EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF KATHERINE AGNES McMILLAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of an extraordinary woman, Katherine Agnes McMillan, who passed away at the age of 89 on December 10, 2013. She was the youngest of nine children born to Irish immigrants, John Patrick and Margaret Kearns Trumble, and was the Valedictorian of her graduating class at Sacred Heart Academy.

Katherine McMillan served in the Navy as a nurse, and went on to serve her community uncommonly well as a devoted RN for 37 years at Sequoia Hospital where she worked in the Emergency Room and was a legend there.

After retiring from the nursing profession, Katherine launched a 'latchkey' day care program at St. Pius Catholic Church in Redwood City, the first of its kind in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. She provided quality child care for school age children with her trademarks of professionalism, discipline and caring.

Katherine gave generously of her time and considerable talents at Serra High School in San Mateo, the school her son Robert attended and she loved. She became the first woman to earn and be honored with the ''In Via Award'' by this all male school.

Katherine is survived by her beloved daughters, Katherine and Mary, her son Robert (Julie) and her two adored grandsons, Sean and Kenny.

I had the privilege of knowing Katherine McMillan for over three decades. With her Irish pride and her Boston accent, she was a force of nature, a loyal and loving friend, an extraordinary mother, and a woman of great faith. She lived her faith in all she did, and every day of her life was guided by it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a woman who will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know her and never be forgotten. Katherine McMillan was a true patriot, a woman who loved her family deeply and served her community, her church and her country with great dedication and joy. For this, the entire U.S. House of Representatives extends its condolences to the McMillan family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRIDA BAZAN, WINNER OF 1ST HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ESSAY CONTEST

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winner of the 1st Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest for the 27th Congressional District of Texas.

Ms. Frida Bazan, from El Campo High School, in El Campo, Texas wrote the winning essay, entitled ''Honoring My Hispanic Heritage.'' I ask that Ms. Bazan's essay be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It reads as follows:

Hispanic Heritage makes a great influence in my life because it is a way of life. This culture is deeply important to me because it represents who I am, how I live my life, and how I view the world. All these characteristics form part of my life and personality, which I love, and lead me to proudly say that I am honored to be Hispanic.

Hispanic Heritage Month means celebrating our heritage by sharing stories and informing others of our traditions and customs, while honoring where we came from. As we share stories about the traditional Christmas posadas, Día de los Muertos celebrations, and the famous Grito de Independencia, we let others know more about our lives and at the same time spread our culture.

As a Hispanic, I have strict, conservative parents who have made me the person I am today. I have inherited ideas such as being respectful to our elders, the willingness to work, attending church, dedicating myself to help others, and above all being a strong person who overcomes obstacles I may face; these are important Hispanic characteristics that have been enforced to me by my parents and grandparents. All this has helped me during my lifetime and will continue to lead me in the correct path as I aspire for my life goals. I have many goals for my future, and my biggest dream is to one day become a physician assistant and make a difference in people's lives by helping those in need. My parents have taught me to use perseverance and never stop fighting for what I want because I can reach anything I put my mind to, and I know that with their advice and my hard dedication I can get very far in life. Hispanics are people who never give up when it comes to accomplishing their life goals and will face sacrifices and have dedication to reach their goals and persuade others to do the same.

Hispanic Heritage may fade away in families who move to live in the United States and adopt another culture. As a Hispanic, I consider it my duty to make sure that my heritage is not forgotten. As my parents have done with our family, I will ensure that our heritage is protected for generations by telling others about our traditions and customs. When I have a family of my own I will tell them all the memorable stories my parents told me about our family traditions. I will continue to use traditions, such as the piñatas, language, posadas, dances, and foods, to keep the Hispanic heritage alive in my life and inculcate those values to my descendants.

As a proud Hispanic I will never forget where my family's roots initiated. Even though I live in a different country with a different type of life and traditions, my Hispanic heritage will always remain in my memories and deep in my heart.

Congratulations to Frida Bazan for writing the winning essay. Thank you also for your participation in this contest and for sharing some of your traditions and customs. Best of luck to you in all your future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. MARCUS KAUFFMAN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marcus Kauffman, a young man who tragically lost his life after being shot by home intruders on December 2nd of last year. He fought courageously to survive for three weeks before succumbing to his injuries.

Marcus Kauffman, often called Marco by friends and loved ones, was an outstanding citizen. He selflessly served as a volunteer firefighter with the Scotch Irish Fire Department in Woodleaf, North Carolina. As a firefighter, Marco heroically put himself in harm's way and displayed immense dedication to the safety of others. We are fortunate to have brave men and women like Marco who dedicate and risk their lives as firemen for our well-being and security.

Marco's life was taken much too soon. He will be remembered for his extraordinary heroism and devotion to his family in the face of danger. I applaud Marco for his bravery, and I thank him for his heroic and selfless actions.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kauffman was a proven leader in our community, but he was also a loving husband, a soon to be father, and a faithful friend to many. My wife Renee and I will continue to pray for the family and loved ones of Marco, including his wife Maryann and their unborn child. I hope that they find peace in this troubling time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHINER HIGH SCHOOL COMANCHE MARCHING BAND

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Shiner High School Marching Band on an outstanding accomplishment. On Monday, November 4, 2013, the 70-member Shiner High School marching band took first place in the 1A division of the state UIL marching contest at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

It was the first time in Shiner High School history that the marching band won the state championship. The band has come close to winning in the past, placing second at the state level in 2011, and fifth at the state level in 2007.

Mr. Stephen Krupicka, the Comanche Marching Band director, should be honored for such extraordinary commitment to these students, leading the band to such an outstanding victory. To the members of the band, Congratulations on a job well done! Your hard work and dedication certainly paid off.

It should also be noted that I am nominating the Comanche Marching Band to perform at the National Memorial Day Concert Series in Washington, D.C. in May, 2014. The concert series will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day May 24th-26th.

Again, Congratulations to the Shiner High School Marching Band. The community stands behind you in all your future endeavors!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD T. RILING II

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Command Sergeant Major Ronald T. Riling II, the 14th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, on the occasion of his retirement following 31 years of exemplary service to the United States Army. He is one of only four Command Sergeants Major of Four Star Commands in the United States Army.

Command Sergeant Major Riling began his Army career in February 1983 as a 19D Cavalry Scout, completing his One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, KY and will conclude his career as the personal advisor to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command on all enlisted-related matters; primarily focusing on the quality of life for Soldiers, Civilians and Families across the command; and Command Sergeant Major Riling has performed admirably and honorably at home and abroad.

His career achievements include three successful combat tours, two in Iraq and one in Haiti. CSM Riling's awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit (2nd OLC), Bronze Star (1st OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (Silver OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3rd OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4th OLC), and many other awards; and as Command Sergeant Major Riling's career winds down, he will be remembered for many of his attributes—strength of character, steadfast courage and superior and compassionate leadership. He will also be remembered and admired for being a ''Soldier's Soldier''.

As Command Sergeant Major Riling and his wife, Melinda, begin the next phase of their lives, I am pleased that they are retiring in my Congressional district. I want to express the warmest regards and heartfelt gratitude of the Nation for all that they have done and all that the Riling family has sacrificed to support the defense of the United States of America.

On behalf of all those touched by his service, we wish Command Sergeant Major Riling good luck, good ground, and Godspeed. Army Strong!

HONORING A–10 PILOTS BRIGADIER GENERAL MACKEY AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave airmen of the 442d Fighter Wing of Whiteman Air Force Base.

