

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MR. WALLACE  
"WALLY" EVANS, JR.

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness but profound respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, and a true champion of workers' rights, Wallace "Wally" Evans, Jr. Wally dedicated his life to serving the needs of members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), and he was tremendously successful in his efforts to improve the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana and across the nation. Mr. Evans passed away on Friday, November 29, 2013, but his legacy will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of the many people whose lives he touched.

Wally began his career in 1961 as a frozen foods manager at Burger's Supermarket in Munster, Indiana. In 1974, he became a full-time organizer and business representative for Local 1460 of the Retail Clerks Union, Lake County. Throughout the years, the UFCW began to grow and merge with other locals. Wally held numerous positions within the UFCW, including president of Local 1460, secretary/treasurer of Local 1550, and executive vice president and director of collective bargaining of Local 881. He also served as a union trustee for the UFCW Calumet Insurance Fund as well as the Chicago Midwest Pension and Health Funds, and as vice president of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO.

Mr. Evans also dedicated much of his time to many organizations and committees throughout his lifetime. Wally served as a Democratic precinct committeeman in Highland, was a member of various boards for the state of Indiana, served as a youth commissioner in Lansing, Illinois, and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing.

Wally leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, his adoring sons, Steven and Jason, and their wives, Rachel and Andrea. Wally was also blessed with nine beloved grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many other dear friends and family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the great life of Mr. Wally Evans. His remarkable contributions to the Labor Movement, both locally and across the nation, are worthy of our deepest admiration. His life of service is to be commended, and his legacy serves as an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT  
ALEX ANTHONY VIOLA

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Staff Sergeant Alex Anthony Viola who was killed in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan on November 17, 2013 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Staff Sergeant Viola was born in New York and moved to Keller, Texas at the age of nine. He earned a degree in engineering from the University of North Texas before embarking on his lifelong goal to serve in an elite military unit.

Upon graduating from college he entered the Navy and was accepted for the elite Navy SEAL program. While injury prevented him from completing the program, he never gave up on his dream. Staff Sergeant Viola joined the Army National Guard in 2009 and began Special Forces training in the spring of 2010.

Staff Sergeant Viola lost his life to an improvised explosive device five weeks after starting his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Viola was a true patriot whose persistence and commitment are to be applauded. His mother said it best, "He was just a great guy and I'm not saying that because I'm his mother. This is what he wanted to do, and he kept trying and training. We were just in awe of him, his drive to do that."

I wish to extend my condolences to Staff Sergeant Viola's family and hope that they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both his grateful country and his proud Special Forces family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY  
FERNANDEZ

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of Rodney Fernandez, a pioneer of affordable housing in Ventura County, California. The impact that Mr. Fernandez made on the community is significant and noteworthy. Mr. Fernandez was the Founder of the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), a non-profit community development corporation and an affordable home builder, established in 1981, and served as Executive Director of CEDC until his retirement at the end of 2011.

In the mid-1970s through the Cabrillo Improvement Association, Mr. Fernandez assisted Latino farm workers living at Cabrillo Village in Saticoy to prevent the razing of their substandard homes and eviction by the farm's

owners. Under Rodney's guidance, the farmers pooled money to purchase the land where their homes were located. The group then formed a cooperative, redeveloped their community and ultimately became captains of their own economic destiny through homeownership.

This work gave birth to the non-profit organization, CEDC, as a means to continue to empower and provide housing for those who cannot afford market-rate homes. Under Rodney's leadership, CEDC has grown from a start-up non-profit focused on farm worker housing, to a full-service, diversified organization that develops and manages affordable housing as well as offers homeownership education and lending services, and resident leadership development opportunities. Over 32 years, CEDC has developed 1,465 units of safe, high-quality affordable for-sale and rental housing in eight cities within Ventura County for farm workers, persons with low incomes, minorities (mostly Latinos) and the elderly.

Rodney dedicated his career with CEDC to increasing the supply of affordable housing, while empowering community leaders and being a leading advocate for economic development in the process. CEDC has received honors from various organizations over the years, including the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association and other professional groups, including the prestigious "Affordable Builder of the Year" award from Build It Green in 2012.

Rodney was especially committed to seeing that youth and residents in CEDC-built communities and the surrounding neighborhoods excelled at home and in life. In 2011, CEDC's Board of Directors established the Rodney Fernandez Community Building Fund to assist in cultivating the leadership capacity of CEDC residents to attain their goals and empower themselves to take action and improve the quality of life in their communities.

In heartfelt recognition and appreciation of the tremendous, far-reaching and impactful contributions that Mr. Fernandez made to Ventura County and beyond, I wish to send my sincere condolences to his wife, Melinda, his immediate family, and to all who knew him. His work and legacy are valued, and his presence in the community will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE  
ISHPEMING HEMATITES ON  
THEIR 2013 DIVISION 7 HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ishpeming High School Hematites in earning the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 7 Championship this last Saturday, November 30, 2013, at Ford Field in Detroit.

● 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.

The Hematites earned this distinction by going undefeated during the regular season, winning all nine games. Ishpeming also defeated Mancelona, West Iron County, Lake City, and Harbor Beach to advance to the state championship in Detroit. The Hematites earned their second consecutive championship by defeating the Detroit Loyola Bulldogs 22 to 12. This is the fourth championship earned by the Hematites in school history.

After facing adversity and challenging circumstances last year, the Hematites were able to overcome these daunting circumstances and win the Division 7 championship. I am proud that Ishpeming High School has been able to repeat their stellar performance. On behalf of the residents of Michigan's First Congressional District, I salute the team and its players: Dominic Suardini, Kyle Selmsner, Ozzie Hakkarinen, Tyrus Millimaki, Derek DeCaire, Thomas Finegan, Alex Briones, Noah Olgren, Bobby Zhulkie, Nick Comment, Nate Meyer, Adam Prisk, Dylan Giuchin, Halen Carello, Marcus Antilla, Ozzy Corp, Shawn Peterson, Matt Malone, Mitch Laurin, Jeffrey Matthews, Benjamin Hilliger, Luke Kuliu, Dylan Sundberg, Chandler Nault, Dan Thornton, Jordan Tounignant, Christian Tounignant, Isaac Olson, Jordan Burton, Nick Bertucci, David Simula, Joseph Nault, Jake Quayle, Andrew Bennett, Alec VanHorn, Cody Johnson, Devin Kent, Austin Hanninen, Gage Laitinen, Brandon Steve, Arnold Coffie, Hunter Schultz, and Fred Sidh.

Also to be commended are head coach Jeff Olson, assistant coaches Scott Syrjala, Brad Waters, and Tony Marietti, the dedicated parents and all who made the long days of training and travel possible, Ishpeming High School, and the city of Ishpeming on winning the championship for a second consecutive year. Their hard work and determination stand as examples for all citizens of Northern Michigan.

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#### THE PRIMITIVE QUARTET

### HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding constituents who together form the vocal ensemble the Primitive Quartet. The Primitive Quartet is a gospel music group formed by two sets of brothers in 1973.

The quartet is currently comprised of Reagan, Larry and Mike Riddle; Norman Wilson; Randy Fox; and Jeff Tolbert. Together they play over 150 shows per year spanning more than 50,000 miles. The Primitive Quartet's contributions to blue grass and gospel music in Buncombe County span forty years. To celebrate this anniversary, the Board of Commissioners in Buncombe County, North Carolina, proclaimed October 12, 2013 to be "Primitive Quartet Day".

The Quartet's commitment to excellence and passion for spreading the Gospel should be commended. As such, I am proud to honor the Primitive Quartet and its members, both past and present.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CHAD PREGRACKE

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chad Pregracke of East Moline, Illinois, who was recently named CNN's "Hero of the Year."

Chad grew up in the Quad-Cities, only 15 feet from the Mississippi River. He spent his free time on the river with his family and worked as a shell diver and fisherman during summer breaks, where he was struck by the amount of waste and debris he saw on the river. In 1998, when Chad was 23, he founded Living Lands & Waters to clean up and support the nation's waterways. Over the last 15 years, Chad has worked with 70,000 volunteers to remove 7 million pounds of debris from rivers all over the country. Additionally, Living Lands & Waters organizes floating classrooms, bringing high school students to rivers and teaching them about the importance of river ecosystems and the damage pollution causes. They are also halfway through their goal of planting one million trees along Midwestern rivers.

Chad Pregracke has received many awards for his work, notably the Jefferson Award in 2002, which was created to be an American Nobel Prize for community and public service. In 2011, Chad was recognized as a Service Hero and invited to speak to all four living ex-U.S. Presidents at the Points of Light Tribute in Washington, D.C. He was chosen CNN's "Hero of the Year" this November by a public vote, winning a \$250,000 award for Living Lands & Waters to continue its important work. Chad has also pledged a portion of his prize to the other people in CNN's "Hero of the Year" top ten to support their worthy programs.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chad Pregracke for his extraordinary work in our community and across the country, and I am proud that Illinois celebrated Chad Pregracke Day this December 1st.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2013, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 597.

Had I been present for rollcall vote 597, on agreeing to the Amendment offered by Representative POLIS to H.R. 1965, I would have voted "yes."

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#### RECOGNIZING JOSE ORTEGA ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jose Ortega on his retirement and

to congratulate him on a career spanning 40 years of both military and federal civil service.

Mr. Ortega's service began in September 1972 with the United States Army. After 20 years of exemplary active duty military service, Mr. Ortega continued making contributions to this country's defense with an additional 20 years in support of the Department of the Army as a civilian employee. As an Information Technology expert for the Department of Defense, Mr. Ortega has been dedicated to supporting several highly complex programs that will have a lasting impact on the readiness of the Army.

In his final assignment as Technical Director for the Product Director of Enterprise Email, Mr. Ortega provided acquisition oversight of Enterprise Email, the Army's number-one IT initiative. Enterprise Email is a service that provides cloud-based email to the Department of Defense. While allowing agencies to share information easily and effectively, Enterprise Email also reduces the cost of operations and maintenance. During Mr. Ortega's two years as Technical Director, the Army successfully migrated over 1.6 million classified and unclassified users from legacy email systems to the Department of Defense Enterprise Email service. Mr. Ortega has played an instrumental role in keeping the operations of DoD agencies secure and is recognized not only for overcoming obstacles and setting specific objectives in his work, but also for displaying exceptional character and serving as a mentor to others. In recognition of his many accomplishments, I am pleased to say that Mr. Ortega has been recommended for the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Jose Ortega for his dedication and service. I also thank his family—his wife Sharon and son William—for their support and sacrifices, which have enabled Jose to contribute so greatly to our country.

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#### RECOGNIZING PUEBLO OF ACOMA CODE TALKERS

### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, November is Native American Heritage Month, and I rise today to honor the many contributions that Native Americans have made—and continue to make—to our nation's proud history and culture.

Earlier today, we awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to 25 tribes whose members served as Code Talkers during World War I and World War II, including the Pueblo of Acoma, which is one of 22 Native American tribes that call New Mexico home.

The Pueblo of Acoma has been in existence for over 800 years and their original village, known as "Sky City," sits atop a breathtaking mesa west of Albuquerque. To commemorate the Pueblo of Acoma's service, the United States Mint has produced a specially-designed gold coin. One side depicts Code Talkers carrying out communications tasks, while the other side features the Pueblo of Acoma flag.

The Code Talkers proudly served our country with great honor and distinction. They

transmitted vital information during some of the most dangerous battles, including every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, had six code talkers working around-the-clock during the first two days of the Battle of Iwo Jima. He said if it weren't for the Code Talkers, "the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Without the Code Talkers, the World Wars would have lasted longer and America would have suffered many more casualties.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Pueblo of Acoma and the other Code Talker tribes are officially getting the thanks and recognition they deserve from a very grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEDRO  
GONZALEZ

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pedro Gonzalez, the mayor of South San Francisco, for his twelve years of service on the city council. Pedro has been a tireless advocate to improve the quality of life for all residents of South San Francisco where he has lived for 43 years. I am honored to call him a colleague and dear friend.

His proudest accomplishment during his tenure on the city council was to help establish ferry service to South San Francisco. The modern, state of the art terminal opened the doors to faster and scenic commutes for Bay Area residents and visitors. Additionally, Pedro played an active role in long list of projects, including the BART Linear Park master plan, the expansions of the Community Learning Center and the pre-school program in Westborough Park, the implementation of the loan art program at Orange Memorial Park, the development of a 100 space child care facility, the Oyster Point overcrossing and hook ramp project, the Terrabay sound wall design project, the Lindenville-Colma Creek rehabilitation project, the adoption of a green food packaging ordinance, and the implementations of a neighborhood response team and a BLS ambulance service.

From this incomplete list of accomplishments you can see Pedro's love for the outdoors and parks. He started his public service on the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1987. He served as the chairman in 1992 and continued to be on the commission until 1995. He was instrumental in the expansion and renovation of Bur i Bur i Park, the development of a master plan for all recreational facilities in South City and the renovation and improvements of Orange Memorial Park.

Pedro came to the United States from Mexico in 1954. While living in Los Angeles, he became a U.S. citizen in 1967. Three years later he moved to South San Francisco. He worked in the meat business and managed a music store in San Francisco until he retired in 1996.

