergeant Baker reflect the greatest credit upon himself, his unit, the Armed Forces and our entire nation. For that we will be eternally grateful. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES
HOLIFIELD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. James Holifield of New Carlisle, Indiana, who has been named Indiana's Middle School Principal

of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals. This well-deserved honor reaffirms Mr. Holifield's exceptional work in the field of education.

Mr. Holifield has served as principal at New Prairie Middle School since 2002. Since that time, he has spearheaded the creation of the Alternative to Suspension/Expulsion (ATSE) Program. This innovative program requires students to complete daily physical activity and community service projects and provides students with one-on-one tutoring and counseling services in lieu of suspension or expulsion. This unique approach to discipline has resulted in a decrease in expulsions and a lower rate of recidivism.

In addition, Mr. Holifield's passion for intercultural communication led him to create a Mandarin language program at New Prairie Middle School. This program resulted in a partnership with "sister schools" in Liaoning Province, China that includes faculty and student exchange visits and regular Chinese guest teachers at New Prairie Middle School. Mr. Holifield's innovative program has provided many students with marketable skills that can be used in our ever-evolving global economy. These two achievements are only a sampling of Mr. Holifield's contributions to New Prairie Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. James Holifield for his exemplary work and impressive accomplishments in the field of education. Thanks to educators like Mr. Holifield who take the time to invest in their students, our children face a brighter future filled with greater opportunity. Mr. Holifield's work serves as an example not only to his colleagues but to all Hoosiers, and the Second District of Indiana is grateful for his service.

TRIBUTE TO TALIA LEMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 18-year-old Talia Leman of Waukege, Iowa for her charitable efforts and for being named one of ten recipients of the 2013 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards. These awards are presented annually to Jewish teens who exemplify the Jewish concept of "repairing the world".

Talia's philanthropic spark was first ignited in 2005, when she chose to trick-or-treat for change instead of candy in order to raise money to help those struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Talia successfully united her classmates into doing the same, and shortly thereafter her effort garnered national attention. In the end, 4,000 school districts across the United States collectively raised over \$10 million for this effort.

In this altruistic spirit, Talia established the nonprofit RandomKid. This website provides youth with the tools and resources they need to formulate and develop community service projects by sharing possible ideas, strategies and funding opportunities. RandomKid has facilitated the efforts of 12 million youth from 20 countries bringing aid to four continents. Examples of RandomKid's reach include funding for water pumps, school construction, and medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent young Iowans like Talia Leman in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in commending her for her sincere dedication to helping others and wishing her continued success well into the future.

TRIBUTE TO SEN. HARRY F. BYRD,
JR.

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, July 30, 2013, Virginia witnessed the passing of Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia. Senator Byrd was a dedicated public servant and an exemplary figure in the history of our Commonwealth.

Born in Winchester, Virginia, Senator Byrd spent his life dedicated to Virginia. He attended both Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia, served our nation during World War II, and spent 78 years leading the Winchester Star, his family's newspaper. His 36 years of public service as a Virginia Senator and as a United States Senator set a high standard for integrity and leadership.

Senator Byrd always provided a strong voice for limited government and economic conservatism. He was at the center of many major policy discussions that shaped the future of this country. The late Senator is remembered for his positive, bipartisan approach to the great debates of his time, and his commitment to fiscal responsibility. During the 77th Congress, Senator Byrd proposed a commission to reduce the size and scope of the federal government. Named after its creator, the "Byrd Committee" was tasked with cutting unnecessary federal spending, which led to billions in savings during its first few years.

Senator Byrd's time was marked by great domestic and international transformation, and he played a crucial role as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, a Virginia and U.S. Senator, and as a journalist. His many contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation as a whole will long be remembered.

On behalf of myself, Leader ERIC CANTOR, and Representatives FRANK WOLF, BOB GOODLATTE, RANDY FORBES, ROB WITTMAN, MORGAN GRIFFITH, and SCOTT RIGELL, I am honored to pay tribute to Senator Byrd's legacy. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

HONORING SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shiloh Baptist Church in McLean, Virginia. Shiloh Baptist Church celebrated its 140th anniversary last week.

Shiloh Baptist Church was founded in 1873 by Rev. Cyrus Carter, a native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The church's first services were held at Odrick's Public School in McLean. The

church's membership rapidly expanded and, today, worship is held at the Shiloh Baptist Church, 8310 Turning Leaf Lane in McLean.

Rev. Dr. Robert F. Cheeks, Jr. currently leads the congregation in worship and programming and, following the recent adoption of a new ministry strategy, Shiloh has successfully increased its outreach to the wider community and has grown stronger in its fellowship. I am pleased to join with them in celebrating this joyous occasion and recognizing 140 years of dedicated service to the McLean community and the greater Washington metropolitan area.

I wish Rev. Cheeks and the greater Shiloh Baptist Church family all the best as they continue to undertake the Lord's work, and thank them for 140 years of service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, 2013, I mistakenly voted "aye" on rollcall vote 471. I meant to vote "nay" on the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Protection Act (H.R. 761).

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. THIERRY PORTÉ

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud the work of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, CULCON (U.S.-Japan Conference on Educational and Cultural Interchange) and the United States-Japan Bridging Foundation on the occasion of their upcoming meetings in Washington, D.C., and for their ongoing work in support of a strong U.S.-Japan relationship.

I am especially honored to recognize the outstanding leadership of Mr. Thierry Porté, who has served the American people for six years as Chairman of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and CULCON, and as Vice Chairman of the United States-Japan Bridging Foundation.