Specifically, I want to commend the A–10 pilots who courageously protected Sergeant Mauricio Alejandro Arias and 16 of his fellow soldiers as they came under fire while serving in Afghanistan.

I sincerely applaud Colonel James Mackey (now Brigadier General Mackey) and Lieutenant Colonel Tony Roe for their actions of June 5, 2008, as they provided close air support for 17 soldiers of the 201st Engineer Battalion of the Kentucky National Guard. The soldiers were pinned down for a lengthy time by enemy heavy-arms fire and running low on ammunition when these pilots intervened and suppressed the enemy threat. Sergeant Arias credits these pilots for saving his and the lives of 16 fellow soldiers that day and I stand with him in recognizing the heroic acts of these two pilots.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the bravery and commitment to service that General Mackey, Lieutenant Colonel Roe and the airmen of the 442d Fighter Wing exemplify. In doing so, they ask for no recognition, yet they protect our way of life while risking their own and are very deserving of such recognition.

TRIBUTE TO GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 2013 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Football Champions, the Grand View University Vikings.

Grand View University is one of eighty-five football programs across the country that compete in the NAIA. Each year, the best teams in the association qualify for the post-season playoffs to determine a national champion. Only six years after establishing a football program, the Grand View University Vikings have expertly developed a top-tier football team. On December 21, 2013, Grand View obtained its first-ever national football championship by defeating the top-ranked University of the Cumberlands by a score of 35–23. The Vikings finished the 2013 season with a perfect 14–0 record and the top NAIA ranking.

Grand View University's recent success on the football field is emblematic of its long-held mission for both academics and athletics. Since its founding in 1896, Grand View has instilled its students with an uncompromising focus on the traditional Danish perspective of the ''whole person.'' Through this perspective, each of Grand View's 2,300 students is uniquely enabled to reach their potential through high expectations, smaller class sizes, and greater individual attention from professors and coaches. It is through this winning formula that Grand View University has positioned itself among our state's premier universities.

Mr. Speaker, the pride and excitement that this team has brought to their campus and to the state of Iowa cannot be understated. The unrelenting commitment of these coaches and players speaks volumes about the Iowa work ethic and the rewards of working together. It is truly an honor to represent the players, coaches and families of this team in the United States Congress and I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating our 2013 NAIA National Champions. I wish President Henning, Coach Woodley, and all the students of Grand View University continued success, both on and off the field, for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE HOWARD M. HOLTZMANN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of an extraordinary man, Judge Howard Holtzmann, who passed away hours before his 92nd birthday on December 9, 2013.

Howard was the son of the late Lillian Plotz Holtzmann and Jacob L. Holtzmann. He attended the Poly Prep Country Day School, Yale College and Yale Law School. He loved all things 'Yale' and served it in many ways for seven decades, earning the prestigious award of the Yale Medal in 2006. Yale was one of many beneficiaries of Howard Holtzmann's legendary philanthropy. He endowed the Jewish Chaplaincy at Yale, the first such position at an American college campus. He also endowed a professorship in international law and established fellowships in that field.

Judge Holtzmann, a brilliant attorney, was an original member of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal and served as a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. An acknowledged expert in arbitration, he wrote and edited many books and treatises on the subject. He held leadership positions as a trustee or member of many organizations, including the Jewish Theological Seminary, St. Bonaventure University, the American Foreign Law Association, the Environmental Law Institute, Pace Law, the American Arbitration Association and the New York Weill Cornell Council.

Judge Holtzmann is survived by his beloved wife, Carol, and his devoted daughters, Susie and Betsey. He also leaves his grandsons, McLaren (Jodi), Anthony (Erin) and Abe Noyes, and Jill van Berg (David Manella), Elizabeth van Berg and Allison van Berg. He also leaves five great-grandchildren, and at the time of his death was aware that a sixth was due within days. He also leaves his stepdaughter Louise Mullen (Henry) and his stepson William van Berg. He was preceded in death by his first wife Anne Fisher Holtzmann and his step-son, Peter van Berg.

I have the privilege of knowing Judge Holtzmann's daughter, Susie Richardson, a

highly regarded member of the Palo Alto community who has contributed in countless ways to the civic life of our region. She is a woman of integrity and conscience, and I'm proud to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Howard M. Holtzmann, a great and good man who will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His humanity, brilliance, patriotism, generosity and his distinguished family are the legacies he leaves, making our nation stronger and better. For all this and more, the U.S. House of Representatives extends its deepest condolences to the entire Holtzmann family.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN LAZARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Allen Lazard of Urbandale, Iowa for his participation in the 14th annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Since 2001, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl has recruited the nation's top high school football players to participate in a nationally-televised, all-star football game. From millions of high school football players across our nation, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Committee evaluates thousands of top prospects throughout the year. After evaluation, the Selection Committee formally nominates 400 seniors to be considered for the annual game. Ultimately, only 90 players nationwide will be invited to participate in this prestigious event.

Allen's selection to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl galvanizes a remarkable 2013 season for the Urbandale High School senior. As a wide receiver for the Urbandale J-Hawks, Allen hauled in 49 passes for 1,065 yards and 16 touchdowns. At 6′ 5″, Allen has continued to be a top-receiving threat among our state's premier football players and has been named to Iowa's All-State team for three consecutive years. In December, Lazard was Iowa's only player to be named to the 2013 American Family Insurance ALL-USA High School Football Team. I am pleased to report that Mr. Lazard currently plans to take his talents to Jack Trice Stadium as an Iowa State Cyclone in the coming school year.

Mr. Speaker, Allen's accomplishments, both on and off the field, are a testament to the world-class work ethic for which our great state is renowned. It is an honor to represent Mr. Lazard and his family in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Allen on his outstanding achievements and I wish him continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING LOUIS HERMAN ''RED'' KLOTZ OF MARGATE CITY

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my personal congratulations and the recognition of the U.S. House of Representatives to Louis Herman ''Red'' Klotz, a basketball legend and long-time resident of Margate City, New Jersey. At age 93, Red remains active in the sport for which he has long loved, making him the sport's oldest professional and one of its most-loved.

Playing well into his 60s and serving as a U.S. International Ambassador of Goodwill, Red has helped introduce basketball to more than 100 countries and countless youth around the globe. As the owner and former player & coach of the Washington Generals, he and his team have challenged the dominance of their greatest competitor—the Harlem Globetrotters—for sixty-two consecutive years. And, as if playing over 13,000 exhibition games wasn't a full-time career, Red and his wife Gloria operated successful businesses in Margate and Atlantic City for many years.

I join with the greater Margate community and basketball fans worldwide in honoring Red Klotz for his countless contributions to the game. While your impressive decades-long past on and off the court is well-documented, it is your dedication today to the sport and fifty years in the South Jersey community that define your legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAVAL DIVING AND SALVAGE TRAINING CENTER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible naval officers and sailors who run the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, Florida.

I had the honor of touring this facility and I was privileged to be escorted by Commander Hung Cao. The deep water training was impressive and unique. Only the best get selected to train here and it showed. The dedication, resolve and commitment demonstrated by these service men was inspiring.

I know our nation is in great hands when I see the high quality instruction and the effort to train our men to be both highly skilled and safe. I commend them and I want them to know the people of the United States need them and appreciate them.

As Commander Cao told me, the ''instructors and staff here are true American Heroes, who have sacrificed a lot for this country.''

God bless these men and women.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Birthday Celebration of Dr. Hector P. Garcia as put on by The Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Foundation. Dr. Garcia was a proud Mexican-American, a World War II veteran, physician, humanitarian and civil rights activist.