Pedro is deeply woven into the fabric of South San Francisco. You will see him at every official or social function, be it the ribbon cutting for the ferry terminal, the grand opening of the South San Francisco BART station or the Chestnut Creek senior housing facility,

the ground breaking of the Gateway YMCA child care facility, Concert in the Park, Bay Trail Clean Up or the Centennial celebrations in 2008. No matter where he goes, he listens to residents looking for ways to help—always with a soft smile and a twinkle in his eyes. You will be hard pressed to find an elected official who takes his responsibilities as seriously as Pedro does.

He has supported countless local programs such as the Grand Avenue Library Leery Appender, a Spanish-language story time, League of Women Voter Spanish language ballot workshops, Youth Government Day, the 50th anniversary of the Boys and Girls Club of North San Mateo County, and the South San Francisco School District Positive Attendance Campaign. He even hosted his own show on PEN TV titled El Mundo Latino de Pedro Gonzalez.

Pedro has been married to his wife Eldie for 55 years. They raised their three children, Prudencia, Silverio and Sara, in South San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Pedro Gonzalez for his outstanding service and his lasting contributions to the city of South San Francisco. In his well deserved retirement, I have no doubt that residents will continue to see him at many official and social events, and to hold him closely in their hearts.

ON THE PASSING OF CHRIS  
BATTLE

**HON. TIM GRIFFIN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to remember my good friend Chris Battle, who passed away on August 8, 2013, at the age of 45 after a four-year battle with kidney cancer.

Chris received both his bachelor's degree and his master's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. After a short stint as a reporter for the Northwest Arkansas Times, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director for then-Representative Asa Hutchinson for nearly four years. He went on to manage the editorial page of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, our state's most-read newspaper. During the George W. Bush Administration, he held public affairs and management positions at the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He returned to Arkansas to manage a gubernatorial campaign, and then became a Partner at Adfero Group in Washington, DC, where he continued to work after being diagnosed with cancer.

I first met Chris and his wife, Dena, when I was working as staff on Capitol Hill. Chris was a funny, brilliant, thoughtful and caring friend who impacted the lives of many for the better.

I have fond memories of spending time with Chris and Dena in both Washington, DC, and Little Rock. Chris is missed. Rest in peace, Chris.

Along with Dena, Chris wrote about his struggle with cancer on a blog called "The Kidney Cancer Chronicles." Chris was funny and reflective, and he wrote about his love for his family, Dena and daughters, Kate and Josie.

Those that knew Chris or read his blogs will tell you he was an intelligent and thoughtful human being. An incredible writer, he turned some of his darkest hours into encouragement for others also suffering from this deadly disease.

In February, Chris recounted how his situation had taken a turn for the better, all things considered, writing: "Never give up, never lose faith. I can't know whether this reprieve will last, but, given this new life, I plan to embrace it while it does."

Chris embraced life with vigor, even as his faded. As our thoughts and prayers remain with the loved ones he left behind, let us always remember the example that he set and keep his words close in our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2013, I missed rollcall votes No. 612–614. My flight to Washington was delayed due to mechanical difficulties. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 612: "aye";  
Rollcall No. 613: "aye";  
Rollcall No. 614: "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 2, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 612 and No. 613. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 614.

RECOGNIZING BOB DREWEL ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Drewel, long-time civic, community and education leader in the Puget Sound region, on his retirement after over 20 years of public service.

From his most recent tenure as Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and his more than twelve years as Snohomish County Executive, Bob's leadership and reputation serve as a model for all those who wish to pursue a career in civic service.

During his time at the PSRC, Bob effectively worked to build partnerships between the private and public sectors and is well known for his leadership in promoting regional solutions to the many challenges facing western Washington. While at the helm of the PSRC, Bob

guided critical initiatives including regional transportation planning, growth management and economic development.

In his twelve years as Snohomish County Executive, Bob successfully strengthened partnerships among the county, local governments, and other public and private entities to create a shared vision for a prosperous community. Under Bob's leadership and prudent fiscal management, the county was able to plan, design and fund several important county facilities. In 2007, the county administration building was named "The Robert J. Drewel Building" in honor of Bob's integrity, leadership and ability to work across party lines as County Executive.

In addition to his leadership at the PSRC and as Snohomish County Executive, Bob is the past President and CEO of Everett Community College and the former Chairman of Sound Transit. Bob also helped build community partnerships as a board member of the Economic Development Council, Healthy Communities Initiative, and United Way of Snohomish County. Bob's civic involvements extend even further to include the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Rotary, Everett Area Chamber of Commerce and numerous other community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Bob Drewel. Bob personifies the ideal of public service to his fellow citizens. I wish him the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRANDT  
GROTTE

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brandt Grotte, who is retiring after eight years of service on the San Mateo City Council, two of them as mayor. Brandt has been a tireless advocate for environmental sustainability. He began his advocacy on the Planning Commission, where he served for five years, including one year each as chair and vice-chair.

Brandt has many uncommon characteristics. For example, his hand is always going up when the question is asked, "Would anyone like to . . ." During his years on the council, Brandt Grotte served on the sustainability advisory committee, the Measure C committee that resulted in strengthening police and fire services, and he was the city's representative to the City/County Association of Governments.

Brandt lives on the city's east side and knows the challenges that confront those neighborhoods. He took the lead in convincing his neighbors to assess themselves to fix serious flooding issues. He is passionate about his neighborhood, and thousands of homes were removed from the flood plain as a result of his leadership. Aside from homes no longer being threatened with flooding, these neighbors were relieved of the costs of paying for flood insurance.

Even before he joined the city council, Brandt was active in neighborhood issues, starting in 1989. He is a founding member of the Shoreview-Parkside Neighborhood Association and president of the San Mateo United Homeowners Association. He is also a mem-

ber of numerous committees, task forces and organizations, among them the Citizens Committee on Social Service Providers, the Bay Meadows Foundation, the City of San Mateo Citizens' Academy, and the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Program. Clearly Brandt Grotte has a heart that is as big as the entire city of San Mateo, and he is universally viewed as a sincere, caring leader.

Brandt was born in 1956 and grew up in communities all over the United States and abroad because his father was in the Air Force. It was this early international experience that he credits with teaching him sensitivity to other cultures, a skill that has served him well when developing policies and obtaining consensus in the diverse communities of San Mateo.

Brandt attended Leland High School in San Jose and then earned his BA in Aquatic Biology from UC Santa Barbara in 1979. He received his Masters degree in Environmental Management from USF in 1996. He works as a global environmental safety and health manager in the electronics industry.

Brandt is married to Kathy Shields and has two stepsons, Aaron and Kyle. In his spare time he enjoys reading.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Brandt Grotte for his outstanding service to the residents of San Mateo. In Brandt we have the personification of the adage that still waters run deep. His strategic thinking and consensus-building skills will be missed, but his smile will always be present as he continues in other roles throughout our community.

OBAMA'S MORAL FAILURE IN  
SUDAN

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a compelling open letter that Eric Reeves, noted Sudan researcher and activist and a professor at Smith College, recently sent to President Obama expressing his dismay at the moral failure of the Obama administration in responding to "the continuing mass atrocities perpetrated by the current regime in Khartoum (Sudan). . ."

Reeves notes the contrast between Obama's outspoken rhetoric on Sudan as a senator and eventual presidential candidate versus the indefensible silence, appeasement and moral equivalency which has marked his administration's posture toward a genocidal regime.

In February 2012 I travelled to Yida refugee camp in South Sudan. I heard devastating firsthand accounts of the violence, terror and starvation being brought to bear against the Sudanese people by the regime in Khartoum. I recall speaking with one woman who described herself and her people as "forsaken." I specifically asked her if there was anything she wanted me to tell President Obama. She said the only thing she wanted was for Omar Bashir, an internationally indicted war criminal, to be arrested.

But rather than working to facilitate Bashir being brought to justice, this administration seems bent, in the words of Professor

Reeves, "on throwing a political and economic lifeline to the regime."

I can't help but wonder why the Obama Administration views the Sudanese people as any less deserving of a lifeline.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON THE BOMBING OF NORTH SHARAF, EAST JEBEL MARRA (DARFUR)

[From Eric Reeves, Nov. 30, 2013]

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA,  
*The White House, Washington, DC*

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: The moral failure of your administration to respond to the continuing mass atrocities perpetrated by the current regime in Khartoum (Sudan) grows daily, and has done so for the past five years. Your refusal to condemn, in the strongest terms, the continuing war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the National Islamic Front/National Congress Party tyranny stands in stark contrast to your urgent words as a Senator, as a presidential candidate, and as an elected President. As a senator in 2004, you called the atrocities in Darfur "genocide." You said so again as a presidential candidate in 2007 and chided the Bush administration for its accommodation of Khartoum. Invoking Rwanda and Bosnia as justification for humanitarian intervention in Darfur, you said, "The United States has a moral obligation anytime you see humanitarian catastrophes." You declared further,

"When you see a genocide in Rwanda, Bosnia or in Darfur, that is a stain on all of us, a stain on our souls. . . . We can't say 'never again' and then allow it to happen again, and as a president of the United States I don't intend to abandon people or turn a blind eye to slaughter." (Video recording available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEd583-fA8M#t=15>; all emphases have been added)

And as President you again characterized Darfur as the site of "genocide."

But despite such strong language, your administration has come to substitute words of appeasement, feigned ignorance of atrocity crimes, and a grotesque moral equivalence between Khartoum and its adversaries, one that would put in balance the regime's genocidal destruction and the actions by the various rebel groups that have emerged to resist Khartoum's tyranny. Your first special envoy to Sudan arrived declaring his strategy for confronting the regime's genocidaires in words that have become synonymous with diplomatic absurdity:

"We've got to think about giving out cookies," said [Scott] Gration, who was appointed in March. "Kids, countries—they react to gold stars, smiley faces, handshakes, agreements, talk, engagement." (Washington Post [el-Fasher, Darfur], September 29, 2009)

In March 2009 the Khartoum regime expelled from Darfur thirteen of the world's finest humanitarian organizations, then providing roughly half the total international humanitarian capacity for millions of people. Your surrogate diplomatic representative—then-Senator and now Secretary of State John Kerry—declared in the wake of Khartoum's ruthless expulsions:

"We have agreement [with Khartoum] that in the next weeks we will be back to 100 percent [humanitarian] capacity," said [Senator John] Kerry. (Reuters [el-Fasher], April 17, 2009)

This was a cruel lie, as Kerry and everyone within the humanitarian community working in Darfur well knew. Indeed, this was such transparent mendacity that even now it carries the stench of supreme expediency.

Your second special envoy, Princeton Lyman, declared in late June 2011 that there wasn't enough evidence to support reports of

massive, ethnically-targeted killings of Nuba civilians in South Kordofan. But in fact, overwhelming evidence was pouring out of Kadugli (capital of the region) making all too clear the nature of atrocity crimes, which amounted to incipient genocide. Again, this skepticism bears the stench of unforgivable expediency, the more so since a UN human rights report on the events of June 2011 in South Kordofan—based on evidence gathered by UN human rights investigators on the ground at the time—confirmed what all sources were declaring with increasing urgency throughout this terrible month. Lyman's disingenuous skepticism worked to convince Khartoum that the U.S. was not particularly concerned about a reprise of the genocidal campaign by this same Khartoum regime against the people of the Nuba in the 1990s.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that in the unseemly rush to secure continuing cooperation from the Khartoum regime on counter-terrorism intelligence, you and your administration have repeatedly and willfully ignored reports of the most conspicuous and brutal crimes committed by this regime, or at least decided not to speak publicly about them in any meaningful or consistent way. And here your almost total silence over the deliberate bombing of civilians—even as every such military action is a war crime, and in aggregate constitute crimes against humanity—is most shameful, and most persistent.

Since 1999 there have been more than 2,000 confirmed reports of deliberate aerial attacks on civilian and humanitarian targets in greater Sudan; the actual number of attacks is very likely many times this, and continues to grow rapidly. This is unprecedented in the history of aerial warfare: never before has a military power been able to bomb with impunity its own civilians relentlessly, systematically, and deliberately during a detailed and lengthy reporting period, now extending over 15 years. While most of the attacks have been by Antonovs, Khartoum has also deployed highly accurate military jet aircraft, long-range missiles, and helicopter gunships, which were used with particular destructiveness in the early years of the Darfur genocide. On any number of occasions, helicopter gunships have fired on civilians with heavy machine-guns and rockets from extremely close range.

I write on this occasion moved not by the singularity of a particular bombing attack that occurred yesterday, but rather by its horrific familiarity. Radio Dabanga, an extraordinarily important, indeed singular source of news from Darfur, reports today that on Friday, November 28, 2013:

[I]n North Sharafa in East Jebel Marra [in the center of Darfur], an Antonov ["bomb-er," i.e. retrofitted cargo plane with no militarily useful accuracy] bombed three farmers, at about 5.30 pm on Friday [November 29, 2013]. The two men and a woman were riding a horse cart from their farm to their homes in Sharafa village. The three farmers and their horses were killed immediately. The names of the three farmers are Hashim Abakar Mohamed, Mustafa Eisa, and Hanan Saleh Juma.