The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, a Federal agency established in 1975, awards grants supporting Japanese studies and educational, artistic, cultural and intellectual exchanges between the two nations. CULCON, established in 1962, is a bi-national advisory panel to the U.S. and Japanese governments ensuring that the best of new ideas are implemented as operational programs. CULCON also facilitates collaborations and partnership with other U.S.-Japan organizations. The United States-Japan Bridging Foundation was established in 1999 as a byproduct of the efforts of CULCON and the Commission. The Bridging Foundation is a self-sustaining 501(c)(3) nonprofit promoting educational and cultural exchanges. Collectively, these three organizations have been advancing and strengthening the vital educational and cultural foundations of the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Mr. Porté's enthusiastic and dedicated leadership has been instrumental in the success of all three organizations. In the field of art and culture, Mr. Porté has been a staunch supporter of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission's U.S.-Japan Creative Artists' Fellowship program that sends American artists to Japan for three months to collaborate with colleagues in their field. In spite of challenging financial circumstances, the Commission supported the continuation of this 30 year-old program whose impact reverberates as the artists continue their work with knowledge gained in Japan and working with their Japanese collaborators.

Mr. Porté has also been a strong supporter of Japanese studies in the United States. He has helped sustain funding for this field with support for projects such as the North American Coordinating Council of Japanese Library Resources (NCC). The NCC creates programs and online services to support the research needs of the field of Japanese studies and for users with any interest in Japan, anywhere.

The bedrock of the U.S.-Japan partnership is the close bond between our people, which remains the greatest resource for our Alliance. Student exchanges have been an important vehicle for nurturing the bonds between Japan and the United States. In this context, educational and cultural exchanges between Japan and the United States have been vital in building the strong partnership that exists today. At the same time, student exchanges help Japan and the United States to address the global challenges as partners with shared values, and enhance the global competitiveness of both countries.

To jointly address these issues, Mr. Porté, as Chairman of CULCON, spearheaded the work of a bi-national Education Task Force to examine trends in bilateral student exchanges and to make recommendations to leaders in both nations towards an ambitious goal: Double the number of U.S. and Japanese students studying in each other's country by 2020. The Educational Task Force, which is made up of government, private sector (nonprofit and for profit), and academic leaders from each country, has examined trends in bilateral student exchanges, and made recommendations to leaders in both nations on ways to revitalize and invigorate U.S.-Japan educational exchanges. Through Mr. Porté's leadership, the Task Force is making great strides in improving the quality and quantity of student exchanges.

Throughout his tenure as Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Porté has worked with the leaders of several professional organizations to support educational needs in Japan. In this regard, Mr. Porté supported efforts by Teach for Japan to help train Japan's most promising leaders to have an immediate impact on student achievement and develop these leaders into a national movement for educational change.

Mr. Porté has also been a staunch supporter of the United States-Japan Bridging Foundation as it expands opportunities for American undergraduate students to study in Japan. I applaud the Bridging Foundation for its work as a public-private partnership to raise over \$4 million and award over 1,000 scholarships to American students since its inception.

In short, the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, CULCON and the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation have made great strides in

promoting a strong and healthy U.S.-Japan relationship through the inspired leadership of Mr. Thierry Porté.

On behalf of the Congressional Members serving as Commissioners of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission—Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT, and myself—I would like to express our deepest gratitude for these contributions and assure Mr. Porté and his colleagues that the positive results of their hard work will be felt for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WOUNDED
WARRIOR FELLOW EDWARD
RELLA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of my staff, Mr. Edward Rella. Ed joined my office in March of 2012 through the U.S. House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior Program. After a successful and productive fellowship, Ed will be moving on and his last day with my office will be Friday, September 20, 2013.

A native of New Jersey, Ed served as an Armored Crewman in the U.S. Army and served tours of duty in Kuwait and Bosnia. During his successful military career, Ed was awarded three Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, two Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals and a National Defense Service Medal.

I was honored to have the opportunity to participate in the Wounded Warrior Program and have Ed join my Albany District Office last year. Since 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives has operated and funded the Wounded Warrior Program, offering full-time, two-year fellowships to veterans who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, have a 30% or greater VA disability rating and less than 20 years of service. Veterans accepted into the program are employed by a House office to gain skills and work experience that will assist them as they transition to full-time, civilian employment.

As Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, it is important to me to have the insight, knowledge, and services that only a Veteran can provide and Ed has been an outstanding asset to my office. He has served as a caseworker on Veterans issues and military affairs-related matters. He has represented my office very capably at numerous events and made a number of presentations on my behalf. I have received extremely positive feedback from my constituents and veterans organizations about his performance and constituent service.

Ed is an example of public service at its finest and his work on military and Veterans issues, his first-hand knowledge of these issues, and his advocacy on behalf of the veterans of Georgia's Second Congressional District have been invaluable to my office. Ed has a tremendous work ethic and has gone above and beyond the highest standards expected from a Wounded Warrior Fellow. Truly, Ed is not just a member of my staff; I am proud to call him a friend.

Ed's service to his country and his community are but a small testimony of the high caliber of character that he embodies. He is kind, funny and friendly to everyone. One of the things I admire most about Ed is his never-ending positivity. Even in the most difficult and stressful times, he will find a way to make anyone laugh.

Ed has a big personality to match his big heart and we will certainly miss having him on the staff. We have grown accustomed to hearing his favorite sayings: "Sharing is caring," and "It's all good." He likes to think he can dance and will try to dance to anything with a good beat. He loves fried chicken and is hooked on the delicious fried chicken offered in the Albany area.

Ed has accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his loving wife, Tracey, and his wonderful children, Taylor, Edward and Sydney.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with my Congressional staff and the more than 700,000 people in Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in recognizing, commending and extending our sincerest appreciation to Edward Rella for all of the meaningful work he has done for our fine District.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT DANE
ANDERSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dane Andersen of Boy Scout Troop 98 in Johnston, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Dane raised more than \$2500 and invested more than 240 hours to beautify the Iowa Primate Learning Sanctuary in Des Moines. Mr. Andersen oversaw the construction of a berm with 18 tons of dirt, planting 78 plants, painting the guardhouse and installing a new mailbox. Because the project was done on time and under budget, Dane and his volunteers were also able to provide a concrete base and footings for a future entrance sign. The work ethic Dane has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Dane and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him con-

tinued success in his future education and career.