Dr. Garcia was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan, and has been recognized by the United States Army as one of the most influential Hispanics ever to serve. The American Dream was believed and realized by Dr. Hector P. Garcia. He inspired those around him to educate themselves, participate in the democratic process, and work toward positive change.

The Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Foundation was organized to educate our communities about the continuing historical relevance and legacy of Dr. Hector P. Garcia. The proceeds from this 100th Birthday Celebration will be donated to Texas A&M University Corpus Christi for the Dr. Hector P. Garcia library expansion at the Bell Library.

Dr. Garcia donated his papers in 1990 to Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and the library expansion is necessary so the papers can be properly displayed and fully appreciated by the public and the students.

Though Dr. Garcia was laid to rest in Corpus Christi in 1996 at the age of 82, his legacy will endure. He was truly an American hero and we honor him today.

TO RECOGNIZE THE BUCKS COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking on its one-year anniversary, and to recognize the important work this local volunteer group is doing to raise awareness on human trafficking. The Coalition was launched to bring about an end to the suffering of the victims of this modern-day form of slavery. In particular, the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking brings a strong, informed commitment to this issue as it reaches out to all levels of government to stop the exploitation of men, women, and children. The broad-based program includes community education, victim identification, legislative advocacy, and the prosecution of traffickers. Pennsylvania's 8th District is grateful for the Coalition's compassionate plan and its dedication to the awareness of this horrendous crime, while successfully enlisting the assistance of individuals, government agencies, and local law enforcement to help bring justice.

HONORING THE BEULAH CEMETERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most intact historic properties associated with the growth and development of the African-American community in the historic Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi, area.

Beulah Cemetery was established in 1884 by the Vicksburg Tabernacle #19 Independent Order of Brothers and Sisters of Love and

Charity, who bought the land from Harvey and Lucy Shannon for $1,000. It originally encompassed 52 acres; however, through sales and transfers to the National Park Service and individuals, the entire property is now 14.5 acres. From its establishment in 1884 until the 1940's, the cemetery was the most important cemetery for Vicksburg-area African Americans and remains today a visible landmark for the black community. Blacks were buried in churchyards or on private land until Beulah Cemetery became the main cemetery for Vicksburg-area African Americans.

The African American community has historically constituted about half of Vicksburg's population. Beulah provides significant historical information about this important group of citizens through its gravestones. So few historic resources concerning the area of the African American community remains therefore it's increasing the significance of Beulah Cemetery.

The cemetery is the final resting place for members of the most prominent black families in Vicksburg, including ancestors of almost every native black in the Vicksburg area. The cemetery documents the existence of generations of people for whom otherwise there might be no surviving material available.

Among the prominent people buried at Beulah are the founders of the black funeral homes (Jeffersons/Dillons); G. M. McIntyre, principal of Cherry Street School and school namesake; Robert Banks Marshall, the city's first black postal employee; and William Tillmon Jones, Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, 1889–1906.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Beulah Cemetery as they strive to preserve African American history in the Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi, area.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

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 $17,308,849,523,342.94. We've added $6,681,972,474,429.86 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING AMY C. PERKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Amy C. Perkins, who is a remarkable teacher and extraordinary public servant.

Ms. Perkins was born in Leflore County, MS on January 31, 1976 to Laura Perkins, a single mother who did not know the importance of education. Education was never really emphasized to her and her six siblings. Ms. Perkins older siblings were often taken out of school by their mother to work in the fields. As a child, Ms. Perkins was not fascinated by learning because it was never a requirement in her household. On the verge of dropping out, she was inspired by her 6th grade teacher. From that point on she knew that she wanted to inspire students the way that her teacher inspired her.

Ms. Perkins attended Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, MS. There she earned her high school diploma and moved on to her next level of education. She obtained her first teaching job at Leflore County Elementary School where she worked as an assistant for a 2nd grade teacher for four years. During that time she helped empower young students while working to become a fully certified teacher for the state of Mississippi.

In 2009, she started teaching as a certified teacher at Woolfolk Middle School in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Even though her job was an hour away, she felt that it was worth the drive. She had an opportunity to teach and inspire. After two years, she got an offer to teach closer to home at Davis Elementary in Greenwood, MS. There she is currently a fourth grade Math Teacher.

With her fun and non-traditional teaching style, she empowers students to enjoy learning. She requests that the lowest achieving students be challenged to improve their state assessment scores. So far, this method has been a success. As an employee of the Greenwood Public School District, Ms. Perkins has received numerous awards. These awards include: Teacher of the Month 2012, a monetary incentive for preparing students for state assessment 2011; Teaching Parent of the Year; and also received an additional monetary incentive for hard work in the 2011–2012 school year. During that year she had only one out of eighty students to score below state standards on a state assessment in mathematics.

Ms. Perkins continues to inspire students both in and out of the classroom. She volunteers as a cheerleading coach for the Davis Elementary Cheer Squad. She strives to instill in them the principles of hard work, dedication, character, and community service. Ms. Perkins has overcome adversity and set a wonderful example for her two children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a Teacher Extraordinaire, Ms. Amy C. Perkins for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER WARHAWKS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Warhawks, who won the Division III Football National Championship on December 20, 2013. The Warhawks, led by quarterback Matt Behrendt and Head Coach Lance Leipold, displayed a tremendous amount of grit, determination, skill, and athleticism throughout their undefeated season.

In a battle of two of the best Division III programs, Wisconsin-Whitewater beat Mount Union in convincing fashion, 52–14. The win marked the fifth national title for the Warhawks and their first since 2011. The Warhawks have now won 20 straight postseason games dating back to the 2008 season.

The success of UW Whitewater football has made the residents of Wisconsin proud and I salute the entire team: Jake Kumerow, Mickey Morgan, Tyler Huber, Marcus McLin, Zach Howard, Josh Williams, Ryan Givens, Nick McCullough, Steve Morris, Coleton Hrgich, Joe Worth, Chris Nelson, Justin Howard, Lake Bachar, Shiloh Weber, Jack Deichl Jr., Matt Behrendt, Tommy Coughlin, Zack Gehant, Ryan Storto, Shawn Shillcox, Dylan Morang, Andrew Keister, Joe Paulus, Chris Treptow, Booker Ross, Jordan Ratliffe, Bennett Young, Zach Mutton, JD Marconi, Dennis Moore, Nick Patterson, Aaron Williamson, Colin Buck, Robert Johnson, Brady Grayvold, Jordan Strasburg, Jordan Gruettner, Spencer Jacque, Zach Schober, Eric Kindler, Ryan Winske, Brandon Bebow, Cole Klotz, Bryan Spakowicz, Kyle Christensen, Justin Dischler, Kyle Wismer, Zach Nellis, Ricky Valadez, Paul Foster, Ben Threloff, Ryan Cortez, Jesse DeLorme, Yuri Pogosyan, Matthew Hoppe, Spencer Shier, Jamison Cook, Conner Peters, Eli Sloneker, Eric Trautman, Tim Regan, Harry Green, Austin Jones, Jordan Edgerson, Nick Froland, Nick Feliciano, Andrew Keel, Griffin Schaefer, Tyler Janczak, Johnny Wiederholt, Pat Suffield, Evan Kurkowski, Lucas Skibba, Joe Matuschka, Pat Costello, Weston Wegener, Nick Ryczek, Tony Koepnick, Cole Van Schyndel, Brent Campbell, Zach Koch, Andrew Fuller, Chris Davis, Collin Nolen, Brian Washington, Tommy Miller, Logan Solano, Derric Junakin, Andrew Mulshine, Mykael Bratchett, Kevon Clunis, Brandon Tamsett, John Flood, Marshall Rutherford, Ryan Kranz, Loussaint Minett, and Zach Franz.