Such criminal bombings—directly violating a UN Security Council resolution as well as international law—are a virtually daily occurrence in East Jebel Marra, part of a massif in central Darfur serving as stronghold for one of the rebel groups in Darfur, now linked throughout Sudan in the form of the Sudan Revolutionary Front. But Khartoum is not attacking military forces: it is deliberately attacking civilians in an effort to compel surrender or displacement or starvation of the remaining rebel forces. There is no other conclusion to be reached, given the

inherent inaccuracy of the Antonov "bombers," which fly at very high altitudes and simply roll off crude, shrapnel-loaded barrel bombs out the cargo bay without benefit of any sighting mechanism. Such attacks continue occur throughout Darfur.

Antonovs are transparently instruments of civilian terror and destruction—as they are in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, areas where bombing attacks are also continuously reported, and with particular authority from the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan. There a campaign of civilian annihilation continues unabated as agricultural production has been brought to a halt by the fear of continued bombardment. A similarly grim narrative is playing out in Blue Nile and the result is some 300,000 refugees fleeing to South Sudan and Ethiopia, leaving behind more than one million civilians at acute risk of disease and starvation according to UN estimates.

Where are the voices of condemnation? Here I mean not the occasional generic condemnations issued by your administration, typically qualified (and thus weakened) by inclusion of some other issue. What prevents your administration from condemning every attack on civilians by military aircraft, per se? The U.S. intelligence community certainly has the resources to confirm via satellite reconnaissance virtually every attack reported by Radio Dabanga or Nuba Reports, both of which are well known for their accuracy and ground-based reporting (many of their findings have been confirmed by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the Enough Project, journalists, and intrepid humanitarians). Would it simply be too embarrassing to reveal just what we and the rest of the international community are tolerating? Would it be too shameful to make clear that, on the basis of geostrategic considerations, Syria is important while the people of the marginalized regions of Sudan are not?

Perhaps you will say that the "hybrid" UN/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has the responsibility for reporting and condemning aerial attacks on civilians. But this would only add to the disingenuousness of your administration in speaking about Sudan. For as you are surely aware, UNAMID is a complete failure as a mission, particularly in fulfilling its primary mandate of civilian and humanitarian protection: for some 2 million people have been newly displaced since the mission took up its mandate in January 2008—overwhelmingly as a consequence of continuing violence, directed particularly against civilians. You touted your support for a UNAMID-like mission in 2007, revealing either ignorance or an expedient desire to appear to be responding to the crisis by handing it off to an ill-prepared African Union Peace and Security Council, which had no dedicated military equipment or soldiers of its own.

Unsurprisingly, the poorly equipped and poorly led UNAMID mission is routinely denied access to scenes of atrocity crimes by the Khartoum regime's security forces, as are humanitarian organizations, which struggle to work within an increasingly limited range of operations. Because of uncontrolled insecurity, the highly trained expatriate component of what was once the world's largest humanitarian operation is down to 3 percent. Your administration issues only infrequent boiler-plate condemnations in response to serious violations of a range of UN Security Council Resolutions. Despite its elaborate website and nominal reporting duties, UNAMID confirms virtually no bombing attacks, no matter how egregiously in violation of international law. Additionally and symptomatically, UNAMID has for years said virtually nothing about

the epidemic of sexual violence directed against girls and women in Darfur, despite the fact that there have been tens of thousands have been victims during the conflict, now about to enter its twelfth year. Your administration has been useless in highlighting these terrible crimes, which continue to be committed with total impunity.

UNAMID's only virtue would appear to be that it gives the semblance of an international presence approved by the UN—at immense cost—and provides an excuse for not responding in the way you as candidate spoke about so passionately. UNAMID's impotence, and its failure to deter aerial bombardment of civilians, is illustrated by another report of November 28, 2013 from Radio Dabanga:

Ten people were killed in aerial bombardments near Shengil Tobaya and Sharafa in East Jebel Marra. One attack took place a few kilometers from the UNAMID compound in Shengil Tobaya, while a group of 15 people was on their way to Shengil Tobaya after a visit to the market of Tabit.

A Sudanese Air Force aircraft appeared around 4pm on Friday, hitting the Toyota Hi-Lux that was transporting the 15 people, at Tangara, 3km west of the UNAMID compound in Shengil Tobaya. Seven of them died at the spot and eight were critically wounded. Several of them could not be moved due to their critical injuries. The relatives of the victims asked UNAMID to act quickly and transfer the severely wounded people to a hospital and recover the dead bodies. Yesterday evening it was unclear whether UNAMID had helped out. The victims are Abakir Yagoub Mohamed, Ali Ahmed Abdalla, Mohamed Ali Ahmed, Osman Adam Mohamed and Zahra Ibrahim. (emphasis added; the UNAMID compound at Shengil Tobaya is a significant one)

Will you and your administration continue to hide behind the diplomatic fig-leaf of UNAMID's putative ability to halt what has become a grim "genocide by attrition"? In fact, the genocide proceeds apace in large measure because your administration has decided, as part of its larger Sudan policy, to "de-couple" Darfur from the largest bilateral issue between Khartoum and Washington: cooperation on counter-terrorism. That a senior official of your administration would use the term "de-couple" in speaking about Darfur and any aspect of U.S. Sudan policy amounts to declaring that despite the genocidal realities you excoriated as candidate and as president—when it was politically useful to do so—you and your administration are willing to set aside, bracket, and finally ignore this scene of unending human suffering and destruction.

Indeed, it is difficult not to see a direct connection between your silence about the ongoing and widespread aerial bombardment of civilians in Darfur and your decision to "de-couple" the region from what looms as the defining feature of your Sudan policy: an obsessive desire to retain access to the counter-terrorism intelligence provided by the regime that gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden from 1992-1996, the years in which al-Qaeda came to fruition. Let us recall also that this same regime continued to assist al-Qaeda long after bin Laden's departure for Afghanistan, providing funds, diplomatic cover, and banking conduits.

Your administration's calculations about the value of counter-terrorism intelligence provided by Khartoum have occasioned a good deal of skepticism among Sudan experts outside of government; in any event, these calculations are certainly made with full knowledge of what the regime continues to inflict on the people of Sudan. You and your administration also know that demonstrations beginning in late September of

this year were met by the most brutal repression imaginable, with security forces given “shoot to kill” orders that resulted in some 300 deaths (many killed by bullet wounds to the chest, back and head) and some 2,000 arrests (many remain under arrest without charge). Ordinary Sudanese are outraged at the economic shambles the regime has created, and are demanding that these hopelessly corrupt and cruelly self-enriching men be removed from power. And yet your administration seems to be bent on throwing a political and economic lifeline to the regime. Your former special envoy declared in December 2011, after Khartoum’s military seizure of the contested Abyei region (in violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement) and subsequent military assaults on South Kordofan and Blue Nile:

“Frankly, we do not want to see the ouster of the [Sudanese] regime, nor regime change. We want to see the regime carrying out reform via constitutional democratic measures.” (Princeton Lyman’s response to a question by the respected Arabic news outlet Asharq Al-Awsat concerning Sudan and the “Arab Spring,” December 3, 2011)

It is the height of disingenuousness and expediency for your envoy to have suggested that the National Islamic Front/National Congress Party is in any way prepared to “carry out reform via constitutional democratic measure.” The regime’s response to the September/October demonstrations and political protests from all quarters provides evidence that could hardly be more compelling.

And yet at the very moment in which gross mismanagement of the Sudanese economy over the past 24 years, obscenely profligate military spending, gratuitous war-making on the marginalized peoples of the periphery, and massive sequestration of national wealth by the political elite has brought about economic conditions that make democratic change a real possibility, your administration seems intent on diminishing those economic pressures that the U.S.—to its virtually singular credit—has brought to bear since 1997, both through Congressional and Presidential action. Instead of tightening the very sanctions that increasingly threaten the survival of a regime that has exhausted its oil wealth in less than a decade and has no access to international credit or Forex reserves, we read that business between the U.S. and the regime is beginning to boom.

The Sudan Tribune reports (October 10, 2013) that Foreign Minister Ali Karti, after his meetings with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, “pointed out that several U.S. companies which applied for licenses to operate in Sudan were granted, which he said is an indicator that investments and commercial relations could overcome political difficulties.” And this would seem to be borne out by a series of reports from the Sudan Tribune and others:

White Nile Sugar Company announced on Sunday (November 3, 2013) that it has signed an agreement with the US-based General Electric (GE) by which it will receive parts and services for its billion-dollar sugar plant. (Sudan Tribune, November 4, 2013)

In a revealingly frank statement, Sudan’s foreign ministry undersecretary, Rahmatallah Mohamed Osman, declared in August 2013 that “U.S. economic sanctions on Sudan contain some loopholes which could be exploited to boost the economy.” Why haven’t those “loopholes,” if they exist, been resolutely closed?

Typically of dubious reliability, Khartoum’s state-controlled media recently made a specific claim that should be unambiguously confirmed or disconfirmed:

The managing director of [Sudan’s] Kenana Sugar Company (KSC) has disclosed KSC is currently dealing with 18 US companies licensed by Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the area of production, irrigation, and harvesters despite the US economic sanctions imposed on Sudan for 16 years. . .

Lately, an American company has submitted a request to OFAC to import ethanol from Sudan. Moreover, [the] U.S. has excluded gum Arabic from sanctions for its bad need of this commodity in nutritional and drug industry. US imports \$40 million worth of Gum Arabic annually either directly or indirectly from Sudan. U.S. may want lift the sanctions gradually for face saving. (November 9, 2013)

Certainly the account is accurate in pointing out the exemption in U.S. sanctions made for gum arabic, an exemption secured over a decade ago through duplicitous legislative means by Robert Menendez, formerly Congressional representative from the district in New Jersey where virtually all U.S. gum arabic processing occurs. Menendez is now, of course, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The economic sanctions put in place by previous administrations and the Congress seem to have become irrelevant by means of “technical adjustments” to the restrictions supposedly enforced by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The question, President Obama, is why your administration has allowed this to occur? Is Khartoum right in suggesting that “the U.S. may want [to] lift the sanctions gradually for face-saving”? Or is the stealth lifting of sanctions part of a larger quid pro quo with the Khartoum regime? Is it of a piece with the preposterous claim by special envoy Lyman that this regime might preside over the democratic transformation of Sudan?

But however enmeshed in the complexities of U.S. diplomatic and political machinations vis-a-vis Khartoum, the countless bombing attacks against civilians such as occurred yesterday near North Sharafa in East Jebel Marra provide a certain stark moral clarity. Again, one of the regime’s Antonovs. . .

. . . bombed three farmers, at about 5.30 pm on Friday [November 29, 2013]. The two men and a woman were riding a horse cart from their farm to their homes in Sharafa village. The three farmers and their horses were killed immediately. The names of the three farmers are Hashim Abakar Mohamed, Mustafa Eisa, and Hanan Saleh Juma.

Your own refusal to condemn—regularly, forcefully, and consequentially—such deliberate attacks on defenseless civilians brings shame on our nation and makes it ever more difficult to believe that our foreign policy is guided by anything other than a ruthless Realpolitik.

Sincerely,

ERIC REEVES,  
Smith College,  
Northampton, MA.

would have voted “yes.” On rollcall vote No. 613, I would have voted “yes.” On rollcall vote No. 614, I would have voted “yes.”

#### RECOGNIZING UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Upper Darby High School, the winner of Varsity Brands’ National School Spirit Day. National School Spirit Day is an annual celebration throughout the month of October to recognize the impact that cheerleaders and dancers have in their local communities—as mentors, community service leaders, spirit raisers, and positive examples to all.

In 2009, Varsity Brands began National School Spirit Day as a way to spotlight the efforts of cheerleaders and dancers throughout the country who make a difference in their schools and communities. Over the past five years, cheerleaders and dancers have pledged more than 500,000 community service hours as part of National School Spirit Day.

This year, the Upper Darby High School Royals were selected as the national team winner of the 2013 National School Spirit Day. The Upper Darby Cheerleaders collected hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, gift cards, and other warm clothing items for women and children of domestic violence and abuse throughout the month of October. By the end of the month, the cheer squad was able to turn over thousands of items in support of victims of domestic abuse.

In conjunction with National School Spirit Day on October 11, 2013, Varsity Brands also launched Cheer for a Healthier America. This program aims to enlist high school student cheerleaders, dancers, and athletes as student ambassadors of their communities by getting local elementary school kids more involved in physical activities, and teach them about making healthy lifestyle choices. Just this summer, at over 1,000 Varsity camps across America, over 400,000 enrolled campers learned about the program and are preparing to initiate it this Fall, while students from over 800 schools have signed up to participate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Upper Darby High School and commending the work done by youth across the country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote Nos. 612, 613 and 614, on December 2, 2013, due to a flight delay. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted: On rollcall vote No. 612, I

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 612, regarding the “Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act” (H.R. 3547). Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

IN RECOGNITION OF PAM  
FRISELLA

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pam Frisella, one of the finest and most selfless public servants I know. Pam is retiring today as the mayor of Foster City and has served on the city council for eight years. She was vice mayor in 2007 and mayor in 2008. For Foster City, Pam's departure is not simply a retirement. It's the equivalent of watching a ship raise its anchor. Pam has been that anchor of security throughout many exciting and challenging times in the city.