HONORING ANNA SOLLEY ED. D.
ON RECEIVING VALLE DEL SOL'S
LATINO ADVOCACY CHAMPION
AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Anna Solley for receiving the Latino Advocacy Champion Award at Valle del Sol's 23rd annual Profiles of Success Celebration on September 6, 2013. Valle del Sol takes pride in honoring individuals that take Arizona to new heights with their deeds and service for others. Dr. Anna Solley has accomplished this as a champion for education by empowering others, enabling change, and promoting diversity.

Dr. Solley has worked in higher education for thirty-six years and currently serves as President of Phoenix College. She is committed to providing access to higher education to a diverse student population and strengthening educational attainment among Latino students in the Phoenix metro area. One example of Dr. Solley's leadership is through her invaluable work in a partnership between Phoenix College, the City of Phoenix, and the Phoenix Union High School district. This partnership works to engage Latino youth at different points in their education, with the goal of increasing the number of students that earn postsecondary credentials by 20 percent over a six-year period.

Born in Nogales, Arizona, Dr. Solley had a big dream for a small-town girl, of making a difference in the lives of others. Throughout her career in higher education, Dr. Solley has exemplified this commitment to serving others by helping thousands of others accomplish their dreams and inspiring students to be significant contributors to their communities.

Dr. Anna Solley also currently serves on the National Community College Hispanic Council Board, the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, the Phoenix Community Alliance Board, and the St. Joseph's Hospital Community Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Solley for receiving Valle del Sol's Latino Advocacy Champion Award and her continued service to the Phoenix community.

HONORING PROFESSOR WILLIAM
GORDON MCLAIN III

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2013, Professor William Gordon McLain III lost his 19-month long battle with lung cancer. On that day, the world lost a champion for the powerless and a brilliant legal mind. Will, as he was known and distinguished from his first born son, William G. McLain, IV, was not unaccustomed to battles.

He confronted his cancer diagnosis with the same ferocity, toughness, and wry humor that he exhibited in every fight, especially his life-long battle to make the ideals of equality and justice under the law a reality for all.

Born and raised in McComb, Mississippi, in 1945, Will, an only child, lost his father who was also a lawyer, at an early age. But the die had been cast—the quest for justice was in his blood. Fueled by memories of his father and his lovingly feisty mother, Doris "Cleo" McLain, Will pursued his undergraduate education at Tulane University in his beloved second home, New Orleans, Louisiana. Although he entered the legal profession later than most, graduating from the Antioch School of Law in 1983 at the age of 38, Will lost little time throwing himself behind causes he believed in, no matter how unpopular. Indeed, some would say that the less popular an issue of Constitutional justice, government excess or fundamental fairness became, the more Will was compelled to stand up for it or fight against it. Will surprised many of his liberal friends with his dogged defense of an individual's right to bear arms under the Second Amendment—but that was him, consistent, principled, smart, and especially happy when he could shock folks a little. Clarence Darrow liked to call himself the "Attorney for the Damned"—well, in our lifetimes that was Will McLain.

I first met Will in the late 1980s when he joined the legal team assembled by my chief counsel, University of Miami Professor Terry Anderson, to represent me in an ongoing impeachment proceeding before the U.S. House of Representatives, a body in which I now serve. Will quickly became an indispensable member of my defense. He continued working behind the scenes providing invaluable strategic advice and exhaustive legal research in the federal case that ultimately declared that my impeachment and Senate trial were in violation of due process. I am told that he found that legal victory and my subsequent election to Congress gleefully gratifying. I will be forever grateful for his contribution.

Many others are indebted to Will for his passion to serve the disadvantaged and powerless in society. He worked tirelessly—often without compensation or recognition—on behalf of death row inmates and other criminal defendants who faced trumped up charges or other government abuses. He deplored racism and homophobia and provided legal counsel to those who were victimized by discrimination. Will was also a staunch advocate for the freedom of the press. Together with his life-long friend and colleague, Professor Tom Mack, Will successfully represented a journalist against the threat of compelled disclosure of a source. Most recently, he also associated with his former law student, and then soon to be son-in-law, Stephen Mercer, head of the Maryland Public Defender's forensics unit, to devise challenges to state and federal practices that allowed the warrantless collection of DNA of persons who are not convicted of a crime.

Will was very disappointed by the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2013 that authorized those practices. But he was also encouraged that the 5–4 decision united arch-conservative and liberal Justices in dissent. In his view, that combination holds promise that someday fourth amendment protection will be extended to arrestees and end this practice.

His passion for justice never let up—even in his final months when many would have been understandably preoccupied with their own condition, he would rail about the NSA and the great civil liberties challenges and disappointments of our time.

The litany of cases and clients Will handled over the years, while impressive, are eclipsed by the legion of students he educated and inspired. Following Hurricane Katrina, Will co-created and co-taught Katrina and Beyond: Disaster Law at the University of the District of Columbia's law school. The course included field trips to New Orleans where students were exposed first hand to the devastation and human suffering left in Katrina's wake. Will's legal expertise was multidimensional and superior to most of his peers. But his ability to impart knowledge in digestible and accessible terms to his students and to motivate them to, not only learn but also, yearn was simply unmatched. He was the consummate professor, teaching wherever he found an audience. Will made learning fun, but he was not always gentle. He had an uncanny mix of southern charm, always greeting women with a peck on the wrist, and an unapologetic irreverence, keeping everyone on their toes (and sometimes knocked a bit further back than that!) with his incorrigible, irascible, withering wit. He was passionate, and as many who've worked in these halls know, that comes hand-in-hand with being brutally direct and unwilling to suffer fools gladly. In fact, Will gladly made fools suffer! He was also old fashioned, drafting his briefs by hand on yellow legal pads. He often "held court" at the Tune Inn, a Capitol Hill institution, where swarms of law students, colleagues, and more than a few members of our own Institution would parade in and out hungry for the opportunity to gain his insights on law, life, and the future.