Winning a national championship is never easy. On behalf of my Congressional office and my constituents in Wisconsin's fifth district, I commend the coaches and players at UW Whitewater for their hard work and dedication, and wish them continued success in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE BILL YOUNG

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Bill Young. On October 18, 2013, America lost one of its great national leaders. Bill Young was a gentleman, a passionate advocate for the military, and a devoted public servant.

During his twenty-two terms in Congress, Bill was the number one cheerleader for our service men and women. He was especially concerned for their personal safety and health care for the wounded. In these times of low public approval for Congress, Bill was the exception. He was respected by all, and, more importantly, never joined in the partisan bashing that is all too common in Washington

today. He was a proud Member and executed his job with great pride.

When I was a new member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I was surprised by his offer to visit the military installations in my district. Though I was new in representing Warner Robins Air Force Base that year, having Bill come and talk to their leadership sent a strong signal that they were in good hands. Bill did the same thing for many other members regardless of party.

I was once returning from an overseas trip with Bill, and we were in Shannon Airport in Ireland long after it closed. We ran into a group of soldiers from the Third Infantry Division returning home. Their reaction to seeing Bill was truly heartwarming. They immediately recognized him, and came over to greet him and get a picture. I believe that the reason they admired Bill had less to do with his title or position, but more to do with how he felt about the military. They knew Bill Young as one who knew the capability of weapons systems, but always remembered the young men and women whose lives depended on them.

Part of Bill's charm was that he was well grounded, rooted in a loving wife and family. He was even tempered, kind hearted, and the consummate gentleman. He set the tone for the Committee and Congress as a whole. Bill will be remembered and missed by Congress, the military, and a grateful nation. God bless his memory and his family.

HONORING THELMA BROWN-JAMES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Thelma Brown-James, who is a remarkable Unsung Hero.

Mrs. Thelma Brown-James was born on April 29, 1955 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi to the late James and Lora Brown. She is the youngest of three girls and four boys. Mrs. Brown received her education in the Mound Bayou School District at I.T.M. Elementary School and in 1973 graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. Also, in 1973 she married her high school sweetheart, Mr. Jessie James, and they were blessed with six bundles of joy: Teresa, Jessie Jr., Robby, Lashay, Lakesha and the late Lamar.

Mrs. Brown was employed with Baxter's Travenol in Cleveland, Mississippi for 18 years. After leaving Baxter's she furthered her education in the medical field and earned numerous professional certifications. She worked as a nurses' assistant and home health nurse for several medical agencies within the Mississippi Delta.

Mrs. Brown is a faithful member of Fresh Encounter Ministry in Renova, Mississippi where she volunteers with various auxiliaries. Being inspired by God, in January 2013 she opened the Goshen Event Center in Drew, Mississippi to carter to the needs of the children, and offer other activities to enhance the lives of the citizens of Drew and the surrounding areas. Her dedication to the service of others has made her an asset within and outside of her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero, Mrs. Thelma Brown-James, for her dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF STUDENT WINNERS OF WINSLOW TOWNSHIP VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the Historical Society of Winslow Township's Veterans Day 2013 Student Essay Contest.

These nine students, attending Winslow Township Middle School and Winslow Township High School, wrote essays answering the question "How would you thank a soldier for his/her service?" The moving prose of these young men and women is a testament to the patriotic spirit of the citizens of South Jersey. Moreover, these students' awareness of the sacrifices of our military and their families is precocious and praiseworthy.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to submit the names of the winners to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. From the 7th grade class: Mary-Elizabeth Jimoh, 1st Place; Jordan Frazier, 2nd Place; Morgan Chambliss, 3rd Place. From the 8th grade class: Kelli O'Neill, 1st Place; Deanna Paul, 2nd Place; Aliyah Jones, 3rd Place. From Winslow Township High School: senior Rebecca Hall, 1st Place; sophomore Joshua Hansen, 2nd Place; senior Amanda Wellik, 3rd Place.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate these young men and women on having their essays selected by the Historical Society of Winslow Township. These students have bright futures ahead of them. It is my sincere hope that they will carry this abiding respect for the military and service with them as they continue to learn and grow.

HONORING WOOLF FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable funeral home, Woolf Funeral Home.

Woolf Funeral Home was established in 1940 by Henry Woolf in Tunica, Mississippi. After opening in Tunica and his determination and desire to offer outstanding service to the bereaved, he opened a funeral home in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

After the passing of Mr. Henry Woolf in 1958, Woolf Funeral Homes was purchased by Mr. Ben Brown who continued on the legacy of Mr. Woolf. In 1978 Mr. Brown passed and his son, Willie A. Brown, a retired United States Air Force veteran and licensed funeral director, became owner.

Mr. Willie Brown's vision to make sure every family they serviced was special and deserved the best hours of their bereavement. He has, throughout the years, continued the establishment in the community. Woolf Funeral Home contributes and participates in numerous community and charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Woolf Funeral Home for their dedication in being an outstanding establishment in the cities of Clarksdale and Tunica and the Counties of Coahoma and Tunica, Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICK CASE FOLLOWING THE RECENT GRAND OPENING OF RICK CASE VOLKSWAGEN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Mr. Rick Case following the recent grand opening of his Volkswagen dealership in Davie, Florida, as well as for the many contributions that his family of auto dealerships has made to the local community and state's economy as a whole. The new Volkswagen dealership is Mr. Case's fifth addition to the area known as "Davie/Weston auto row," and creates 200 new jobs, including sales staff, service technicians, and receptionists.

At eight stories high and 328,000 square feet, Rick Case Volkswagen claims the title of world's largest auto dealership for the German car company. Around 800 new and used Volkswagen vehicles are on display in each of the dealerships showroom floors. Furthermore, the new facility also features a service center, a cafe and lounge area for customers, and a floor for offices and staff training. Rick Case Automotive Group has 15 auto dealerships in Ohio, Georgia, and Florida, featuring a wide range of makes and models, and is expected to continue its growth.

Competitive customer benefits and employee training have come to be the hallmark of the Rick Case model. In 2013, Rick Case Automotive Group was named by Automotive News as its National All-Star Dealer for the Privately Held Dealer category, an honor received by only one dealer out of over 17,000 dealers nationwide. In addition, Mr. Case's commitment to his customers is matched by his dedication to the community. As a local partner, he has helped to raise millions of dollars for charities like the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

The auto dealer industry contributes greatly to our nation's economy and that of our state and local communities. In particular, auto dealer sales represent about $47 billion annually. Florida ranks as the third-largest state in the country in terms of number of vehicles, the sale of which account for 16 percent of retail sales tax. Furthermore, there are approximately 850 new car dealers in Florida, providing tens of thousands of direct jobs and supporting millions more in related sectors. Auto dealers help many hardworking individuals afford the vehicles they need to access job opportunities and support their families.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation continues to recover from the greatest recession in recent memory, we should recognize American businesses that are driving job creation and economic growth. Once again, I would like to congratulate Mr. Rick Case and his wife Rita on the recent grand opening of their Volkswagen dealership, and wish them much continued success in the years to come.

HONORING DOUGLAS L. BRAGG

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Douglas L. Bragg for his extraordinary career of public service and leadership on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Bragg is retiring after thirty-four years of dedicated service to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where he has served as Director of the Oakland VA Regional Office since October 2011.