In 1998, Pam graduated from a leadership program sponsored by several Bay Area cities. The class helped her focus on how to best apply her talents and her dedication to community service. She saw that she could be highly effective by playing an active role in city government.

She joined the city council in 2006, two years before the global recession hit. Always a fiscally-prudent person, Pam worked hard with her colleagues to close the budget gap that was created by the recession. Foster City, although built relatively recently, also has a large infrastructure in constant need of maintenance, repair and replacement. This is expensive, but Pam is dedicated to maintaining the quality of life that residents expect. In part due to Pam's efforts, the city this year will likely cure its structural deficit and its infrastructure investments have been wise and timely.

The center of Foster City is in flux. Pam joined with her colleagues to identify the needs of the community and to envision mixed uses for this area. She supported an updating to the business license fee, the city's land use elements, and supported city efforts to conserve water and to improve the reliability of the city's water system.

Pam is a strong supporter of affordable housing and served on the board of the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust. Because community service is in her blood, she has volunteered for 20 years for Samaritan House which serves low income families and individuals in San Mateo County. Samaritan House named her volunteer of the year in 1995. In 1999, Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter awarded her the same honor. Pam is also giving prison ministry at San Quentin Prison. She is an ambassador for the Foster City Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Rotary Club. As you can tell from this description, Pam Frisella is a spark plug, igniting others into action and setting an exhausting pace of volunteer and civic engagement.

Pam has been a county and regional leader. Over the years she has served as Foster City's representative to the Association of Bay Area Governments, the City County Association of Governments, the Emergency Services Council, the joint powers board of the county-wide library system, and as liaison to the high school district.

Pam was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. After attending Western Michigan, she worked for General Motors and then moved to New York City for a career change. Pam moved to California in 1969 and in 1977 to Foster City, a city she came to love.

Pam and I share a painful life experience that initially connected us and cemented our friendship. We both lost a husband while pregnant. Pam's late husband was a baseball player and they moved around the country a lot. They were at spring training with the Milwaukee Brewers when he was killed in an accident on New Year's Day 1977 in Arizona. He was originally from San Mateo and Pam decided to move out here to find a home. She was 30 years old, pregnant and had a three-year-old son, Jason. Three days after she arrived in Foster City, her son Daniel was born. The community welcomed and embraced them and she found what she had hoped for—a home.

Pam coached Little League for eight years and was on the American Youth Soccer Organization Board of Directors for five years. She deserves much credit for the development and construction of Sea Cloud Park, the beautiful home of the Foster City Little League. In 2005, Pam was inducted to the Sports Wall of Fame at Sea Cloud Park. Pam was also the chair for the committee that reconstructed Serra High School's baseball field named after her late husband, Danny Frisella Memorial Field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Pam Frisella on this day of her retirement. Her strength to overcome adversity, her generosity and her drive have benefitted every resident of Foster City. Her contributions will always be part of the fabric of her beloved home town.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed rollcall Nos. 612 through 614. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 612 and 613. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 614.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL  
COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT  
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT  
OF 2013

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act of 2013.

This legislation makes necessary and vital investments in our nation's workforce and their families. It establishes a national commission to examine issues of economic and psychological insecurity within our workforce that have been caused by employment displacement. Furthermore, it will propose solutions, including recommendations for legislative and administrative action, to Congress and the President.

During the recession that began in December 2007 and in the subsequent months, more than 8.7 million jobs were lost. By October

2009, the unemployment rate had reached 10.0 percent, and roughly 15.4 million people were unemployed in our country. In Florida, the unemployment rate reached 11.4 percent in March 2010, and in some states, such as Rhode Island and South Carolina, the unemployment rate rose to just short of 12 percent, peaking at 11.9 percent in early 2010.

Luckily, we are on the road to recovery, and 7.5 million jobs have been created during 42 straight months of private-sector job growth across the country. Unemployment rates have fallen in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Our economy is recovering, but the need for this vital research is no less critical. This is highlighted by current projections from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which estimate that the unemployment rate will not fall below 6 percent until the end of 2016, and will remain above 5 percent through 2023.

Mr. Speaker, when Americans lose their jobs and their incomes shrink, too often, they face the loss of their family's health insurance and, subsequent to the loss of income, and even their housing. According to an American Psychological Association (APA) report from February 2013, money (69 percent), work (65 percent), and the economy (61 percent) remain the most frequently cited sources of stress for Americans.

The mental health of the American worker is integral as we continue down the road of economic recovery. Congress must face this problem head on and help those facing long-term unemployment, loss of health insurance, home foreclosure, increased levels of stress, and increased risk of mental illness.

I believe that we have a responsibility to provide the greatest possible assistance to our nation's workforce, whose commitment to economic participation has been a defining feature of the cultural fabric of our country. This Commission will be instrumental in ensuring that we get our nation fully back on track, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 612, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 3547. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of November 18, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Rollcall No. 588: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2061, "yea."

Rollcall No. 589: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 272, "yea."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013

Rollcall No. 590: On ordering the Previous Question and providing for consideration of H.R. 1965 and H.R. 2728, "nay."

Rollcall No. 591: On agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1965 and H.R. 2728, "no."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Rollcall No. 592: On ordering the Previous Question and Providing for consideration of H.R. 1900, "nay."

Rollcall No. 593: On agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1900, "no."

Rollcall No. 594: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1965 offered by SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas, "aye."

Rollcall No. 595: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1965 offered by ALAN LOWENTHAL of California, "aye."

Rollcall No. 596: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1965 offered by SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas, "aye."

Rollcall No. 597: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1965 offered by JARED POLIS of Colorado, "aye."

Rollcall No. 598: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1965 offered by PETER DEFAZIO of Oregon, "aye."

Rollcall No. 599: On Motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 1965, "aye."

Rollcall No. 600: On passage of H.R. 1965, "no."

Rollcall No. 601: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 2728 offered by RUSH HOLT of New Jersey, "aye."

Rollcall No. 602: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 2728 offered by PETER DEFAZIO of Oregon, "aye."

Rollcall No. 603: On Motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2728, "aye."

Rollcall No. 604: On passage of H.R. 2728, "no."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Rollcall No. 605: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1900 offered by PAUL TONKO of New York, "aye."

Rollcall No. 606: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1900 offered by KATHY CASTOR of Florida, "aye."

Rollcall No. 607: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1900 offered by JACKIE SPEIER of California, "aye."

Rollcall No. 608: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1900 offered by SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas, "aye."

Rollcall No. 609: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 1900 offered by JOHN DINGELL of Michigan, "aye."

Rollcall No. 610: On Motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 1900, "yea."

Rollcall No. 611: On passage of H.R. 1900, "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHY  
BAYLOCK

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Cathy Baylock who has served on the Burlingame City Council for twelve years with distinction, two of them as mayor. Cathy's love for the city and her commitment to make and

keep it beautiful have made her an outstanding public servant and a beloved colleague to many.

We can thank Cathy for one of the most beautiful and recognizable buildings in town, the Burlingame Avenue Caltrain station. If it hadn't been for her in-depth research, perseverance and good judgment, our train station might not be the jewel it is.

Cathy was first elected to the city council in 2001. She was mayor in 2006 and 2010. During her tenure, she was always committed to protecting Burlingame's historic landmarks, magnificent trees, architectural heritage, unique neighborhoods and the integrity of the parks. She oversaw the Park and Recreation budget, was a member of the Economic Development Committee, a liaison to the Burlingame Elementary Schools Committee and the Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for C/CAG. She also served as a city delegate to the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Peninsula Cities Consortium on High Speed Rail and the San Mateo County Rail Corridor Partnership. Additionally, Cathy was a member of the Central County Fire Joint Powers Authority for six years, two of them as the chair.

While fulfilling her many duties on the council, Cathy still found the time and energy to give back to the community and volunteer for the Teen Facilities Committee, the Washington School Site Council, the St. Paul's Nursery School, and the Burlingame Historical Society. She became treasurer of the historical society in 2000 and oversaw the publishing of Burlingame Centennial 1908–2008, a book that sold over 1800 copies and helped fund the opening of the Burlingame History Museum and the Train Depot.

Before Cathy joined the city council, she was the manager and assistant vice president of Bay View Bank in Burlingame. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut.

A lifetime resident of the San Francisco Peninsula, Cathy and her family have lived in Burlingame for over 20 years. In her retirement, she looks forward to spending more time with her husband Joe and their two boys, AJ and Nick. She will continue her involvement with the historical society.

The Burlingame City Council is losing a member who will be missed for her can-do attitude, warm demeanor and dependability. However, I have no doubt that Cathy will find ways to apply her talents and continue to share them with the residents of Burlingame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Cathy Baylock for her outstanding public service. She leaves big shoes to fill and her mark on Burlingame that will last for years to come.

HONORING ARIS MELISSARATOS

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Aris Melissaratos, a visionary businessman, champion of the State of Maryland and dear friend, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

The son of Romanian immigrants, Mr. Melissaratos arrived in the United States at age 13, speaking virtually no English. He earned his degree in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1966 and began a 40-year business career, mostly at Westinghouse Electronics Corporation. There, he held numerous positions, retiring as Chief Technology Officer and Vice President for Science and Technology. Before that, he was Chief Operations Officer for the company's Defense Electronics Group, responsible for \$3.2 billion dollars in sales. He also founded Armel Scientifics, LLC, which invested in more than 30 startup companies in advanced technology.

His professional experience proved invaluable as Secretary of Business and Economic Development for the State of Maryland, a position he held from 2003 until 2007. As Secretary, Mr. Melissaratos worked tirelessly to strengthen our state economy and promote Maryland as a prime location for tourism, film production and advancement of the arts.

Mr. Melissaratos has since come full circle, returning to Johns Hopkins as a senior advisor to its president. There, he works to build the university's relationship with area businesses. Under his leadership, the university has helped launch 51 new companies in four years.

While too numerous to list in their entirety, Mr. Melissaratos is the recipient of countless accolades. In 2009, he was named the William Donald Schaefer Industrialist of the Year and was Corridor Inc.'s Person of the Year in 2012. A longtime member of the Whiting School of Engineering's National Advisory Council, Mr. Melissaratos is a founding co-chair of the Greater Baltimore Technology Council and former Vice President of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. He somehow found time to also co-author a book that chronicles the history of innovation.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Aris Melissaratos for many years. I admire him for his fearless entrepreneurship, generosity, work ethic and community spirit. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Aris Melissaratos. The citizens of Maryland have been lucky to have him as a relentless advocate all these years. It is with great pride that I wish him the happiest of birthdays and many more years of success.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEE  
SIMEL, MD

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding doctor, a loving father, and an exceptional North Carolinian, Dr. David Lee Simel, of Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Simel was raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, before attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation, he completed medical school and an internal medicine residency at Duke University, and he has been an avid Blue Devils fan ever since. Dr. Simel is now a Professor of Medicine and also Vice-Chair for Veteran's Affairs at the prestigious Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Simel has dedicated himself

wholly to our veterans across North Carolina. I ask you to join me in recognizing his long and honorable career.

Dr. Simel's hard work and leadership have been vital to the continued success of the Duke University School of Medicine. After being the Associate Chief of Staff of Ambulatory Care for the Department of Veterans Affairs, he was named the Vice-Chair for Veteran's Affairs in the Department of Medicine. Both of these honorable positions have given Dr. Simel the opportunity to serve those who have served us, and he does so with integrity and discipline. The influential book of which he was co-author, *The Rational Clinical Exam*, is a comprehensive guide for patient exams, and has become a powerful reference tool for those in the field of medicine. He has been the recipient of several honors throughout his career, including the Joseph Greenfield, Jr. Award for Research Mentorship from the Duke University Medicine Housestaff in 2011, accepted the Barnett Berris, MD Lectureship from the University of Toronto in 2006, and was inducted as a member of the medical society of high achievement, Alpha Omega Alpha, in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, even as Dr. Simel has dedicated many years of his life to life-saving medical research and educating future physicians, he has managed to remain a devoted father and husband to his family. He and his wife, Dr. Joanne Piscitelli, have three accomplished children: Lauren, Michael, and Bryan. All of his children were active in soccer and basketball growing up, and Dr. Simel rarely missed a game. They maintain a strong tradition of an annual family trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina, during the summer during which the entire family participates in baseball games and sandcastle building competitions. Dr. Simel and his wife also share a passion for bike riding that has taken them around the world. Together they have visited Tuscany, the Canadian Rockies, Patagonia, Vermont, and Slovenia, with Argentina and Nova Scotia planned for later this year.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Simel's enduring commitment to his family, his students, his patients, and our veterans makes him an exemplary citizen, and someone that I am proud to know. His passion for medicine and improving the health of others will continue to benefit North Carolina for many years to come. Please join me in honoring Dr. David Simel for his intelligence, compassion, and selfless dedication. I pray that he and his family may receive God's richest blessings.

SEEKING A CURE FOR  
PANCREATIC CANCER

**HON. TIM GRIFFIN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the devastating disease pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth largest cause of cancer deaths in the United States. With a five-year survival rate of just six percent, it is one of the scariest and most difficult cancer diagnoses a person can receive.

Hope is found in outstanding treatment and research facilities, such as the Winthrop P.