Will's future was cut short when in the winter of 2011 he received the agonizing diagnosis that he had terminal cancer. Like he did with all of his legal battles, Will did not take the diagnosis lightly. As he fought through chemo treatments that weakened his body, he altered his routine very little. He continued to teach the students he loved. He read the Washington Post and the New York Times daily. He played Gin Rummy at the Tune Inn sipping vodka and watched the Saints and Redskins on Sundays with his young grandson, Sam, with whom he enjoyed a special relationship. As his body grew weary, Will hosted his own farewell party held in the backyard of what would become his final home in Rockville, Maryland. Over one hundred people attended, including Will's big, complicated, extended family—a world of people from all walks of life brought together by their shared love and admiration of Will. That was the thing about Will—he mattered to the people whose lives he touched, whether they loved him, grudgingly respected him, or found him simply infuriating (but irresistibly so).

Will was elated when his former student, Stephen Mercer proposed marriage to Will's oldest son, William. He never thought he would see the day when same-sex marriage would be a legal reality for his first born. He simply willed himself to find the strength to see that day. And he did. Will was alert, lucid and enthusiastic at the wedding, just weeks ago. Although he had become very frail, he independently raised a glass to toast their union. In his final days, Will spoke sporadically,

clutched his New York Times, gripped the hands of his family and friends, and always provided a kiss followed by the words, "I love you." Will passed away five days after the wedding he never thought possible. He was surrounded by the three most important people in his life—his now son-in-law, Stephen, his oldest son, William, and his youngest son, Pierce.

Will McLain lived his life with vigor, commitment and generosity of mind, heart and spirit. On September 6, 2013, the world lost an unsung legal giant. I lost a treasured friend. And his family and close personal friends lost the center of their universe.

I am honored to rise today to salute his memory and leave this permanent record in the annals of our nation of the great man who was Will McLain.

IN HONOR OF RICK A. GRECO, DO,
FACOI, 71ST PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OSTEO-
PATHIC INTERNISTS

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rick A. Greco, DO, FACOI, who will be inaugurated as the American College of Osteopathic Internists' (ACOI) 71st President on October 13, 2013. The ACOI, which represents the nation's osteopathic internists, medical subspecialists, students, residents and fellows, is dedicated to the advancement of osteopathic internal medicine through education, advocacy, research and the opportunity for service. Dr. Greco embodies the mission of the ACOI as evidenced by his commitment to his patients and local community.

Dr. Greco is a life-long resident of West Virginia. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from West Virginia University and a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Following medical school, Dr. Greco completed his residency training at Ohio Valley Medical Center in my hometown of Wheeling, WV.

He has spent his entire career working to improve access to high-quality care in underserved areas. Recognizing the need for a new medical training program in Wheeling, Dr. Greco established an osteopathic internal medicine residency program in 1999 at Ohio Valley Medical Center. In 2003 he became the Director of Medical Education and the large numbers of residents who complete their training and remained in the area to provide essential primary care services in an underserved area are testament to the quality of his training program. As a result of Dr. Greco's efforts, many more West Virginians have access to high-quality care where and when they need it most.

Dr. Greco has held numerous leadership positions. He served as president of the West Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine and the Ohio County Medical Society and was a state delegate for the West Virginia Medical Association. In addition to his many other duties, Dr. Greco continues to serve on the ACOI Board of Directors, where he has served since 2004 and serves on numerous committees at the Ohio Valley Medical Center. His

commitment to his patients, trainees, church and community is unmatched.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 1st Congressional District of West Virginia, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating my friend, Dr. Rick Greco, on his inauguration as the 71st President of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

SUDAN ADVOCATES EXPRESS
GRAVE CONCERN AT PROSPECT
OF BASHIR VISIT TO THE U.S.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit a letter sent today to President Obama by leading Sudan advocacy groups and individuals expressing great concern over the reports that Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has requested a visa to visit the U.S. for the upcoming United Nations General Assembly meeting.

September 19, 2013.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.,
Washington DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We write with great concern over reports that Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has requested a visa from the U.S. government in order to participate in next week's UN General Assembly meeting. Our immigration laws prohibit admitting perpetrators of genocide and extrajudicial killings into our country and it is unprecedented for someone wanted by the International Criminal Court for the crime of genocide to travel to the United States. While we recognize that the U.S. government is obliged to facilitate President Bashir's visit under the UN Headquarters Agreement, we urge you to do everything in your power to prevent the trip.

We deeply appreciate that the administration has already publicly voiced concerns about this proposed trip and write to suggest additional steps that could dissuade President Bashir from persisting with his travel plans. The administration should consider announcing that, if President Bashir lands in New York, the U.S. Department of Justice will explore filing a criminal case against him under 18 USC 1091. This law, which codifies the Genocide Accountability Act of 2007, allows for anyone present in the United States to be prosecuted for genocide, even if their crimes were committed abroad. By publicly raising the threat of such a prosecution and the specter that President Bashir's privileges and immunities may not extend to genocidal acts, your administration would make an important statement about the U.S. government's commitment to atrocity prevention and accountability.

Declaring that the U.S. will only offer the Sudanese delegation the minimum amount of protection mandated by the UN Headquarters Agreement could also affect the Sudanese government's decision making process. Invoking the "security reservation" attached to the Headquarters Agreement might even offer our State Department a justification for a visa denial. The U.S. government could defend this decision by citing Presidential Study Directive-10, which unequivocally declares that the prevention of mass atrocities is a core national security interest. Limiting the number of visas granted to President Bashir's security detail and imposing specific geographic constraints on those visas could also circumscribe the delegation's mobility and raise the reputational costs of the trip.

In the event that President Bashir remains steadfast in his intent to travel to United Nations headquarters despite these actions, there are a number of steps that can be taken to impede his travel. Our diplomatic corps should encourage countries along President Bashir's planned flight path to refuse landing rights for his aircraft for refueling and restrict access to their airspace. The U.S. delegation to the United Nations and Ambassador Samantha Power should also encourage senior UN officials and delegations from other countries to publicly refuse to meet with President Bashir or his delegation. Drawing on the precedent set by a similar rejection of former Iranian President Ahmadinejad in 2011, our diplomats could also coordinate a walk-out of the UN General Assembly session in protest of President Bashir's presence.