Mr. Bragg is a Vietnam Era veteran who served in the United States Air Force from 1970 to 1973. Mr. Bragg began his career with the VA in 1979 at the San Francisco VA Regional Office. In 1986, he took on the role as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and also served as the station's outreach coordinator. He was at the forefront of the Regional Office's response to the Loma Prieta earthquake, as he was primarily responsible for the outreach efforts to victims of the earthquake.

He joined the Veterans Benefits Administration as a Supervisory Field Examiner in 1989. In 1994, he accepted a position as a Program Analyst in the Veterans Assistance Service (VAS) at the VA Central Office in Washington, DC, where he worked on the Foreign Medical Program, performed station surveys, and was a member of the VAS Business Process Reengineering team.

In 1996, Mr. Bragg went on to become an analyst for the Fiduciary Program on the Policy and Regulations staff. He returned to the field in 1999 following his appointment as the Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Washington, DC VA Regional Office. During his tenure in this position, he was accepted into Leadership VA through the VA Learning University, the VA's corporate university for VA employees to develop leadership and other management skills, and graduated in 2002. He became the Acting Veterans Service Center Manager at Washington Regional Office in 2003.

In 2004, Mr. Bragg joined the management team of the St. Louis VA Regional Office as the Education Program Manager. He further developed his leadership credentials while serving as the Acting Assistant Director in 2007, completing the Leadership for a Democratic Society course at the Federal Executive Institute in 2007. He was accepted as a participant in the FY 2007 Assistant Director Development Program.

He served as Assistant Director of the St. Louis VA Regional Office from 2008 through 2011. He was appointed to the Oakland VA Regional Office as Director in October 2011. In this capacity, Mr. Bragg has had the responsibility of overseeing California's 1.8 million veteran population. From the Oakland VA Regional Office, over 127,000 Californian veterans receive benefits with the total monthly compensation and payment benefits paid at over $146 million.

Throughout his prolific career with the VA, Mr. Bragg has been praised for his strategy, strong leadership, integrity and compassion. He has worked hard to create opportunities for veterans, a critical commitment that we must continue to honor to make sure our veterans come home to good jobs and services that are necessary to help transition successfully into civilian life.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Douglas Bragg, I salute you. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I wish you and your loved ones all the very best as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

HONORING JIMMY DIXON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and self motivated black farmer, Mr. Jimmy Dixon, who was born on June 12, 1953 to the late Colie and Anna Mae Dixon.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon was the 6th child of 12 children, a native of Copiah County, Mississippi and was born and raised on the farm.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon is passionate about the farming industry. His heart for farming stems from his late father, Mr. Colic Dixon, Sr. Even during struggling times for farmers, he and several of his siblings helped their father to build the legacy to raise cattle and harvest hay and plant corn, watermelons, okra, peas, sweet potatoes and other produce. They worked hard to acquire land and equipment. Together they owned over 300 acres of land.

Mr. Dixon went to Brushy Creek Attendance Center, an all black school and attended Holtzclaw High School and graduated from Crystal Springs High School, the first year they segregated in 1971. He joined the U.S. Army in 1979 and became a Military Policeman. He went to the conflict in the Persian Gulf in 1990 until 1991 and served in the Gulf War, receiving an Accommodation Medal Award in 1991 and retired in 1992.

Mr. Dixon is married to Marlene and they have three boys and one girl along with four grandchildren. He and his family attends Temple of Yah Hebrew Israelite Assembly in Terry, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jimmy Dixon for his dedication and endurance of successful farming.

RECOGNIZING THE TIRELESS WORK OF MR. RICHARD A. JOANIS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great American who has spent his career working to help the underserved in our country—especially migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Richard A. Joanis spent 33 years as Executive Director of Telamon Corporation, one of the nation's most successful nonprofit organizations operating federal programs. He retires on February 14, 2014 after 44 years of service to farmworkers, elderly and other disadvantaged populations including major program efforts in Head Start, adult and youth training and employment, home ownership, housing rehabilitation, and homeless services.

Mr. Joanis' more than three decade career at Telamon allowed him the opportunity to serve in many capacities on behalf of those to whom he gave voice.

He served on the U.S. Department of Labor's National Advisory Committee on services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and also was a member of the Agricultural Employment Work Group set up by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor. Mr. Joanis was former president of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, a national federation of farmworker services organizations, now in its 42nd year.

At Telemon Corporation, Mr. Joanis built the organization from a one-state operation into a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary nonprofit organization serving America's migrant and seasonal farmworkers, children, youth and the rural poor in eleven states.

In 2004, in recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Joanis was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in my great state of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Joanis has spent his career building hope, helping others see their inherent potential, and positively impacting countless lives by creating an upward trajectory for people around the nation. Mr. Joanis answered the nation's calling to assist its citizens when they are most in need.

Through his efforts on behalf of disadvantaged Americans, Mr. Joanis demonstrated that as citizens we are at our best when we are engaged in service to others, especially when that service leads to the empowerment of our fellow citizens and the improvement of our communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Joanis for his tireless work on behalf of those who are less fortunate.

HONORING MAUDE L. WILLIAMS BALLOU

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Maude L. Williams Ballou, who was born in Fairhope, Alabama, and raised in Mobile. She received a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 1947 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After marrying music instructor, Leonard Ballou, she and her husband relocated to Montgomery, Alabama in 1952. Mrs. Ballou met Jo Ann Robinson before the start of the bus boycott and talked with her about how to obtain better conditions for blacks in Montogmery.

After Martin Luther King's election as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) at the start of the Montgomery bus boycott, Maude Ballou became his personal secretary.

After becoming King's secretary at the MIA, Mrs. Ballou helped coordinate carpools during the boycott. She often responded on King's behalf to his correspondence. Mrs. Ballou accompanied Dr. King when he moved to Atlanta in 1960, staying with the King family and assisting him in establishing his office at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

headquarters there. Mrs. Ballou left that summer to rejoin her family in Peterburg, Virginia, where her husband had accepted a position at Virginia State College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Maude L. Ballou for her dedication to serving others.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GORDON B. ZACKS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life achievements of Gordon B. Zacks.

Expressing how much Gordy has meant to Central Ohio and the nation is an impossible task. As a fellow graduate of The Ohio State University, as an admirer and as a friend of this remarkable person, it gives me great pleasure to add my personal appreciation and commendation.

Gordy served with distinction as an advisor, confidant, and friend of U.S. presidents to help change the political landscape of the American Jewish community and improve U.S. relations on behalf of Israel and its neighboring Arab states. Gordy worked with three U.S. presidents and five Israeli Prime Ministers, and his political involvement reached its highpoint during the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush presidencies. Gordy declined an ambassadorship in the Reagan-Bush Administration and a Cabinet post during the Bush-Quayle Administration in order to serve as unofficial advisor and confidant to Vice President and subsequently President Bush. He met privately with Vice President and then President Bush on a monthly basis to discuss Israeli/American relations, the Middle East peace process, Soviet Jewry, Ethiopian Jewry, and the political landscape of the American Jewish community.

Blessed with true ambition, Gordy is also a brilliant businessman who catapulted R.G. Barry Corporation from a small family firm into an international footwear industry leader. He joined the Columbus, Ohio-based company in 1955 and became president in 1965. He was elected CEO of the company in 1979 and retired in 2004. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the company. Today, R.G. Barry is the world's largest marketer and supplier of at-and-around-the-home comfort footwear for men, women and children, under the brand name of Dearfoams.