Rockefeller Cancer Institute, located in Central Arkansas, which I represent.

It is also found in the work of scientists and advocates, such as the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, whose Arkansas chapter tirelessly advances awareness of the disease and supports the researchers seeking cures.

During the 112th Congress, the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which I supported, was signed into law. Passing this bill was a huge step forward for cancer research.

Federal research grants provide the seed money pancreatic cancer researchers need to identify specific risk factors and develop early detection methods—all of which someday, hopefully, will lead to a cure.

Cancer research relies on the certainty that critical research funds will be available into the future.

But, we can make these investments only when our Nation's spending priorities are in order.

America has what I call a Pac-Man problem: autopilot spending is driving up our debt and swallowing up our ability to fund programs like medical research, transportation improvements, and health care for our veterans.

Nearly two-thirds of our Federal budget is auto-pilot, mandatory spending including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on our debt.

Unless we save and strengthen these programs for the future, Pac-Man will continue to swallow up the dollars we'd like to invest in research to fight deadly diseases including pancreatic cancer.

I have long supported critical funding for research and will continue to do so.

I will also continue to fight to reform the drivers of our debt because, unless we do, our Nation will have even fewer resources to direct toward the research and treatments that will save American lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the South San Francisco Unified School District in San Mateo County, California. This K–12 school district serves over 9,000 students in 15 schools in South San Francisco, San Bruno and Daly City.

As a South San Francisco native, I received my early education in primary and middle school at Magnolia, Spruce and Parkway from 1955–64. There is no question that the years in the South San Francisco school district molded my life.

Today, the South San Francisco Unified School District has nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school and one adult school, but its beginnings were very humble. In 1866, an elementary district was formed under the original name of San Bruno District. In 1878, a one-room school near the railroad station known as "Twelve Mile House" became the first school in the area. It had one

teacher and three trustees. The first major school in the area was built around 1885. Baden Avenue School had four rooms, a library, a principal's office and sanitary arrangements outside the building.

In 1913 the high school district was established. Four years later, South San Francisco High School graduated its first class of three proud seniors on the new campus on Spruce Avenue. The flu epidemic of 1918 took a serious toll on the area. All schools were closed and the high school was converted into a soup kitchen.

From the 1920s through 1940s, the district built several schools, including Martin, Magnolia and Grand Avenue Schools. Buildings were expanded, renamed, demolished and replaced. The district was able to serve its students. That changed after World War II when the post-war baby boom created a shortage of schools. South San Francisco's population doubled to almost 40,000 and 40 percent of them were under 18. The district embarked on a massive construction project and built seven schools—Parkway Intermediate, El Camino High School, Ponderosa Elementary, Serra Vista Elementary, Monte Verde School, Foxridge Elementary and Skyline Elementary.

In the 70s, Magnolia and Spruce were closed due to seismic concerns and Avalon and El Rancho were closed and sold. In the 80s, Southwood Junior High School closed and Parkway, Alta Loma and Westborough converted to a middle school format.

With continuing declining enrollment, Foxridge and Serra Vista closed in 1992. Parts of Foxridge were leased to a childcare facility and Serra Vista eventually became the home of the NCP College of Nursing. In 2005, Hillsdale Elementary closed its doors and the facility was leased to Mills Montessori Schools. While the school district has experienced expansions and contractions over the last century, it has always kept the focus on quality education and lifelong learning. The 439 teachers, Superintendent Alejandro Hogan and the Board of Trustees are committed to educating our future generations and to giving them the tools to achieve their highest potentials.

Plato said over two millennia ago: "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to commend the South San Francisco Unified School District for having started thousands of students in the right direction.

ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TICK-BORNE DISEASES

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Patricia Smith, a constituent of mine from Jackson, New Jersey and the President of Lyme Disease Association, Inc., LDA, recently testified before the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee regarding the need to establish an advisory committee on Tick-Borne Diseases. I would like to submit her compelling testimony from the hearing, entitled "Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Local Communities," for the RECORD:

Chairman Pitts and Committee Members, Thank you for allowing me to testify on the need to establish an advisory committee on Lyme disease to ensure that government resources are being appropriately used to move forward the field of science and treatment in an area that is fraught with political, scientific, and medical obstacles, yet is dominating discussion on the worldwide stage. In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) indicated that Lyme surpassed HIV in incidence followed by a 2013 announcement confirming a 10-fold under-reporting of Lyme cases, estimating 300,000 Lyme cases annually. A 2001 National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored study found that the impact of Lyme disease on physical health status was at least equal to the disability of patients with congestive heart failure or osteoarthritis, was greater than those observed in type II diabetes or in recent myocardial infarction, and chronic pain contributing to impairment was similar to that reported by patients with osteoarthritis. Couple those facts with Lyme spreading worldwide to 80 countries and the discovery of many newly emerging tick-borne pathogens being carried by many different ticks, then the passage of HR 610 is long overdue.

The LDA just revised its comprehensive education and prevention brochure, LymeR Primer, which went from featuring 7 tick-borne diseases (TBD) in 2009 to 15 diseases. Besides Lyme disease, there are at least 15 other TBD of concern in the US: anaplasmosis; babesiosis, bartonellosis; ehrlichiosis; Rocky Mountain Spotted fever; Colorado tick fever; Q fever; tick paralysis; tularemia; Powassan encephalitis; STARI, a Lyme-like disease often with the same rash, transmitted by a lone star tick bite, pathogen cause unknown, but may be a bacteria similar to the Lyme bacteria; Rickettsia parkeri Rickettsiosis found increasingly along the Gulf Coast and in the South; Borrelia miyamotoi, a tick-borne bacteria which had been producing disease outside the US, now found in the US; newly found Rickettsia species 364D in the Pacific Region; and a newly discovered tick-borne virus in Missouri, Heartland, carried by the lone star tick. One tick-bite can give someone more than one disease.

My education on Lyme began almost 30 years ago as a NJ Board of Education member whose district had a large number of students and staff out with Lyme disease. Then, only a few US ticks were recognized as major health threats to humans. Now, many ticks in the US are causing more human diseases, ticks including Ixodes scapularis (deer, black legged), Amblyomma americanum (lone star), Dermacentor variabilis (American dog), Dermacentor andersoni (Rocky Mt. wood), Ixodes pacificus (western black legged), Amblyomma maculatum (Gulf Coast), and Dermacentor occidentalis (Pacific Coast).

My Lyme work, including 17+ as president of the national volunteer-run non-profit Lyme Disease Association (LDA), has kept me in close contact with patients nationwide. The complicated nature of Lyme disease, the difficulty in diagnosis, and lack of recognition by some in the medical community have exacerbated the plight of patients and their families, many of which contain more than one Lyme victim. Medical bills rise; jobs are lost; education is interrupted. Divorce is not an uncommon result in these families, further complicating the picture. Often, the families are forced to seek government help, government which is already burdened with more debt than it is able to handle.

Children have always been at the highest risk of acquiring Lyme disease. Based on CDC's Lyme reported cases numbers from

2001–2010 by age, LDA estimated that 37% of reported cases were children. Using 1990–2011 CDC reported numbers adjusted for 10-fold underreporting, LDA found that 1,590,449 children have developed Lyme disease over that period. Many more children were probably clinically diagnosed but not included in the CDC surveillance figure, which uses a strict reporting definition not meant for clinical diagnosis. These are children who often go on to develop chronic Lyme disease—who often miss months/years of school and have their childhood destroyed. Showering, walking, talking, thinking can be a problem, and serious pain is a daily challenge. A 1998 Columbia University study documents improvement in IQ of 22 points in a 16 year-old after IV treatment for Lyme disease.

A 1992 CDC/NJ Department of Health study in NJ of 64 school children with Lyme showed that the median duration of Lyme at time of interview was 363 days; the median number of days the illness was said to have significantly affected normal activities was 293; the mean number of total school days lost was 140; the mean duration of home instruction, 153 days. Only 26% of children under study were said to have fully recovered.

The direct medical costs per case incurred by 54 case-patients totaled \$5.2 million, \$8.7 million in CPI adjusted 2013 dollars. The mean estimate was \$96,569 (\$274,412–2013); and costs of \$100,000 (\$166,891–2013) or greater were incurred by more than 1/5 of children. Some indirect costs were assessed totaling about \$15,000 (\$ 25,034–2013) due to lost time caring for patient and parents' lost time transporting children to medical treatment.

A 2001 Columbia study showed children with Lyme disease had significantly more cognitive and psychiatric disturbances. Cognitive deficits were still found after controlling for anxiety, depression, and fatigue. Lyme disease in children may be accompanied by long-term neuropsychiatric disturbances, resulting in psychosocial and academic impairments. Regarding depression, parents indicated that 41% of children with LD had suicidal thoughts, 11% had made a suicide gesture.

Early intervention and appropriate treatment are the answers for patients with Lyme to prevent the development of chronic Lyme disease, aka, Post Treatment Lyme Disease, late disseminated Lyme, persistent Lyme, Post Lyme Disease Syndrome, etc. While discussions continue on the justifications for the various terms used for chronic Lyme disease, we cannot allow the semantics to eclipse the need for research on chronic Lyme, the area producing the most human suffering and receiving the least research funding. According to a new Columbia University Lyme study, based upon 10-fold underreporting and on 10% of newly infected and treated patients developing symptoms that persist for more than 6 months, "the actual incidence of new chronic cases (PTLS) is . . . 30,000."

Currently, many major health threats including chronic fatigue have an advisory committee. Lyme disease does not, placing its patients and advocates at a great disadvantage. We have lobbied for a research agenda which includes more effective treatments for Lyme and other TBD and better diagnostics, including detection of active infection. B. burgdorferi was recognized in 1981 to cause Lyme, almost 33 years ago, yet the two-tier testing system endorsed by CDC is very specific for Lyme disease (99%), so it gives few false positives, but according to some sources, the tests have a uniformly low sensitivity (56%)—missing 88 of every 200 patients with Lyme disease. Yet HIV was identified as the cause of AIDS in 1984, and tests

were developed within a few years after and are 99% sensitive and specific. Moreover, Lyme has not attracted industry funding for treatment approaches, which has allowed patients to develop severe mental and physical disabilities from the disease without help from science. There is also a need for educating doctors and the public about the state of the science regarding these diseases.

The above agenda requires the establishment of a venue where government agencies working on diverse aspects of tick-borne diseases (e.g., CDC surveillance, testing; NIH research funding-clinical trials, as well as basic and translational research; FDA drug, vaccine and device approvals; USDA research into natural tick prevention strategies; EPA tick prevention strategies) can present their activities, submit their proposed TBD agenda, and receive input from committee members who represent a wide variety of stakeholders with diverse scientific viewpoints on development of new diagnostics, treatment methods, and prevention strategies. Utilizing this format, government would ensure its agencies were providing the most judicious use of human and financial resources for Lyme and TBD. Using an already established federal advisory committee format ensures that the committee is only advisory in nature—committee members would not control nor dictate agency agendas, a concern that has been expressed by an outside group in the past. However, those agencies should not be insulated from the public input and diverse scientific viewpoints this committee would provide in shaping an agenda and ensuring the wise use of tight federal dollars, which are provided by taxpayers. Another concern might be whether an advisory committee is worth the costs, including time, to support the operation of the committee. In the case of Lyme disease, the history of the past decades should lead to an easy yes.

One does not have to be a scientist to realize that it is premature and unwise to preclude further clinical trials studying a broader range of treatment regimens when there are numerous major and significant aspects of the bacteria's known pathophysiology which have not been accounted for in studies conducted to date, when there are still many unknowns in that pathophysiology, and when we are learning more every day. While our knowledge of the pathophysiology of the bacteria continues to evolve, we must be open to additional clinical trials to document and establish better treatment regimens. There is preliminary evidence for more effective regimens, and a specific forum for open dialogue can help ensure we move forward and don't get waylaid.

An open dialogue also could only improve the process of utilizing the pool of competent researchers—not in any manner that would interfere with established fair and open processes for grant-making, but only to increase awareness. It's a fact that a small number—a handful—of Lyme researchers have individually received many millions of federal research dollars, many of whom shared the same set of biases and perspectives. Common biases and perspectives are not objectionable if they are based upon the best scientific evidence; open dialogue, information sharing, and transparency can help safeguard the process and the taxpayers' money.

Patients want research which will restore their health. Their voice and the voice of the clinicians must be given the necessary weight to legitimize the research agenda and the research process. Truth in science can be achieved through open discussion with diverse viewpoints in an independent process free from bias and conflicts of interest. The scientific process fails when one side of a debate controls the arena and sets the rules to ensure that its viewpoint prevails.

PATRICIA V. SMITH LYME DISEASE  
ASSOCIATION

MAJOR POINTS SUMMARY

1. Lyme disease is increasing in numbers and range worldwide, with CDC announcing U.S. cases are 300,000 annually. It is found in about 80 countries worldwide.

2. A government study has indicated the impact of Lyme disease on patients is as severe as disability of patients with congestive heart failure or osteoarthritis, is greater than those observed in type II diabetes or in recent myocardial infarction, and chronic pain contributing to impairment is similar to that reported by patients with osteoarthritis.