Former President Bush paved the way to refer the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court, and your administration has increased U.S. cooperation with the Court, including facilitating the recent transfer of Bosco Ntaganda to the Hague. Since the UN Security Council acted under Chapter VII when urging all states to cooperate with the Court in Resolution 1593, and the Court has requested U.S. cooperation with President Bashir's case in 2009, 2010 and most recently on September 18, 2013, we ask that the administration consider the impact that this trip has on our broader commitment to international justice and accountability.

As Americans concerned by the ongoing atrocities in Sudan, we support your administration's thoughtful response to this unique diplomatic challenge. Along with the Sudanese diaspora, celebrity activists, human rights organizations, and student groups, we will be amplifying these efforts through our own public activism. The U.S. government's continued attention to this issue will be instrumental in finding a holistic solution to the challenges facing the Sudanese people.

Sincerely,

George Clooney and Don Cheadle, Not on Our Watch; Mia Farrow, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador; John Prendergast and Omer Ismail, Enough Project; Tom Andrews, United to End Genocide; Randy Newcomb, Humanity United; Amir Osman, Sudan Democracy First Group; Ted Dagne; Bahar Arabie, Unite for Darfur; Jimmy Mulla, Voices for Sudan; Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service; Gabriel Stauring, iActivism; Eric Reeves, Smith College; Raymond M. Brown, International Justice Project; Faith McDonnell, Institute on Religion and Democracy; Michael Lieb Jeser, Jewish World Watch; Rabbi David Kaufman, Help Nuba; Eric Cohen, Act for Sudan; Esther Sprague, Sudan Unlimited; Sharon Silber, Jews Against Genocide; Eileen Weiss, New York Coalition for Sudan; Kimberly Hollingsworth, Humanity Is Us; Hannah Finnie, STAND.

HONORING RAFAEL "CHAPITO" CHAVARRIA ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PHOENIX MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rafael Chavarria on the

upcoming documentary chronicling his culturally impactful life and career as a musician in the State of Arizona. Rafael Chavarria was born in April 1914, in Solomonville, Arizona.

For more than 60 years, Rafael Chavarria, affectionately known as "Chapito" by all who know him, contributed his style of music to the Hispanic community of Phoenix, Arizona, providing a cultural cohesiveness for Hispanics in Arizona at a time when many establishments openly discriminated against them.

Mr. Chavarria's illustrious career started in 1923 at the tender age of nine years old when he began playing with his father's band at weddings. Mr. Chavarria's style of music highlights the influences of Latin music and Mexican culture that he was exposed to when he was growing up in East Los Angeles during the 1930s. Mr. Chavarria's most important contribution to the genre was incorporating aspects of American swing and the jitterbug to the tropical rhythms that were popular in Mexico City during the 1940s and '50s.

Thanks to Mr. Chavarria's tireless efforts, genres of music from the waltz, polka, and bolero to the cha-cha, and rumba, among others, became popularized in Arizona.

Despite experiencing a childhood full of discrimination and segregation, when the country went to war in World War II, Mr. Chavarria, like many in his generation, served his country. He was drafted as a firefighter for the Army Air Corp in 1943 and served in the South Pacific—eventually earning the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal for his service.

Through his music, Mr. Chavarria became one of most important cultural icons for the State of Arizona, serving as the catalyst that brought together the Arizona Hispanic community—helping to maintain their culture and arts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rafael "Chapito" Chavarria on his documental debut highlighting his contribution to the vibrant history of the Hispanic community in Arizona and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to his music, his family, and his community.

PROCLAIMING THE STATE OF NEVADA RECOGNIZE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT KENNETH D. GRAY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SERVICE IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the retirement of Chief Master Sergeant Kenneth D. Gray.

Ken Gray served for 26 years in the Air Force medical field achieving the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. During his service, he served several years overseas including two tours in Iraq. As a decorated officer, he received many awards including the Meritorious Service Award and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Ken Gray has always had a mind for public service and I thank him for his duty to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join me in praising the accomplishments of Chief Master Sergeant Ken Gray and recognize his achievements in service to our Nation.

HONORING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
MICHAEL A. NELSON

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Chief Petty Officer Michael A. Nelson, United States Navy, on the occasion of his transfer from the U.S. House of Representatives Liaison Office for the Department of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs, while serving as Legislative Chief. I, and many other members of this chamber have had the pleasure of working with him over the past four years, and I am honored to commend Chief Nelson's achievements and recognize his service and devotion to our great nation.

Every day he served in direct support of not only the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs, but every Member of Congress. His keen abilities in organization, interpersonal relationships, and communication were extremely critical to the successful accomplishment of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs mission of serving the U.S. Congress.

While serving in the Liaison office, Chief Nelson routinely turned broad guidance into action, which energized the Office of Legislative Affairs and Members of Congress alike. His actions allowed the Navy to engage Members of Congress and their staffs, directly facilitating the increased emphasis on improving congressional relationships.

During Chief Nelson's tour, he accomplished the full spectrum of the Navy's legislative mission. He exemplified the candor and knowledge that we have come to expect from the Navy and he played a key role in maintaining superb relationships between the Navy and the House of Representatives.

Throughout his tour, Chief Nelson effectively responded to several thousand congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. During his time on Capitol Hill, Chief Nelson successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted over 50 international and domestic congressional and staff delegations. His detailed coordination with foreign government officials, U.S. State Department, and senior military officials ensured that each delegation was conducted professionally and flawlessly. His attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed Representatives to focus on fact-finding and gleaning new insights to make informed critical decisions to support the interests of the people of the United States. He has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives and for that I am eternally grateful.

I wish Chief Nelson continued success and fulfillment as he transitions to his next duty station. His loyal dedication to duty reflects the highest standards of Naval Service.

HONORING A.R. "PETE" GURNEY AND THE OPENING OF BUFFALO'S THEATRE SEASON, CURTAIN UP!