Gordy's book Defining Moments—Stories of Character, Courage, and Leadership profiles remarkable leaders who have made the world a better place. Gordan Zacks has built his own legacy of leadership and integrity—the benefits of which have accrued to his family, his friends and all those who are privileged to know him.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I would like to thank Gordy for his devotion to the great state of Ohio and to all of the communities that have benefitted from his invaluable contributions.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE PAM TRUSDALE'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAILER MANUFACTURERS

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent and friend, Pam Trusdale, on the occasion of her 15th anniversary as Executive Director of the National Association of Trailer Manufacturers. From NATM's headquarters in my Congressional District in Topeka, Kansas, Pam leads advocacy, outreach and safety-promotion efforts on behalf of the light and medium duty trailer industry, one that is responsible for hundreds of thousands of American jobs and several billion dollars of positive economic output.

The great work NATM does on behalf of its members and the industry at large would certainly not be possible without Pam's 15 years of leadership and vision. When she joined the organization in 1998, it was a fledgling group of a handful of companies who joined together to better the industry's future. Since that time, membership has expanded dramatically and NATM's advocacy on behalf of its members in Washington, D.C. has, as well. Soon, NATM will move into a new headquarters building in Topeka in order to accommodate its growth in staff and continue serving its members.

Among the many initiatives in which Pam's leadership has been instrumental is the creation of NATM's Compliance Verification Program. Through the Program, NATM's technical staff visits members' manufacturing plants to ensure the proper procedures are in place to build trailers that are in accordance with federal safety regulations and best industry practices. Pam has guided the Program from its creation through a unanimous vote to make participation mandatory for membership in the Association. When consumers across the country see the NATM decal on a dealer's showroom floor, they know instantly they are purchasing a safety compliant trailer.

In addition to her efforts leading NATM, Pam has also been active in serving the Topeka community. She currently serves on the Board of Regents of Washburn University, her alma mater, and is active with the Kansas Society of Association Executives. She is also a member of the Stormont-Vail Foundation Advisory Board and past chairwoman of the Stormont-Vail Foundation Board of Trustees.

Congratulations, Pam, on this milestone. May you and NATM enjoy many more successful years.

HONORING JOHN T. HART

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and self motivated 65 year old black farmer, John T. Hart, who just keeps on going.

Mr. John T. Hart, a native of Holmes County, Mississippi, has been a farmer most of his life, with the exception of some years that he lived in Chicago. He left Mississippi, a farmer and relocated back to Mississippi approximately four decades ago. If it was possible, one might say that farming is in his DNA. He is just that passionate about the farming industry. His heart for farming stems from his late father, Harrison B. (HB) Hart, who was one of the largest African-American farmers in Holmes County, even during struggling times for farmers. John Hart and several of his siblings helped their father to build the legacy.

Today, Mr. Hart still carries on his father's legacy through a successful farming business of his own. One of his brothers also has a thriving farming business. To work from before sun up to pitch black dark is the norm for this hill farmer, who has also farmed hundreds of acres in the Mississippi Delta. Cotton, corn and soybeans have mainly been his crops of choice over the years. This year, just for fun, he has added 20 acres of ''delicious'' watermelons that have become in popular demand by local and area consumers and grocery businesses.

Just like other industries, the farming business for Mr. Hart and others have had its share of blows. In a November 22, 2009 New York Times article by Shaila Dewan titled, ''In Mississippi Delta, a Promising Summer Washed Away by the Fall,'' Mr. Hart was one of the featured farmers interviewed for the article about continuous rain that had damaged farm crops that year for farmers in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, eastern Arkansas, and parts of Louisiana. ''You just keep going,'' Hart is quoted saying in the article.

Mr. Hart is also a cattle rancher. Yes, the man who has turned dirt for decades also raises cattle. He owns a herd of cattle from good stock. How does he do it all with only the help of two farm hands? Only God knows.

Although the Mississippi farming business has seen its share of ups and downs, Mr. Hart still remains steadfast to his passion even though at 65 he could be sitting on the beautiful front porch of their ranch house with his wife, Prince Ella Edwards Hart, of 44 years, looking out over the horizon of land God has blessed them with.

Mr. Hart is a graduate of Tchula Attendance Center (now, S.V. Marshall High School). He and his wife, a retiree in the medical arena, have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Will this be the year Mr. Hart brings all of his farm's heavy equipment out of the fields for good, recline in that chair beside his devoted wife and friends on that front porch? Who knows?

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John T. Hart for his impeccable dedication and endurance of successful farming.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Paperwork Reduction Act, to eliminate the wasteful congressional review process for legislation passed by

the District of Columbia Council and to align longtime congressional practice and the law. The congressional review process for D.C. bills provides no benefit to Congress, but imposes substantial costs (in time and money) on the District. Indeed, Congress effectively abandoned the congressional review process as a mechanism for overturning D.C. legislation twenty-three years ago, yet it still requires the D.C. Council to use Kafkaesque make-work procedures to comply with the abandoned congressional review process established by the Home Rule Act of 1973.

The bill would eliminate the congressional review process for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. Congress would lose no authority it currently exercises because, even upon enactment of my bill, Congress would retain its authority under clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution to amend or overturn any D.C. legislation at any time.

The congressional review process (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) includes only those days when both houses of Congress are in session, delaying D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted, or in the alternative, the lapse of the bill before it becomes final. The review period, based on legislative, not calendar, days means, for example, that a 30-day period usually lasts three calendar months and often much longer because of congressional recesses. The congressional review period for a bill that changed the word ''handicap'' to ''disability'' lasted nine months. The Council estimates that 50–65 percent of the bills the Council passes could be eliminated if the review period did not exist. To ensure predictability, the Council often must pass the same legislation in three forms—emergency (in effect for 90 days), temporary (in effect for 225 days) and permanent. Moreover, the Council has to carefully track the days Congress is in session for each piece of legislation it passes to avoid gaps and to determine when the bills have taken effect. The Council estimates that it could save 5,000 employee-hours and 160,000 sheets of paper per Council period if the review period were eliminated.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice over the last twenty-three years. Since the Home Rule Act, of the more than 4,500 legislative acts transmitted to Congress, only three resolutions disapproving D.C. legislation have been enacted—in 1979, 1981, and 1991—and two of those mistakenly involved federal interests in the Height Act and the location of chanceries. Placing a congressional hold on 4,500 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but also a waste of money and time for both the District and Congress. Instead of using the congressional review process to overturn D.C. legislation, Congress has preferred to use appropriations riders. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in a labor-intensive and costly process that Congress has itself long ago abandoned. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on D.C. legislation and the need for the D.C. Council to use a process initially passed for the convenience of Congress, but one that Congress has since eliminated in all but law. The bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for the District, and carry out a policy stressed by Congress of eliminating needless paperwork and make-work redundancy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

HONORING WILLIESTINE ''PEGGY'' LARK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, Mrs. Williestine ''Peggy'' Lark, a woman who is truly worthy of admiration.

Mrs. Lark is a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an educator, a mentor, and a friend who exemplifies true womanhood through her virtuous lifestyle. She has dedicated her life to empowering the lives of her family and community.

Mrs. Lark is the third of twelve children born in the small town of Monticello, MS. She has always desired to pursue a good education and become successful in life. After completing high school, she attended Mississippi Valley State University located in Itta Bena, MS. Mrs. Lark was the first in her family to graduate from college. After receiving her degree, she became a teacher in Durant Public Schools. In 1969, she married and started a family there in Durant, MS.