3. Other tick-borne diseases are being discovered with greater frequency and people are becoming co-infected with a number of diseases.

4. More ticks are spreading different diseases to humans.

5. My work with the Lyme Disease Association has put me in close contact with patients who are sick and have other family members with the disease, which is costly to them financially and also impacts education and family structure.

6. Children are at the highest risk of acquiring Lyme disease. They often miss long periods of school and experience cognitive difficulties, severe pain, and may attempt suicide related to their Lyme disease.

7. There is a need for HR 610 creating an advisory committee which will permit all stakeholder input, including treating physicians, patients, and advocates, to be presented to government agencies. Currently patients have no voice.

8. The Committee would ensure that all sides of the science would be factored into the decision making process.

9. Government agencies need to interact with other government agencies, each bringing different perspectives and priorities to the table.

10. Having diverse stakeholders at the table ensures all perspectives are heard to develop a comprehensive coordinated approach to tick-borne diseases, helping ensure that government funding is used widely.

11. Truth in science can be achieved through open discussion with diverse viewpoints in an independent process free from bias and conflicts of interest.

40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION FOR FORMER VIETNAM WAR POW MR. RAYMOND VOHDEN

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the release of U.S. Navy Captain, Raymond A. Vohden (RET) as a prisoner of war (POW) during the Vietnam War, who was one of almost 600 Americans held captive during the Vietnam War.

In April 3, 1965, Lt. Cdr. Ray Vohden was carrying out a combat mission when his A4C bomber was shot down over North Vietnam. He was captured by the North Vietnamese and held in various POW camps around Hanoi. After enduring almost eight years as a POW, he was released in February 1973.

During his time in prison, he was subjected to torture, isolation and rudimentary medical care. Telling of his strength and courage dur-

ing this ordeal, he was on crutches the entire time of his captivity. He suffered a compound fracture in his right leg as a result of being shot down. Upon his return home, he underwent several surgeries to save and repair his leg and avoid amputation.

Capt. Vohden joined the US Navy in 1953 after receiving his Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University the year before. During college, he played football and wrestled and finished his collegiate career as an all-American wrestler. His thirty-two year military career began when he earned his wings in 1954. He went on to fly fighter jets for four years and then serve as a flight instructor for three years. At the time of his capture, he was a Lieutenant Commander and Operations Officer of a jet attack squadron on the USS Hancock. After his eight years as a POW, he served three years as the head of the Pentagon's POW/MIA taskforce and three years as superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory before retiring in 1986.

Since then, Capt. Vohden has lived a quiet life in Virginia's 10th District, where he raised his family and has enjoyed retirement. He has stayed active with other Washington, D.C. area POWs and has helped raise awareness about the struggle endured during their captivity. In 1999, he testified before the House International Relations Committee during its investigation on the "The Cuba Program: Torturing of American POW's by Cuban Agents" and served as the senior participant in a small program which was referred to as the "Fidel Program." In addition, after years of writing, he self-published his account as a POW in 2009, entitled "A Story of the Fifth longest Held POW in US History—First POW released at Homecoming."

Capt. Vohden has lived a life of integrity and courage. He is a model of perseverance and sacrifice to whom our country is deeply indebted.

Mr. Speaker, today we should honor the 40th anniversary of his release. Please join me in thanking this American hero for his remarkable service.

IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF THE MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's manufacturers, workers, and consumers, and urge the House to bring the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) to a vote immediately.

The MTB is critical for the competitiveness of American manufacturers. The savings from the MTB goes to support manufacturing jobs, allows for reinvestment in capital expenditures and research and development, and decreases the costs of manufacturing in the United States by providing tariff reductions on inputs that are not available domestically.

For a small to medium sized manufacturer, this savings can mean one to two manufacturing jobs.

The last MTB expired at the end of 2012, resulting in higher costs for manufacturers and harming job growth. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) has found that the ex-

piration of the MTB will result in a \$748 million tax on manufacturing in the United States and economic losses amounting to \$1.86 billion over the next three years.

The same study estimated that passage of the MTB in 2010 supported 90,000 manufacturing jobs in the United States and increased our GDP by \$3.5 billion.

An MTB tariff suspension is not, as some have suggested, an earmark.

The process is transparent and bipartisan, with an intensive and transparent vetting process involving Congress, the USITC and other federal agencies, and industry. Any company that imports a product on which the duties have been suspended or reduced can benefit, regardless of location in the United States.

Duty suspensions help reduce costs to the entire supply chain from the manufacturer to the customer.

At a time when the American people are tired and frustrated with the lack of progress coming from their elected representatives in Congress, the MTB offers this chamber an opportunity to passage legislation that has wide bipartisan support and will increase competitiveness, create jobs, and lower prices for consumers.

This is a clear win-win for the American people and I urge the House to take up the MTB before the end of the calendar year.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARTHUR ROY  
JENSEN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Arthur Roy Jensen on the day he is retiring after a remarkable career serving water customers of the Bay Area for 37 years. Art has served as the CEO of the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency since its creation ten years ago.

I had the great honor to work closely with Art on the creation of BAWSCA while I was in the California Legislature. BAWSCA is tasked with protecting the health, safety and economic well-being of water customers in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties who depend on the Hetch Hetchy water system.

Art, as the father of BAWSCA, he led the agency ably for 10 years. He has always been smart, strategic and exceptionally knowledgeable about water—California's gold.

Starting in 1995, Art was the General Manager of the Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA), BAWSCA's predecessor. In 2002, the California Legislature authorized the multi-county agency and in 2003 it was formed. BAWSCA has three goals: a reliable supply, high quality water and a fair price. Today it serves 1.7 million residents, 30,000 businesses and thousands of community organizations.

Under Art's leadership, the agency has negotiated a 25-year water supply agreement with San Francisco that saves residents in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda millions of dollars, created regional water conservation programs, brokered an agreement to share limited water supplies during droughts, and initiated a long-term reliable water supply strategy, among many other concrete results.

Before joining BAWUA and BAWSCA, Art served as Assistant General Manager and Director of Planning at the Contra Costa Water District for five years. From 1984–1990, he was the Deputy and Acting General Manager of the San Francisco Water Department. His time there included the Loma Prieta earthquake and the initial years of the most recent drought. From 1977–1984, Art worked as a senior engineer at Brown and Caldwell Consulting Engineers where he performed studies of the San Francisco regional water supply, treatment and delivery system. He also taught engineering at UC Berkeley. Before that, he was an acting assistant professor at Stanford University from 1976–1977 teaching courses in water management, hydrology, hydrologic modeling and hydraulic engineering.

Art also serves on the advisory board of Sustainable Silicon Valley and the citizens advisory committee of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Art was born in Berkeley in 1954. He earned his B.S. in Engineering Physics from UC Berkeley and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Science from California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

He and his wife of 37 years, Mary, have one daughter, Catherine. In his well-deserved retirement, Art is looking forward to spending more time with family and friends. His many interests, including photography, aviation history, Buddhism, chess, harmonica and guitar, will undoubtedly keep him engaged and active.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor a brilliant engineer, a water expert and a dear friend. He leaves behind giant shoes to fill and his leadership will be missed by his colleagues and Bay Area residents.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 613 “To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.” (H.R. 3588). Had I been present, I would have voted “yes”.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. CLOYD HASTINGS

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Dr. Cloyd Hastings of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District (ISD), based in Carrollton, Texas.

Dr. Hastings served in education for forty years, working to better future generations of young citizens. Prior to joining Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD in 1980, he worked in three other school districts as a teacher, coach, and librarian. He then spent several

years writing as an author for Political Research, a weekly newsletter that informed Congress about upcoming legislation.

With a masters in Library Science from Eastern Illinois University, Dr. Hastings joined the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD as a library coordinator in 1980. In 1983 he became principal of Carrollton Elementary School. He was then principal of McCoy Elementary School from 1989 to 1995 and, during that time, he earned his Doctor of Education degree from the University of North Texas. He also served as principal at Country Place Elementary School from 1995 to 1997.

Afterwards, in 1997, Dr. Hastings moved to the administrative side of the ISD as the Coordinator of Research and Development. He was later named Executive Director of Assessment and Accountability and has served in that role for the remainder of his career. Dr. Hastings has published in Education Week and with the ASCD (formerly the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development). His work has been quoted in articles on best practices in special education, and he has been asked at times to apply for the lead Assessment position at the Texas Education Agency.

Dr. Hastings comes from a family of educators. His father was a superintendent and his grandmother was a teacher. In addition his brother, sister-in-law, two nieces and their husbands, daughter Karen, and wife Dianne all work in education or related fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable career and well-earned retirement of Dr. Cloyd Hastings of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District.

#### HONORING JO WALKER MEADOR

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every great community has a grand storyteller; one who proclaims the greatness of the land. The Music City family has many great tellers, all worthy of praise, but standing behind the city's legacy is one particularly great teller of its story and song. I rise today to honor Jo Walker Meador for her outstanding service to country music.

Inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1995, Jo Walker Meador is no stranger to accolades from her beloved industry and her successes are well known. From the beginning days of Fan Fair to the Country Music Association and on to the CMA award shows, Jo's mark is ever present. It is no small truth that country music would not hold the audience and devotion around the world were it not for Jo Walker Meador.

Now in its sixth year, the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award honors those whose life and work paved the way for the next generation of award winning musicians, artists, and business leaders. It is fitting then that you celebrate Jo today. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating Jo Walker Meador, the Matriarch of Music Row, as she is honored with the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 613, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 3588. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARY MCMILLAN

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Deputy County Manager Mary McMillan upon the occasion of her retirement after 23 years of stellar service to the residents of San Mateo County. Ms. McMillan's accomplishments are the definition of public service and these accomplishments are legion.

As a leader in our county, she has been a passionate advocate for foster children. There is a rental apartment building in South San Francisco that exists today because years ago Mary saw that foster children who aged out of the system were often homeless and forgotten. This type of vision and compassion are typical of Mary McMillan.

Mary led the county's efforts to create its vision. She included citizens in the process of setting county priorities through innovative town hall-type forums in which citizens ranked county priorities and discussed their expectations about such services as mental health, parks, child protective services and services for the elderly.

As a leader, Mary volunteered for the boards of multiple nonprofits and has most recently been serving on the board of Puenta de la Costa Sur in the rural community of Pescadero. This nonprofit community center serves farm workers in that community, and their families. This agency's vital services are near to Mary's heart: Providing for the clothing of children, the feeding of families, and the direction to healthcare services when needed.

The San Mateo County delegation to the state legislature knows Mary as the tireless advocate of the county's priorities. Woe to the state legislator who failed to heed Mary's advice. She was always the best prepared advocate in the room and often knew more about a topic than the State Senator or Assemblymember. Mary McMillan is not a particularly tall woman, but she fits the image of the mouse that roars. She roared on behalf of the county's parks. She roared on behalf of special education funding that was otherwise targeted for state budget cuts. She roared on behalf of child support for indigent children. Mr. Speaker and Members, Mary's example sets the standard for public service because there was no cause too slight or complex that it evaded Mary's examination and advocacy. The people of San Mateo County owe her a debt of gratitude for her remarkable talents as exhibited throughout the halls of the State Capitol. These are talents that were honed over many years as a legislative staffer, and then turned toward the service of San Mateo County.

Finally, Mary McMillan is much beloved by everyone who knows her. It is a tribute to a person who has been in the public eye for so long that everyone has a wonderful story to relate about her character and judgment, as well as her personal kindness.

Mr. Speaker, this retirement will be a tremendous loss for San Mateo. The county may someday have another advocate, but it will be hard-pressed to find such a talented steward of its trust. We wish Mary McMillan well on her next journey in life. We have no doubt that, wherever she goes, she will continue to be the mouse that roars.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UPDATE, PROMOTE AND DEVELOP AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION ESSENTIALS ACT OF 2013, AND THE ROAD USER FEE PILOT PROJECT ACT OF 2013

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing two pieces of legislation to address America's infrastructure deficit and put Americans back to work renewing and rebuilding the country. For the past decade, it has been clear that our transportation funding mechanism is broken, and Republicans and Democrats alike danced around the critical issue of how to fund our nation's infrastructure. During this time, Congress transferred more than \$50 billion of general fund money to the Highway Trust Fund in an effort to keep the Highway Trust Fund alive, but did nothing to solve the long-term problem.

In the past infrastructure funding was a bipartisan issue. Whether it was Democrats and Republicans coming together to launch the interstate freeway system signed into law by President Eisenhower or the subsequent road, transit, and water investments that fueled economic development and tied the nation together, a spirit of forward-thinking cooperation dominated. The recent failure to address our long-term funding problem has also been bipartisan. Despite strong recommendations from private-sector commissions created during the Bush Administration, the forward momentum of the past has been stopped dead in its tracks.

The gap between Highway Trust Fund assets and our nation's future needs is growing as the condition of our roads, bridges, and transit systems continues to deteriorate. There is no question about the importance of our nation's infrastructure to the general economy. America's roads, bridges, and rail lines move goods valued at more than \$11 trillion a year. The failure to make adequate transportation investments puts America at a competitive disadvantage internationally, it complicates movement of goods and people, and it contributes to congestion and pollution. In fact, the American Society for Civil Engineers estimates that if we fail to increase funding in our nation's infrastructure, our transportation failures will restrict our national GDP growth by \$897 billion by 2020. To avoid these outcomes, blue ribbon policy commissions have suggested increasing investment in infrastructure from between \$20 billion to \$40 billion per year.