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate playwright A. R. "Pete" Gurney as he returns to his hometown to serve as the 2013 Honorary Chairman of Curtain Up!, the 32nd annual celebration of the opening of Buffalo, New York's professional theatre season.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Gurney attended Williams College, graduating in 1952. After graduation, he nobly served our country as an officer in the United States Navy, where his writing skills were called into duty as his shows entertained fellow military personnel.

Following his discharge in 1955, he began his studies at Yale School of Drama where he wrote "Love in Buffalo," the first musical ever produced at the school.

A gifted educator, Mr. Gurney shared his talents with students for many years, teaching literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Eventually, he moved to New York City to devote himself fully to his writing and the arts.

His first play, "Scenes from American Life," was produced in New York in 1968. In 1970, it received its world premiere at Buffalo's legendary playhouse, Studio Arena Theatre.

The early 80's brought success with his play, "The Dining Room," a comedy of manners influenced by his life on Lincoln Parkway in Buffalo. He continued to explore a wide range of familiar themes including rekindled love, family life, and confronting skeletons in the closet in other works including "The Middle Ages," "The Golden Age," "The Perfect Party," "Another Antigone," "The Cocktail Hour," "The Old Boy," "The Fourth Wall," "A Cheever Evening" and "Sylvia."

"Love Letters," written in 1989, remains Mr. Gurney's most produced play with its two-character cast who sit side by side at a desk. The man and a woman who share their complicated, loving and lasting friendship through 50 years of correspondence has been brought to life by extraordinary actors, including Mr. Gurney himself.

Mr. Gurney is the recipient of a number of awards for his work, earning membership into the American Academy of Arts and Letters as well as the Theatre Hall of Fame.

More recently, several of Mr. Gurney's plays have been produced by the Flea Theater off Broadway where his latest work, "Family Furniture," will appear this fall. His own family includes wife, Molly, four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor "Buffalo's own playwright," A. R. Gurney. His authentic voice, crisp observations and creativity have become part of the fabric of the American theatre and we are sincerely grateful to welcome him home as the Honorary Chairman of the 2013 Curtain Up! Celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF THE GUAM WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent launch of the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, which was formally established on Sept. 4, 2013. Their mission is to promote the sustainable economic growth and development of women and to help them integrate into leadership positions; to create community awareness of the importance of women in the island's economic, social and cultural platform; to influence legislative policies on issues facing women; and to provide a business environment that pays competitive wages and benefits for women.

This Chamber's board members include some of the most successful business leaders and entrepreneurs in our community, such as its President, Lou A. Leon Guerrero, President and CEO of the Bank of Guam; Vice President Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A., Interim Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Guam; Treasurer Antoinette Sanford, President and co-founder of Sanford Technology Group, LLC (STG); and Secretary Denise Mendiola-Hertslet, the Program Coordinator for the Bank of Guam Women in Business Program and the Micro-credit Training Program. Its founding members also include; Siska S. Hutapea, MAI, MRE; Vanessa Williams Ji, Esq.; Jackie Marati; Doyon Ahn Morato; and Dr. Mary Okada, the first woman President and CEO of the Guam Community College.

These women are leading the charge to strengthen our local economy by creating one driven and influenced by the equal participation of women in business, commerce and trade.

I commend President Lou Leon Guerrero and Vice President Anita Borja Enriquez for their leadership of this exciting new organization, and I look forward to working with the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce in the coming years.

HONORING RON E. ARMSTEAD

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend on the eve of the 25th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust. Mr. Ron E. Armstead is the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

In addition to being the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust (CBCVB), he is a past consultant for former Secretary Jesse Brown's Veterans Administration's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. He has served as Executive Director of the CBCVB since its inception in 1988, first under Rep. CHARLES B. RANGEL (NY-13), a decorated Korean War combat veteran and Dean of the New York Congressional Delegation,

and currently under myself and Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (GA-02), ranking member of Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies of the Appropriations Committee.

Under his leadership the Veterans Braintrust has expanded from its small core group to become the premiere forum for policy debate between veterans and representatives of government in the country. As well as being a Navy veteran, Mr. Armstead holds a Masters Degree in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a license in social work (LSW) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is currently on an extended leave of absence from Howard University's School of Social Work Doctoral Program.

Mr. Armstead began his activist career at Boston State College in September 1975, as a campus organizer and later President of Student Government Association. During his time at BSC, he and several classmates incorporated the Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc. as an outgrowth of the Veterans Club on campus. His extensive background includes, but is not limited to issues of homelessness, mental health, social work, youth violence, affordable housing and community development.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Armstead on this, the 25th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREER'S
BMW MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate the BMW Manufacturing Company in Greer, South Carolina, upon their recent achievement. Yesterday, hardworking team members completed a tremendous goal by producing the 2,500,000th car since it's opening nearly twenty years ago. The mineral white metallic BMW X5 is destined for a BMW dealership in San Antonio, Texas, where it will be sold to a very fortunate customer.

Over the years, the BMW facility has proven to be a great success for South Carolina. During my tenure in the South Carolina State Senate, I joined my Upstate colleagues to encourage BMW to build the four million square foot manufacturing facility, employing over 7,000 people in the region and investing billions into the Palmetto State's economy. I was honored to join my colleagues and community leaders from the upstate at the groundbreaking in September 1992. Dozens of parts suppliers are co-located across the Upstate creating thousands of more jobs. The facility launched sales of BMW Z3s, Z4s, X5s, and X6s while adding X3s for worldwide export.

South Carolina now is the leading exporter of cars in the United States. It fulfills the vision of Roger Milliken of Spartanburg who promoted the Jetport of Greenville-Spartanburg, and of Governor Carroll Campbell who worked with legislative leaders Senator Verne Smith of Greenville and Senator John Russell of Spartanburg coordinating with Ports Authority Chairman Bob Royall. All of South Carolina has benefited especially promoting the Port of Charleston.

TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO QUALIFY HOMELESS YOUTH AND VETERANS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation that will fix an error and enable homeless veterans and youth to pursue full time education while living in Low Income Housing Tax Credit financed housing.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) have been a crucial foundation to incentivize the building of affordable low income housing. LIHTC housing has been invaluable in providing much needed shelter for those living in poverty or on the streets.