While raising her children, Denise, Monica and LaRonica, Mrs. Lark instilled in them the value of being well-educated. She lived by example and continued to pursue her education as well. She received her Master's Degree in Education in 1979 and continued to further her education with degrees from both Jackson State University and Delta State University. Mrs. Lark was relentlessly involved in her daughters' education and committed to supporting them in their extracurricular activities. She also voluntarily took on mentoring children in her community as well as the students she taught. With her support and encouragement, many of her students have successful careers. Among them are her daughters—Denise, who is an elementary school principal and Monica, a high school teacher.

In the year of 1995, Mrs. Lark lost her daughter, LaRonica to a car accident. Although this was a trying time for her, she thrived by sharing herself with the children in her community. Even through her daughter's death, she allowed her daughter to become an organ donor and donated her heart.

Today, Mrs. Lark is active in her grandchildren's education and encourages them to volunteer in their schools and community. Her grandchildren are honor students—one of who has graduated from high school attends college on scholarship, with an ACT score of 25. Her grandson and two granddaughters volunteer every summer in programs for youth.

Mrs. Lark is retired from teaching after 35 years in the Durant Public Schools system. She is presently the coordinator of the after-school tutorial program at the Community Students Learning Center in Lexington, MS, where she teaches and inspires children from her ''heart''. She can often be found voluntarily transporting community children to summer programs and activities throughout the community.

In Mrs. Lark's personal time, she often opens up her home to mentor, tutor, feed, and reward children for their achievements. She is also a devoted Christian and Sunday school teacher. She loves to help children learn, be creative, and feel good about themselves.

There is nothing more picturesque than the smile that Mrs. Lark wears for each child's accomplishments. She has the gift of making people feel good about themselves and finds the time to teach and inspire those around her, giving others the ability to wear that same smile that she wears everyday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero, Mrs. Williestine ''Peggy'' Lark, for her dedication to serving others.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE SMITH-LEVER ACT, THE FOUNDING LEGISLATION OF THE NATIONWIDE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, whereas May 8, 2014 marks the centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which established Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state and local governments.

Whereas U.S. Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and U.S. Representative A. F. Lever of South Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act to expand the ''vocational, agricultural and home demonstration programs in rural America'' by bringing the research-based knowledge of the land-grant universities to people where they live and work.

Whereas Cooperative Extension is a critical component of the three-part land-grant university mission and works collaboratively with research, particularly the Agricultural Experiment Station System, and academic programs in 106 colleges and universities; including historically black, Native American and Hispanic-serving institutions; in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and six U.S. territories to reach traditional and underserved audiences in all communities.

Whereas the Cooperative Extension System continues to receive federal programmatic leadership and support enabled by the Smith Lever Act and other legislation through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Whereas Cooperative Extension's research-based education for farmers and ranchers helped establish the United States as a leading agricultural-producing nation in the world.

Whereas since 1924, when the clover emblem was adopted by USDA to represent 4-H, Cooperative Extension's nationwide youth development program has reached millions of youth and helped prepare them for responsible adulthood.

Whereas Cooperative Extension prepares people for healthy, productive lives through sustained education, such as the Expanded

Food and Nutrition Education Program, breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for federal and state assistance programs.

Whereas Cooperative Extension provides rapid response to disasters and emergencies through the Extension Disaster Education Network and other similar efforts by providing real-time alerts and resources so Extension educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fire, drought, pest outbreaks and infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock and crops.

Whereas Cooperative Extension translates science-based research for practical application through local and online learning networks where educators are uniquely available to identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university faculty to find answers and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions.

Whereas Cooperative Extension engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and grow the next generation of leaders.

Whereas many states and land-grant institutions are celebrating and commemorating the centennial of the signing of the historic Act.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the United States House of Representatives:

Recognizes the significance of the Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension nationwide.

Encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the centennial with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable future for Cooperative Extension.

Honors the university faculty and local educators who dedicate careers to providing trusted education to help people, families, youth, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

Expresses its appreciation to Cooperative Extension volunteers who provide thousands of hours to promote excellence for 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and consumer sciences and other programs in their communities.

Encourages the continued collaboration and cooperation among federal, state and local governments to ensure Cooperative Extension's sustainability as the nation's premiere nonformal educational network.

Celebrates the millions of youth, adults, families, farmers, ranchers, community leaders and others who engage in Cooperative Extension learning opportunities designed to extend knowledge and change lives.

HONORING ROGERS BENJAMIN MORRIS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable farmer and hero, Mr. Rogers Benjamin Morris, Sr., who is a resident of Mound Bayou, MS.

His father, Mr. Ajax Julius Morris, Sr., was a fortunate man. His parents afforded him the opportunity to attend Alcorn State College, currently known today as Alcorn State University, during a time when most African Americans received very little or, in many instances, no educational opportunities at all. Also, his wife, Rowena Bell Morris, attended Natchez College. In 1974, after rearing and formally educating all five of their children, Mrs. Morris returned to college at Mississippi Valley State University and graduated with a degree in education at the ''tender age of 68.''

As staunch proponents of hard work and educational excellence, Mr. and Mrs. Morris worked unstintingly to ensure that their three sons and two daughters received the best education possible. Among those five children was Rogers Benjamin Morris, Sr., the youngest in the family. He was born on November 9, 1945, in the small, rural community of Winterville, MS, where he received his early education.

In 1964, he graduated as salutatorian from O'Bannon High School, in Greenville, MS. In 1968, he graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Minor in Chemistry. In 1972, Mr. Morris received a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Health from the University of Cincinnati and furthered his education toward a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

As a youngster growing up on a farm, he learned what it meant to work hard and persevere; these qualities helped direct his career back to the family farm more than 35 years ago. Realizing that farming involves a lot more than the growing of crops, he taught his own sons farm work during the early stages of their lives, thereby providing them with experiences that cultivated and shaped their character, as well as careers.

In the early 1900s his grandfather acquired over 100 acres of land in Washington County, MS—land that has remained in the family for over a century. Presently, as a third generation farmer, he farms this land, in addition to over 600 other acres of crops in the region. As the owner of Morris Farms, he produces corn, rice, soybeans and wheat. He manages some timber and raises sweet potatoes.

Mr. Morris is a member of the Mound Bayou First Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon and chairman of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the sanctuary choir. He is also a member of the Shelby-Bolivar County Credit Union and a past member of the Mound Bayou School District Board of Trustees. As a member of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau and Delta Council of Mississippi, he has an opportunity to communicate the needs of farmers to all political and apiculture leaders. He is the assistant secretary of the National Black Growers Council, an organization that defines its mission as, ''We simply love farming''.

Mr. Morris states that ''We smile knowing the food and fiber we produce feed and clothe the world. We farm on lands handed down from generation to generation. We constantly integrate technology . . . . The organization confers with industry leaders to strengthen their mission of improving the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of Black row crop farmers.''

One of Mr. Morris' greatest concerns is the lack of job opportunities for young people in the community. Sweet potato farming allows him to employ a limited number of persons in planting and harvesting.

In June of 2007 a reporter, Carol Guzy, shadowed Mr. Morris for a day on the farm and he was featured in an article in the Washington Post newspaper which detailed the plight of small Black farmers. On July 12–14, 2012, he was selected to present on the African American Farmers' Panel at the Urban-Ag Academy conference in Des Moines, IA.

Mr. Morris has been married to Mrs. DeVoyce Morris for 44 years and they are the proud parents of four adult sons, Rogers Benjamin Morris, Jr., Jeremy Kyle, Justin and Bertrand. They are gracious grandparents of three granddaughters, Jordan, Sydnee and Nia Marie and one grandson, Kyle Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing farmer, Mr. Roger Morris for his dedication in agriculture.