Unfortunately, Congress has not increased the gas tax since the Clinton deficit-reduction program in 1993. Today, with inflation and increased fuel efficiency for vehicles, the average motorist is paying about half as much per mile as they did then. In this situation, the Highway Trust Fund will require \$15 billion a year to maintain current spending levels. In less than a year, absent Congressional action, we face a precipitous drop in transportation funding—eventually totaling a 30 percent reduction in 10 years. Increased fuel efficiency exacerbates that deficit even more over time.

There is a broad and persuasive coalition that recognizes the importance of an increased investment in our infrastructure. From the Chamber of Commerce, to the AFL-CIO, the American Trucking Association, the Sierra Club, and the League of American Bicyclists, individuals, businesses, and associations across the spectrum are ready to invest in America's infrastructure. Today, I am putting forward a vision for how Congress should go about renewing and rebuilding the country.

My first piece of legislation, the Update, Promote, and Develop America's Transportation Essentials (UPDATE) Act, will phase in a fifteen cent per gallon gas tax increase, similar to what was called for in the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction proposal of three years ago. It is adjusted for inflation so that we're not back into the same situation in a few years, and acknowledges the long-term inadequacy of the gas tax by clarifying that this should be the last gas tax increase. The UPDATE Act would raise around \$170 billion over ten years.

This would have a powerful effect on the economy. The relatively small amount infrastructure investment in the Recovery Act had a significant impact on employment, creating almost 36,000 jobs for each billion invested. These are family wage jobs in every community across America.

Instituting a reasonable gas tax increase now stops the dance of avoidance. It will provide the revenues Democrats say they want in the form of a user fee which historically has been acceptable to Republicans including Ronald Reagan, who increased the gas tax by a nickel a gallon in 1982 (the equivalent of raising it by \$0.12 a gallon in today's dollars). As we extend the gas tax, we must also think about how to replace it with something more sustainable. The best candidate would be the vehicle mile traveled fee being explored by pilot projects in Oregon and implemented there on a voluntary basis next year. My second piece of legislation provides research funding for larger-scale pilot projects to answer remaining questions about how best to implement a vehicle miles traveled system, appropriate revenue collection mechanisms, and other potential applications for such a system. This bill looks to the future and helps provide a more stable funding base for the next one hundred years.

Addressing the infrastructure deficit, stabilizing transportation funding, and helping America's all-too-slow economic recovery, is critical if we want a livable and economically prosperous country in the years to come. All we need to make it happen is a commitment to build the future together.

HONORING THE MAYOR OF BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA EMMETT S. PUGH III

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, many of us recall one of the lessons of the late Speaker Tip O'Neil who advised us, if "a constituent calls about a problem, even if it's a streetlight out, you don't tell him to call City Hall. You call City Hall."

That is a lesson in government service that those at the helm in City Halls across this nation know all too well. I refer, of course, to our mayors—the mayors of America who gladly take calls, 24/7, about matters A-to-Z, in and out of their city limits.

Mr. Speaker, West Virginia has been blessed by a plethora of long-serving mayors, men and women who have devoted entire careers to caring for their hometowns. These public servants not only know everyone in line at the local grocery store, they also know their parents and grandparents as well as their children and their grandchildren.

To those term-limit zealots out there, I will say these local elected officials know the severest term limit of all—the town election. And yet, election after election, voters repeatedly return so many of these faithful people to public service. Voters know their mayors and know them well, and it says something meaningful when they choose to reelect them over and over again.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I note a celebration happening in my own hometown this week to honor the City of Beckley's longest serving mayor, Emmett S. Pugh III.

Mr. Speaker, in this native son of Beckley, public service roots run deep. His grandfather, A.K. Minter, served as mayor from 1938 to 1959. His other grandfather, E.S. Pugh, served on common council.

Growing up in Beckley, he formed lasting friendships that served as a foundation for his deep sense of caring about people and their problems and his commitment to finding solutions to the community's challenges.

As a Babe Ruth second baseman and shortstop, Emmett helped win the state championship—a first for a Babe Ruth team from Beckley. He grew up with boys who would eventually become business and community leaders: Pat Fragile, the Rosenbaum twins, Palmer Farley, and Fred Lewis, who would become a Supreme Court justice in Florida.

Emmett joined a local band, the Red Barons. He and several friends formed their own "fraternity" at Woodrow Wilson High School, calling themselves the "Dirty Dozen." The Red Barons would eventually appear on Dick Clark's "Cavalcade of Stars". The fortunes of the "Dirty Dozen" are far less clear.

A 1973 University of Alabama graduate and Political Science major with a specialization in State and Local Government, Emmett began his professional career as President of Bowlwick, Inc., serving there for thirteen years. He then became a broker for Wheat First Securities for two years. He served as Councilman-at-Large for the City of Beckley from 1979 until 1988, at which time he became Mayor of the City of Beckley, a position he holds today.

He has served as the Legislative Chairman of the West Virginia Municipal League sixteen

times over the years as well as Chairman of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board. He is a past president of the 4-C Economic Development Authority and Beckley Rotary Club. He has served as Chairman of the Region I Planning and Development Council in Princeton, the Beckley Sanitary Board, the Pinecrest Development Corporation, and Beckley Renaissance. He has also served as Director of the Mountain State University Foundation, Board of Directors/Vice-President and past Campaign Chair of the United Way of Southern West Virginia, a member of the Raleigh County Airport Authority, a member of the Board of Trustees for Beckley Little League, and Vice Chairman of Appalachian Regional Healthcare in Lexington, Kentucky.

Awards Mayor Pugh has received include being named Past Mayor of the Year, being a recipient of four All Star Community Awards and the Paul Harris Fellow from the Beckley Rotary Club. He was also the proud recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Beckley Award. Mr. Pugh is a member of the National League of Cities, Moose International, NAACP, and the West Virginia Municipal League.

During his tenure, the fortunes of the City that Emmett Pugh serves as mayor have grown. The list is long, but projects Mayor Pugh has led include the renovation of the police garage, the construction of two new fire stations, the annexation of additional properties that have expanded the City's reach, the razing of deteriorated properties to open opportunities for renewal, the paving and enhancement of streets and addition of traffic lights, the purchase of equipment for community playgrounds, and the addition of picnic shelters in community parks. His handiwork can be seen in the Beckley Intermodal Gateway, the Rahall Company Store, Thornhill Courts, Freedom and Word Parks, and the Lewis-McManus Trail. And, the list goes on.

As long as humankind holds public office, the Good Book teaches us there will be no perfect office holders. But we can thank the Almighty that there are talented, dedicated, caring human hearts and minds that take up the call to public service.

It has been said that the highest honor one can receive is one from those who themselves walk in our shoes. That Emmett's fellow Mayors have honored him not once, not twice, but three unprecedented times, electing him as their League President, and presenting him with their "Quiet Strength" Award speaks volumes. Emmett's mentor, John McCulloch, a former Beckley Mayor himself, helped put Emmett's own quiet strength to work for the good families, businesses and industries of Beckley. Over the decades, whether calling City Hall, the Mayor's home, or even his cell phone, one knew that the quiet strength of Emmett Pugh could be counted on to answer. For that, we thank my long-time friend and ALL of Beckley's Mayor, Emmett Pugh.

DELEGATE LACEY E. PUTNEY

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, this year marks Delegate Lacey E. Putney's retirement from 52 years of distinguished public service and

accomplishment representing Bedford and the surrounding area in the Virginia House of Delegates. Born in Big Island, Virginia, Delegate Putney is the longest-serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates in the Commonwealth's history, having served since January 1962. He was a member of the Appropriations Committee for nearly 50 years, including 5 years as its Chairman, providing critical leadership in the development of our state's balanced budgets each year. Legislators on both sides of the aisle have always had the utmost respect for Delegate Putney because he has always led based on his conscience and his convictions rather than partisan interests. He will be remembered for his service to our country in the United States Air Force, his devotion to fiscal responsibility, his commitment to economic development, and his legacy of independent-minded leadership for our great Commonwealth.

Lacey Putney devoted his life and career to the betterment of his community and our entire state. On behalf of myself and Representatives BOB GOODLATTE, BOBBY SCOTT, RANDY FORBES, ROB WITTMAN, MORGAN GRIFFITH and SCOTT RIGELL, I thank Delegate Putney for his decades of service to the great Commonwealth of Virginia. It has been an honor to serve with him, and I wish him and his wife, Carmela the best in his retirement.

HONORING MR. DUNBAR BROOKS

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Dunbar Brooks on the occasion of his retirement from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council after a long and distinguished career and decades of selfless community volunteerism.

A lifelong resident of Turner's Station in Baltimore County, Mr. Brooks is a United States Army veteran, honorably serving two tours of duty in Vietnam before starting his career. He has worked as a manager of data development and regional planner at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council since 1982, developing expertise in spinning numbers into compelling stories. He has become the go-to guy for demographers and planners across the region, helping to shape Baltimore's landscape.

Throughout his career, Mr. Brooks has held several teaching positions, including at the Community College of Baltimore County and the Morgan State graduate school. He has managed to find time volunteering for countless boards and commissions, including both the Baltimore County Board of Education and Maryland State Board of Education, where he served as president. He is the longtime chairman of the Turner Station Development Corporation and a life member of the Dundalk-Sparrows Point NAACP.

I would be remiss not to mention that Mr. Brooks' relentless leadership helped terminate plans for a dangerous and ill-advised liquid natural gas facility near the Turners Station community. Mr. Brooks spent countless hours fighting on behalf of his community, the Port of Baltimore and the thousands of jobs dependent on it.

Mr. Brooks' is the well-deserved recipient of awards and accolades too numerous to list in

their entirety. Most recently, he received the Baltimore County NAACP Excellence in Education Award. In 2002, he earned the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Baltimore City Community College and the Chesapeake Region Community Service Award from the Boy Scouts in 1998.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Brooks on a personal level for many years. In addition to his community spirit and generosity, I am deeply impressed with his dedication to his family. He is also a loving husband to his wife, Edith, as well as a proud father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Dunbar Brooks. His service and dedication to the people of Maryland is an inspiration. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him many more years of continued success and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLY CAHILL

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Willy "Clipper" Cahill who is being honored today with a USA Judo Lifetime Achievement Award. I can't think of a more deserving person to receive this exceptional honor. Willy has empowered thousands of children and adults through an ancient art form that builds confidence and enhances independence.

I was one of those lucky children. Willy was my judo teacher from third through sixth grade. He was a fantastic role model, the embodiment of discipline, humility and grace.

His teachings have served me well throughout my life. A few years ago, Stephen Colbert of Comedy Central's Colbert Report came to Capitol Hill to interview me. He was, of course, not interested in ordinary footage, instead he made me get on a skateboard and cruise through the halls of Congress. He goaded me about my judo experience and dared me to throw him onto the marble floor in the Capitol. Colbert ended up on the floor and so did the footage—on the cutting room floor. Without my early lessons and Willy's guidance who knows what would have happened?

Willy was born in 1935 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He started his martial arts education under his father, Professor John Cahill, Sr. who had studied under Professor Okazaki's Kodokan System of Jujitsu in Hawaii. When Willy was 12 years old, he was treated and cured of Polio. He walked out of the hospital—a miracle for which he credits Professor Okazaki.

After graduating from South San Francisco High School, Willy attended San Mateo Junior College. His father founded Cahill's Judo Academy in Daly City in 1948. Professor Cahill's dream was to get one of his students to the Olympics. That dream was cut short by his tragic and premature death at age 50.

Willy had big shoes to fill, but he lived up to the challenge and beyond. In honor of his dad, Willy opened a new Cahill's Judo Academy Dojo in San Bruno in 1963. Setting the highest standards and goals for himself and his students, Willy has surpassed his father's dream.

His coaching and mentorship has produced 1,200 national and international medal winners. He accepted the position of U.S. Olympic Judo Coach in 1988 and of U.S. Paralympic Judo Coach in 1999. In the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sidney, his team made world history and brought home two gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal. Four years later at the games in Athens, his team won two silver and one bronze medals. It is important to point out that since judo was introduced as an Olympic discipline in 1964, no team—sighted or not sighted—had ever won gold. Coach Cahill's students have won 75% of all medals in judo on the Olympics and Paralympics level.

Willy has been successful in making judo accessible to people of all ages and abilities. In 2003, he cofounded the Blind Judo Foundation. The non-profit provides blind and visually impaired athletes the chance to train and compete in judo. To advance to the Paralympic Games these athletes often have to compete with sighted competitors. In judo, the same rules apply to the Olympics and the Paralympics.

In addition, Willy has trained U.S. Army Green Berets, Navy Seals, US Secret Service, and Homeland Security. He is the judo coach at Stanford and San Francisco State Universities and of the Junior Pan American Championships and Goodwill Games.