Unfortunately, a provision in the law is having unintended consequences. Currently, a homeless veteran or youth that wishes to pursue full time education must choose between an education and living in LIHTC housing. This is not a choice they should be forced to make, nor is this a policy America has ever supported.

Education is the cornerstone of American excellence and ingenuity and remains the best means to escape poverty. It is critical that we fix this defect in the law, and ensure that our youth are given every opportunity to reach their educational goals.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD
ALZHEIMER'S MONTH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Alzheimer's Association and their efforts to end Alzheimer's disease.

My mother-in-law battled this illness, so my wife and I can speak from experience, and tell you first-hand, the devastating stages of the disease and its effects on family and friends.

This progressive, dementia disorder affects more than 4 million people nationwide and will affect as many as 14 million individuals by 2050.

Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's but researchers and organizations like the Alzheimer's Association are working together on treatments and hopefully, one day a cure.

I encourage you all to "GO Purple" to raise awareness and show your support to end Alzheimer's.

HONORING DIANA NYAD'S TRIUMPHANT SWIM FROM CUBA TO KEY WEST

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valiant, devoted woman. At age

64, Diana Nyad navigated the Florida Straits—a treacherous body of water between Cuba and Florida. However, Diana's journey wasn't accomplished by vessel; instead, she swam . . . 110 miles . . . without a shark cage.

Despite several failed attempts at accomplishing her goal, her passion, perseverance, and persistence never faltered. As the first person to accomplish this astonishing feat, Diana's display of tenacity and enterprise is worthy of acclaim.

Ms. Nyad's triumph is a true testament of the human spirit and an embodiment of the "anything is possible" philosophy. Her mantra, "find a way", is one elicited by a true role model.

I commend Ms. Nyad for her achievement, as she serves as an example to us all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 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 \$16,738,482,606,783.04. We've added \$6,111,605,557,869.96 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT NAVID GARSHASB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Master Sergeant Navid Garshasb who passed away on September 4 after a long battle with brain cancer. Master Sergeant Garshasb was a proud resident of Navarre, Florida where he retired from the United States Air Force after courageously serving our Nation with honor and distinction.

Born in Shiraz, Iran, Master Sergeant Garshasb moved to the United States at the age of 12 and joined the Air Force eight years later. He started his military career as a member of the 834th Civil Engineering Squadron at Hurlburt Field. In the years to come, he would be stationed at bases in Michigan and Louisiana and even served on the Bossier City Police Department Reserve Officer Unit in Louisiana where he was named Reserve Officer of the Year.

Master Sergeant Garshasb realized his true calling when he returned to Hurlburt Field to serve as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist with the 25th Intelligence Squadron. He used his fluency in six languages to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, and soon thereafter he was on his way to Afghanistan. In November 2001, after his aircraft crash landed on an embankment in Afghanistan, he helped save the lives

of his fellow crewmembers by using his knowledge of languages native to the region. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Air Force Sergeants Association William H. Pitsenbarger Heroism Award, which recognizes the heroic acts of an enlisted member who saved a life or prevented serious injury. Master Sergeant Garshasb's actions throughout his career earned him numerous additional awards which further highlight his exemplary service to this Nation, and I am proud that he called North-west Florida home.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Master Sergeant Navid Garshasb. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to Master Sergeant Garshasb's wife, Joani; their sons, Shahine and Andrew; and their entire family. He will truly be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

THE FAIRNESS FOR
BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2013

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fairness for Beneficiaries Act of 2013.

Before Medicare beneficiaries can access skilled nursing facility ("SNF") care, they must have a preceding three (3) day inpatient stay at a hospital. Historically, this made sense. The goal was to ensure the use of SNF care was limited to certain circumstances where such care was medically necessary. The relatively arbitrary 3-day requirement was acceptable; medical developments and technology were such that beneficiaries usually would need 3 days of inpatient care prior to accessing SNF care.

I contend that times have changed. First, many Medicare beneficiaries are simply not medically appropriate for inpatient stays; they require direct admission to a SNF. Thus, the 3 day stay requirement imposes a burden—both physical and financial. We know inpatients can often acquire healthcare-associated infections ("HAIs") during their stay at a hospital. The potential for beneficiaries who may have compromised immune systems to acquire an HAI is substantially higher, compared with the rest of the population. One recent estimate projects the annual direct cost of HAIs to United States hospitals at \$28.4 to \$45 billion. Some of this financial burden could be avoided potentially if beneficiaries could bypass the inpatient setting and go directly to a SNF, when a physician certifies that SNF care is appropriate.

There is another reason that this legislation is of critical importance. The use of observation status by physicians has caused a substantial burden for patients. Medicare beneficiaries may go to a SNF thinking that because they had been sitting in a hospital bed for 3 days, that their SNF care would be paid for by Medicare—only to find that this is not the case because 1 or 2 of the days that they spent at the hospital were spent in observation status. Such patients are hit with substantial financial liability time and time again when they access

SNF care. This issue has directly affected my constituents and I am seeking to put an end to this problem by eliminating the requirement for a 3 day stay prior to beneficiaries accessing SNF care.

Finally, I recognize that some critics may say there is a substantial cost to this legislation and that the cost to the Medicare program is simply too great. I believe that some of the cost associated with this legislation could be offset. First, as described above, there is a potential savings in reducing some HAs that Medicare beneficiaries acquire during the inpatient stay since the beneficiaries can now go straight to a SNF when medically indicated. Second, I note that there will be a decrease in the use of inpatient hospitals by this population when beneficiaries are ready to go straight to a SNF. Third, I note that beneficiaries deserve the best care that we can afford to them. As such, the right policy in this regard is to allow them to access SNF care where medically appropriate as certified by a physician. Finally, the legislation contains certain protections to protect against fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare program relative to this benefit. First, a physician certification continues to be required prior to a beneficiary being able to access SNF services. Second, the legislation requires CMS to develop uniform requirements that will allow CMS and its contractors to audit to ensure that SNF care is appropriate.