TO RECOGNIZE SHUJI MARUYAMA SENSEI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the House is pleased to recognize Shuji Maruyama Sensei, the founder of Kokikai Aikido, on the 45th anniversary of the introduction of Aikido to the greater Philadelphia region. Mr. Maruyama, who is acknowledged as one of the world's greatest living martial artists, brought Aikido to the United States 45 years ago. Now, at the age when most men are considering retirement, Shuji continues to educate his students and lead Kokikai Aidido on a successful path in the U.S. It is understood that this self-defense training system provides personal realization and ethical self-defense. The students of Aikido learn that as they become stronger, a peaceful resolution of conflict becomes more, not less, possible. So on this special anniversary, I am pleased to acknowledge Mr. Maruyama's personal achievements and the beneficial role Kokikai Aikido has played in enriching the lives of men and women in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and the United States.

HONORING JERRY L. SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jerry L. Smith, who is a remarkable Small Black Farmer, Businessman and public servant.

Mr. Jerry L. Smith was born in Leflore County, Mississippi on August 29, 1961 to Emma Lee and Elone Smith, Sr. He is the 7th child of twelve.

Mr. Smith attended Amanda Elzy High School. He was reared on a farm with his family. He and his brothers helped his father to farm part-time until their father decided to stop. He and his brothers took over the farming business and started the Smith's Brother Farm in the early 1980's. Later one of Mr. Smith's brothers was killed and one became disabled. He then continued the farming business under the present name Smith's Farm.

Well known for his early start of hard work, Mr. Smith started working as a city landscaper in Sidon, MS when he was still in high school under the leadership of Mr. Alford. His next job was with Leflore County Road Department in 1979 where he is presently employed now as County Road Manager.

Mr. Smith has served in many capacities contributing to this society. He served 10 years on the Leflore County United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Board. He currently serves on the Deacon and Trustee Board at Bell Chapel M.B. Church, on the Leflore County Sheriff Department, a Sidon Board Alderman, Yazoo Levy Board, Sidon Volunteer Fire Chief, and self-employed small farmer. As a farmer he has produced cotton, soybeans, and wheat.

Mr. Smith is married to the former Joyce Marie Thomas and they are the proud parents of Jeremy Smith and Jayla Smith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a Small Business Farmer Extraordinaire, Mr. Jerry L. Smith, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to his communities by producing crops through his farming business.

THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE S. BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Wayne S. Brown, the Director of Music and Opera at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), who is stepping down from his position this week. Mr. Brown is a well-loved and integral part of the NEA, and both he and his record of accomplishments will be greatly missed.

The NEA recognizes and supports a wide range of music, from classical to contemporary, including America's native art form: jazz. It works with performing ensembles and music presenting institutions to enrich the cultural lives of Americans. As Director of the NEA's efforts in this area, he has provided critical guidance for countless chamber music ensembles; choruses; early music programs; jazz ensembles; music festivals; symphony orchestras and opera companies.

Mr. Brown has been with the NEA since 1997, having previously served as musical producer for the Cultural Olympiad in Atlanta, Georgia for the 1996 Olympic Games, and as executive director of the Louisville Orchestra where he has managed thousands of music and opera grants. He has also overseen national music initiatives, including the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships, the nation's highest award in jazz; the NEA Opera Honors, celebrating individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to opera in America; and Great American Voices, which brings vocal ensembles from opera companies to our men and women in uniform.

During his time he has not only been an administrator; he has been a leader in strengthening the NEA's largest discipline program and its ties with the broader music and opera community. His colleagues offer effusive praise for his accomplishments, his knowledge, and his steady judgment.

While the NEA is sad to see Mr. Brown go, as a Detroiter and lover of music and the arts I am very proud to say he will be bringing his record of achievement to our city, where he will be the President of the Michigan Opera Theater at the Detroit Opera House. As Detroiters face great challenges ahead, I'm reassured to know that Mr. Brown will be bringing decades of experience to a city with a long and rich tradition of cherishing the arts. We are happy to welcome him home to where he first began his career in music and opera as an assistant manager with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ON THEIR 2014 FIESTA BOWL VICTORY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Central Florida (UCF) Knights for their victory in the 2014 Fiesta Bowl. UCF is the youngest school to compete in a Bowl Championship Series game. Despite being considered a 17-point underdog against their opponent, Baylor University, the UCF Knights won the Fiesta Bowl with an impressive 52–42 victory. Since its founding in 1963, UCF has become a prominent institution capable of competing on a national level in all aspects of university life. This most recent victory is a milestone for UCF, and a great way to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERALD BLACK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Gerald Black, former Pleasanton Express news editor and United States Navy veteran. Mr. Black served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years and contributed to the community through his distinguished career as a writer and as an editor for 19 years in Pleasanton, Texas.

Mr. Black was born on March 30, 1946 in San Antonio, Texas and passed away due to heart complications on November 23, 2013. His accomplished career as a news editor stemmed from his humble beginnings. His childhood was spent in Kingsville, Texas with his parents Raymond Elmer and Corrine Byrne. Mr. Black was described as a big hearted, gentle loving, hard worker. This reflected during his college years where he held several jobs for the local radio station, college newspaper, as well as a staff photographer. Soon after, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he was stationed in New Orleans, Memphis, Atlanta and California. Throughout his time in the Navy, Mr. Black continued his work in journalism. Finally, in July 1993, Mr. Black came to the Pleasanton Express where he wrote feature articles and was a photographer covering county and law enforcement news. His work for Pleasanton Express would lead him to win several awards throughout his career.

His efforts were helpful to many, including the Atascosa Water Watchers, where he would often attend Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District meetings. As a result of his continued support of the Atascosa water preservation efforts in the local newspaper, he was nicknamed ''Mr. Neptune''. Finally in 2012, he retired after nearly two decades of work in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the late Gerald Wayne Black, former Pleasanton Express news editor, on his career and community involvement. He has contributed his time, knowledge and efforts to journalism, our country, and serving his community.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Central Florida (UCF) on its 50th anniversary. Founded as Florida Technical University, UCF has grown to prominence over the past 50 years. UCF is now the second largest university in the nation, educating almost 60,000 undergraduates and graduates each year.

UCF continuously strives for academic excellence. U.S. News and World Report ranks UCF as a top ''up-and-coming'' university, while The Princeton Review rated UCF as one of the best values in the country. UCF is also home to world-renowned programs like the Institute for Simulation and Training and the College of Optics & Photonics, both of which are leading the way in their respective fields.

Under the direction of President John C. Hitt, UCF recently opened its College of Medicine in Lake Nona Medical City. The medical school, in partnership with other research institutions in the Medical City, promises to make Central Florida a destination for medical research. The College of Medicine joins the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, located near the region's most popular attractions, in providing specialized education to UCF students. UCF has become ''America's Partnership University,'' working closely with governments, nonprofit organizations, and industry to prepare students for their chosen careers.

UCF is also committed to achieving diversity and accessibility. UCF students come from all 50 states and 148 countries. The University's student body is comprised of a minority population of nearly 40 percent, and 10 percent of students are adult learners. To increase accessibility, the college offers numerous online courses, including 69 entirely web-based degree and certification programs.

Perhaps fitting for a university on the rise, the UCF Knights recently won their first Bowl Championship Series (BCS) game, the 2014 Fiesta Bowl. They are the youngest university ever to win a BCS game.

It is my pleasure to recognize UCF for its accomplishments over the last 50 years. I congratulate the hard-working faculty and outstanding students that make UCF a destination for our nation's best and brightest young minds. Go Knights!