Willy has always led by example. He is a 10th Degree Black Belt in Jujitsu, the highest rank, and an 8th Degree Black Belt in Judo. He has been inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame and the Black Belt Coaches Hall of Fame. He was recognized by three presidents at the White House. He received the U.S. Jujitsu President's Leadership Award and earned the title of Professor Willy Cahill from the U.S. Jujitsu Federation. None of these prestigious awards and accomplishments has tainted his humility. He will not let others call him Professor or Sensei, he simply wants to be called Coach. His 10th Degree Black Belt entitles him to a red belt, but Coach always competes in a black belt. The tenets of judo define Willy's life. He has practiced for 65 years and at age 77 still does so five to six days a week.

He has been married to his wife Ellie for 24 years. He is the proud father of two children from his first marriage, Carin Lockwood and Curtis Cahill, who have given him four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Coach Willy Cahill, an extraordinary teacher and human being who's physical and spiritual embrace has enlightened thousands. Because of Willy, the world is a better place.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 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 \$17,235,032,379,905.81. We've added \$6,608,155,330,992.73 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation,

our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### HONORING CORPORAL IVAN A. EVANS, UNITED STATES ARMY

#### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Corporal Ivan A. Evans and recognize his service to our country in World War II.

This December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, it will be my great honor to present the late Corporal Evans' wife, Sarah Ann Evans, with his well-earned service medals and decorations.

At the age of 19, Evans enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort McPherson in East Point, Georgia. There, he was part of the 98th Infantry Division of the 367th Field Artillery Battalion before departing for Hawaii in July of 1945, where he trained as part of the Japan occupation forces. After Japan's surrender on September 2, 1945, Evans' infantry division helped oversee the country's transition from years of war into a democracy.

While answering the call of duty, Evans earned the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, and the Marksman Badge & Rifle Bar.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to present Sarah Ann Evans with these commendations, signifying her husband's selfless sacrifice during World War II. To preserve our history and tradition of service, Corporal Evans and the soldiers who served alongside him can never be forgotten. Their stories are the ones that define "the greatest generation," where free people across the world stood up to tyranny, risking their lives for our deepest principles.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 612 and No. 613: my flight from California was delayed and I arrived after votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes," on both.

#### HAPPY TRAILS TO AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR PETROVIC OF SERBIA

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States, Vladimir Petrovic is not just a great Ambassador but a great person.

He is passionate about Serbia.

And he also loves the USA.

Working with the Ambassador was easy because we speak the same language.

Many people don't know that Texans and Serbs are a lot alike.

We are both independent, vocal, and opinionated.

We don't back down.

And I think that's why the Ambassador and I get along so well.

As co-chair of the Serbian Caucus along with my good friend from Missouri, Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER, I am sad to see the Ambassador leave.

We know that with his Serbian spirit, there are only good things to come.

Happy Trails Ambassador Petrovic.

And that's just the way it is.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of St. Matthew Catholic Church in San Mateo, California. Since its founding in 1863 the buildings, parishioners and pastors have changed, but the church has always been a place for comfort, solace, community and friendship for everyone.

A century and a half ago, Archbishop Alemany sent Father Denis Dempsey to San Mateo to establish the first parish in the county. A small wooden-steeple church was built on the corner of Third Avenue and A Street—today Ellsworth Avenue—on a piece of land donated by Charles B. Polhemus, an investor in the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad. Father Dempsey was the pastor for 18 years and earned the admiration and love of his parishioners. It is said that his funeral mass was attended by local officials and dignitaries from throughout the State.

Sadly, the next pastor, Father William Bowman, only had a tenure of seven months before he passed away. He was followed by Father Peter Birmingham who presided for three years until he was transferred to San Francisco. Longevity was the signature of the fourth pastor, Father Timothy Callaghan. He served St. Matthew Church for 53 years. During his tenure, a parish cemetery was established and a new church was built. The congregation was growing and the threat of a fire destroying the old wooden church led to a fire resistant brick church on Ellsworth between Second and Third Avenues. The dedicating mass was held in September of 1900. Father Callaghan was elevated to Right Reverend and witnessed continual growth of the parish.

Father Henry J. Lyne became the fifth pastor and established a parish school in 1931. Seven Sisters of the Holy Cross taught 140 students in the first year. He is credited with starting Catholic formal education in the Archdiocese of San Francisco on the peninsula. In 1947, Pope Pius XII appointed him a Domestic Prelate with the title Monsignor.

Father Edward J. Meagher, the sixth pastor, saw unprecedented growth of the Catholic population after World War II. In 1952, total enrollment from Kindergarten to the 8th grade had grown to 861. Father Meagher raised funds to build an independent parish in Shoreview which was named St. Timothy as a tribute to Monsignor Timothy Callaghan. Soon after that, the Western portion of St. Matthew

parish was detached with the establishment of Bartholomew parish. Father Meagher's successor, Father Bernard C. Cronin, oversaw the building of a new St. Matthew Church and Rectory at Ninth Avenue and El Camino Real which opened in May 1966. The downtown church also remained open. Father Cronin was elevated to Right Reverend Monsignor in 1972.

In 1979, Father James Ward, a graduate of St. Matthew School, class of 1937, became its eighth pastor. Father James Ward was devoted to the school and the students. During his tenure, the downtown church was demolished after suffering seismic damage. He and the archdiocese fought hard, yet unsuccessfully, for the vacated property that was eventually leased to Walgreen Drug. Father Ward died from a leg infection in 1995. Monsignor James McKay succeeded him and oversaw fundamental renovations of the newer church at El Camino Real and Ninth Avenue that are still in place today.

In 2004, the tenth and current pastor replaced Monsignor McKay. Father Anthony McGuire now oversees the St. Matthew parish of 2,500 and is credited with growing the diverse parish and attracting an ever increasing number of Hispanic and Asian families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the rich history of St. Matthew Church in San Mateo which has been a place of spiritual and social growth for thousands of families for 150 years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 614 on approving the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

#### UNITED NATIONS' INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Every day, persons with disabilities around the world must face undue physical, social, and economic hurdles in society. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is just one of many opportunities to focus on these individuals' accomplishments.

Since 1992, the United Nations has promoted this international day of observance in order to promote a better understanding of disabilities and to enhance the well-being of persons living with disabilities. These individuals frequently lack access to basic resources such as gainful employment or healthcare. With over one billion people around the world living with some form of disability, it is critical that we raise awareness around these issues.

The National Industries for the Blind (NIB) is one organization that works to raise aware-

ness and provide tangible services and assistance to those living with disabilities. NIB, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, works in 35 States at more than 250 locations across the United States to provide these invaluable services. NIB continues to promote new opportunities for individuals with disabilities through its widely recognized AbilityOne Program.

In my district, I have had the distinct pleasure of visiting the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, a non-profit organization that provides job training and services to visually impaired individuals. The Dallas Lighthouse, a local National Industries for the Blind agency, employs 185 visually impaired persons and has provided training for employees within certain agencies of the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, as we join the international community in recognizing International Day of Persons with Disabilities, it is important that we highlight the local organizations here at home that bring real value to communities across the U.S. The National Industries for the Blind is one such organization and that I am pleased to recognize as it celebrates 75 years of enhancing the lives of others.

#### IN HONOR OF RACHEL WHEELER-ROSSOW

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor a dear friend, Rachel Wheeler-Rossow. Rachel passed away on November 29th at the age of 74. Compassionate and selfless, Rachel dedicated her life to helping those less fortunate. She was a pillar of her community in Ellington, Connecticut, and she will not soon be forgotten.

Rachel was born in Long Beach, California on March 20, 1939. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Salve Regina University and her Master's in Nursing from the Catholic University of America. In 1970, she moved to Ellington, Connecticut and threw herself into public service. Four years later, Rachel and former husband Carl founded the Alpha & Omega Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities. Rachel and Carl ran the group out of their home, while taking in and raising nearly 50 children—a remarkable act of compassion and generosity.

Rachel's work earned her recognition from former President Ronald Reagan at the White House in 1983. In 1990, she was awarded the Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award from Connecticut's Department of Children and Youth Services for her work on child welfare programs for children with HIV. The following year she also was honored with one of only 11 National Caring Awards from the Caring Institute, a Washington, DC based non-profit committed to promoting the values of integrity and public service.

Rachel was deeply involved in the local government of Ellington, serving on the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen, and as the chairwoman of the town Democratic Party. In addition to her nationally recognized efforts, her non-stop work

to improve the lives of others never got in the way of her own thoughtfulness and down-to-earth manner. She was a good listener and had a modest quiet-spoken presence that carried a power and dignity that impressed all who came into contact with her. A friend of Rachel's, former Connecticut State Representative Ted Graziani, described her as "an angel," whose example should inspire us all to be better people.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Rachel Wheeler-Rossow, whose altruism touched the lives of so many people in Connecticut.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF RENOWNED WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE SISTER MARY NERNEY

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the passing of East Harlem's beloved Sister Mary Nerney who passed away on November 27, 2013 at the age of 75. Sister Mary Nerney was a dear friend of mine and a pillar to our community as she advocated for women with histories of abuse and trauma. Although I speak with grief of such an overwhelming loss, I ascend to rejoice a life well lived and proudly remember the accomplishments of a remarkable woman.

Sister Mary Nerney was admired for her leading role in the Catholic social justice movement in New York City. As unemployment, violence, and drug use began affecting women disproportionately in Harlem during the late 1970s, Sister Nerney undertook the challenge of constructing a pathway for female prisoners to reenter society. Through her diligent work, Sister Mary was able to found numerous alternatives to incarceration programs designed for female offenders.

In 1975, Sister Mary Nerney formed Project Green Hope: Services for Women Inc. in Harlem to offer a treatment program for formerly incarcerated women. As envisioned by Sister Nerney, her organization developed formal relationships with the criminal justice system and expanded its work to include services for women on parole. Through Sister Nerney's leadership, the program has helped over 4,000 women reclaim their lives by reestablishing contact with their families and children, enrolling in educational programs and securing housing at their Green Hope Houses.

Sister Mary Nerney also founded STEPS To End Family Violence in 1986 after she saw a great need for services for the victims of gender-based violence and trauma in New York jails and prisons. And though STEPS began with a staff of two, Sister Nerney developed it into an extensive network of comprehensive services and innovative programs for abused women. Thanks to Sister Nerney's constant work, STEPS now offers essential teen programs, children's therapy, counseling, and legal services to help prevent further gender-related violence and trauma.

Sister Nerney was loved in our community because of her constant work with staple organizations and her unwavering Women's Rights activism. She was a proud member of the Pax Christi Catholic Peace Movement, the

New York State Coalition Against Violence, the New York Coalition for Women Prisoners and the Legal Aid Society Board. Her outstanding commitment to Women's Rights Advocacy has won her awards from the Network Women of Justice in 1997 and the Human Services Consortium of East Harlem for 30 years of outstanding work in the community. Sister Mary also founded the Incarcerated Mothers Program and was a founding member of the Coalition for Women Prisoners. Only days before her death, our dear Sister Nerney continued to counsel inmates and visit prisons with the message of hope for a better life.

Mr. Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of my friend Sister Mary Nerney by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way.

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IN RECOGNITION OF SHARON  
WILLIAMS

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable Sharon Williams, the long-time director of Menlo Park-based JobTrain. Sharon is retiring after forty years of instilling opti-

mism in each JobTrain client and building life skills amongst an entire community. I have watched with amazement over these many years as Sharon has guided the JobTrain organization.

Sharon earned her BA in English from the University of the Pacific in 1965 and her teaching credential from San Francisco State University in 1968. She joined JobTrain in 1973 as a GED teacher. She became Director of Development in 1978 and a short time later took over as Executive Director. Conducting job training classes and connecting people with jobs was very difficult in the late 1970s. Sharon guided JobTrain and its clients through difficult financial times and build a stunningly successful career and job education center.

With Sharon's outstanding leadership, JobTrain has offered cutting-edge and traditional job training, everything from solar panel installation classes to computer repair to culinary arts to laboratory technician training for biotechnology facilities. Knowing that life skills are a large component of the training done by JobTrain, Sharon and her staff insist that clients learn how to show up on time to work, become team members in the modern work environment, and learn how to balance work and the demands of a family.

Mr. Speaker and Members, Sharon Williams has infused JobTrain with the same "can do" attitude that she insists from her clients. I've

visited JobTrain on several occasions, most recently in the last few months.

It's a very busy place. JobTrain helps 8,000 persons per year, and 600 of them receive full-time vocational training. At least 85 percent of those who enroll complete their training. Seventy five percent of those persons are placed in jobs, and 12 months after placement, 84 percent are still working. JobTrain's success is spelled out in these numbers. Sharon's contributions to the Peninsula are not limited to JobTrain. She currently serves on numerous boards, including the Center for Excellence in Nonprofits, and East Palo Alto Digital Village. She has also previously served on the boards of the East Palo Alto Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Leadership Mid-Peninsula, and the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board.

After forty years at the helm of JobTrain, it is time for Sharon Williams to bid her beloved nonprofit goodbye and to head off in new directions. The only thing missing from JobTrain's smorgasbord of classes at the moment is a class on how to make eyeglasses. That's not surprising. Sharon sees quite clearly the need for human dignity through productive work. Why would she believe that anyone else in the community needs glasses when her own sight is both perfect and prescient? Let us give Sharon the highest compliment that any employer can offer an employee. Let us say, "Job well done."