For all of these reasons, the Fairness for Beneficiaries Act of 2013 is the right thing to do. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING CHARLES WILLIAM
"BILL" MALONEY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles William "Bill" Maloney and thank him for his service to country and community.

On September 6, with his loved ones at his side, Bill passed away peacefully at the age of 91.

A native of Kansas, Bill was surrounded by aviation from an early age. This would eventually influence his life long career in aviation. He entered the Army Air Corps during World War Two and flew C47 aircraft missions in the Pacific theater. After the war, he returned to the mainland and earned his undergraduate degree from Washburn University and then moved to Marietta, Georgia in 1952. There, he began a 36-year long career with Lockheed Martin. He would later graduate from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School in 1957.

Bill was a role model and community leader. He took pride in civic service and served on—and chaired—the Kennestone Hospital Board of Authority, the Marietta City Zoning Board, and the Marietta School Board. Furthermore, he was an active parishioner at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, where he and his wife, Dorothy, actively volunteered regularly.

His colleagues and friends will always remember Bill as someone who took pride in his profession, cared deeply about his community, loved his family, and enjoyed golfing with his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Bill's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for their loss. It saddens me to know that the world is missing an honorable and dedicated man, but I am humbled to know that he is now in a better place.

HONORING JEFFREY MATTISON
FOR HIS LIFETIME DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Mattison of Franklin Township, New Jersey for his distinguished tenure as the Executive Director of The Arc of Hunterdon County. The Arc of Hunterdon County is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Under Jeff's leadership The Arc has expanded to now provide permanent residences to more than 100 individuals and additional services to daily residents and family members. Jeff's service included 12 years on the board shaping the direction of the organization. Jeff has also enjoyed a 28-year career in commercial lending, working for several Hunterdon County community banks.

Jeff's commitment to community service is also highlighted by his leadership roles with the New Jersey Bankers Association, Builders Association of Northwest New Jersey, Rotary Club of Flemington and the United Way of Hunterdon County. I congratulate Jeff for being recognized by the Raritan Township Republican Club with its Outstanding Community Service Award.

LETTER TO FBI DIRECTOR COMEY
ON NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL
REPORT FINDING FBI FIELD OFFICES
VIOLATED PGLICY PROHIBITING
NON-INVESTIGATIVE
COOPERATION WITH CAIR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the letter I sent to FBI Director James Comey today in response to troubling findings in a new report by the Justice Department's Inspector General (IG) detailing repeated violations by FBI field offices with regard to the bureau's longstanding policy prohibiting non-investigative cooperation with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). I requested this investigation two years ago after learning of some of these violations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 19, 2013.

HON. JAMES COMEY,

*Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR DIRECTOR COMEY: Two years ago, I wrote the Justice Department's Office of the Inspector General requesting an investigation into FBI field office compliance with the bureau's 2008 policy prohibiting non-in-

vestigative cooperation with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). I was deeply concerned to learn of multiple occasions when several FBI field offices had continued to work with CAIR despite the clear policy issued by the bureau.

This policy was initially implemented after CAIR was identified as an unindicted coconspirator in the trial of the Holy Land Foundation which, according to a Justice Department press release issued May 27, 2009, reported that "U.S. District Judge Jorge A. Solis sentenced the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF) and five of its leaders following their convictions by a federal jury in November 2008 on charges of providing material support to Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization." The sentences ranged from 15 years to 65 years in prison. The release continued: "From its inception, HLF existed to support llamas. . . . The government's case included testimony that in the early 1990's, Hamas' parent organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, planned to establish a network of organizations in the U.S. to spread a militant Islamist message and raise money for llamas. . . . The defendants sent HLF-raised funds to Hamas-controlled zakat committees and charitable societies in the West Bank and Gaza."

Today, the department's inspector general, Michael Horowitz, released his final report, Review of FBI Interactions with the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which confirms the blatant disregard of bureau policy as well as multiple enacted Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations reports with respect to interactions by the FBI with CAIR. Despite repeated efforts to communicate the policy to the field, this was undermined by conflicting guidance being inexplicably offered by the bureau's Office of Public Affairs as well as by outright violations from several field offices.

Specifically, the OIG report found that the former Special Agents-in-Charge (SAC) of the Chicago, Illinois, Los Angeles, California, and New Haven, Connecticut field offices violated the department's policy, despite numerous electronic communications articulating the policy as well as a mandatory meeting held in November 2008 with all SACs and Assistant Directors-in-Charge to communicate the policy in person. There should have been no confusion about this policy given the bureau guidance, Congressional direction and media coverage surrounding this directive.

Despite this direction, the OIG report makes clear that the leadership of several field offices knowingly ignored or selectively applied the policy to suit their interests. In one case documented in the report, the SAC of the LA field office wrote an e-mail to his staff explicitly noting: "Please instruct your folks at this time that they are not to abide by the [October 24, 2008, Electronic Communication from the REDACTED], but that their direction in regards to CAIR will come from the LA Field Office front office." This is unacceptable and insubordinate behavior from a senior leader of the FBI.

What concerns me even more is that the OIG only reviewed five instances of reported violations of the policy, which could represent only a fraction of the overall number of violations that may have taken place at other field offices. The findings in the report suggest that the FBI may have a systemic problem with the violation of this important policy and does not reflect well on the bureau's compliance with other policies.

This documented failure to abide by FBI direction is intolerable. I ask that you immediately take action to ensure such a failure in policy coordination and management is not repeated, and advise me what specific actions you are taking to ensure FBI policy

with regard to interactions with CAIR is clear, unambiguous, and complied with by all FBI components.

Additionally, I am asking you to immediately remove any FBI agents or employees that knowingly violated this policy or offered conflicting guidance that undermined the policy—particularly the SACs of the Chicago, Philadelphia and New Haven Field Of-

fices who approved and carried out actions that directly contravened established policy and law—and report to the Congress on what disciplinary actions are being taken. I would expect discipline to include, but not be limited to, separation from the FBI.

Please provide me with an update on both of these actions, including any disciplinary

actions taken, by no later than September 30.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies*