EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUCCESS NORTH DALLAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Success North Dallas as they recently celebrated twenty-five years of success.

Founded in 1988, Success North Dallas started with merely fourteen select individuals. Under the leadership of William M. Wallace, Success North Dallas was created as a high-level connecting and mentor group, providing a forum to support business development and leadership. Over the past twenty-five years, they have met monthly, growing and maturing into an integral part of the North Texas business community. Success North Dallas has provided a forum for key business leaders, bringing together high-profile speakers from city, state, and federal government, major domestic and international corporate executives, and distinguished visionaries to discuss and share their respective businesses. I commend Success North Dallas for fostering and nurturing seventy businesses in North Texas, largely contributing to the region's success in economic development. I am grateful for the positive work Success North Dallas has done to expand and develop the business community in North Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Success North Dallas for another twenty-five years of continued success.

HONORING MRS. WILMA GREEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Mrs. Wilma Green, who celebrated her 100th birthday on February 12, 2014.

Mrs. Green is an Oklahoma native. Her father, Neely Factory, was a Deputy United States Marshall. She has been and continues to be an inspiration to all of her family and friends.

She has been an active member of the community for her entire life, a foster mother to many, and a trusted child caretaker for working parents. She has also received numerous community and religious awards.

Mrs. Green is the kind of person who makes Oklahoma great. I am fortunate to be able to represent her, and I wish her all the best on this special day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in celebrating Mrs. Wilma Green's 100th birthday, and the many years to come.

UNITED STATES OLYMPIANS FROM THIRD DISTRICT OF COLORADO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the athletes from my home district in Colorado that are competing in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. With their dedication, passion, and spirit, these 15 men and women are a fine example of the best of our nation, and they serve as a model for young people around the world. To formally acknowledge their distinction and excellence, I stand to recognize these athletes from Colorado's 3rd district:

Competing in Skiing: Aaron Blunck, Bobby Brown, David Chodounsky, Lyman Currier, Simi Hamilton, Keri Herman, Gus Kenworthy, Heidi Kloser, and Torin Yater;

Competing in Snowboarding: Arielle Gold, Taylor Gold, and Justin Reiter;

Competing in Nordic Combined: Todd Lodwick and Bryan Fletcher;

And competing in the Biathlon: Lanny Barnes.

I am especially proud and honored to have watched one of these fine Coloradans carry the U.S. flag high in the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Todd Lodwick, competing in the Nordic Combined, has inspired athletes from around the U.S. since he began his Olympic career in Lillehammer in 1994. I could not think of a more deserving U.S. athlete to display our flag on this world stage. While I stand to specifically honor the athletes of our Olympic delegation who hail from my home district, I would like to thank every member of Team USA for their continued contribution to their sports and communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize each of these fine athletes. I rise today to thank them for inspiring so many people and congratulate each of them on their truly amazing careers representing the best of America.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID GOLLAHER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE INSTITUTE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. David Gollaher, Co-Founder and President of the California Healthcare Institute on his twenty-one years of service to CHI as its fearless leader and tireless advocate for the California Life Sciences.

I met David in 1993 when I was first elected to Congress and David was launching CHI. We forged a true partnership from that time forward to promote biotechnology and assure a vibrant industry which holds such promise for the people of our country and the world.

David has a long and storied career in promoting science in the U.S. Before founding CHI in 1993, he was a senior executive at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation. Earlier in his career, he served on the faculties of Harvard University, University of California, San Diego, the Graduate School of Public Health at SDSU, and the Overseas School of Rome. He is an award-winning historian of science and medicine, and has written three books and numerous articles in the fields of health policy, the economics of biomedical research and development, bioethics and the history of medicine.

David's leadership at CHI filled a critically important role in educating the public, including Members of Congress, on the importance of innovation and investment in the life sciences. From the creation of a pathway for the approval of biosimilars, to reforms at the FDA to improve patient safety and access to new therapies, David has been my friend, wise counsel, and partner. He will be missed at CHI, and his extraordinary accomplishments will remain his legacy. I shall miss the finest partner I've had and he will always remain the gold standard for his magnificent work and informed advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Dr. David Gollaher for his exceptional leadership in championing the life sciences, biotechnology, and biomedical research and for guiding policy makers in shaping policies to improve and save the lives of countless Americans. His professionalism, trusted data, and true passion for his work has strengthened our nation and made us better for all he has contributed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record, because I was unavoidably detained with responsibilities in my district, I was unable to be present to vote on Monday, February 10, 2014. I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2431, to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System. The record drought facing California right now makes clear that reliable drought assessment and prediction information is critical. This information helps communities, farms and businesses prepare and respond. I would echo my colleague, Ranking Member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, that while it is crucial that we reauthorize NIDIS, we would have liked to see an even more robust authorization level for this important program.

I would also have voted in favor of H. Res. 447, Supporting the democratic and European aspiration of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear. I am glad that so many of my colleagues also stood up for these principles of basic human rights.

DR. DAVID WELCH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and to honor the life of an extraordinary leader of the Tampa Bay community, Dr. David Welch. His remarkable career in public service and his many contributions to our community stand as a testament to his tremendous character.

Dr. Welch was born in St. Petersburg, Florida. As a young man, Dr. Welch served his country in the U.S. Army Airborne during the Korean War. After the war, Dr. Welch graduated from Florida A&M University and later obtained a doctorate in education from Nova University. Teaching was a lifelong passion for Mr. Welch, who inspired countless young minds during his time as a teacher at Gibbs Junior College and later on at St. Petersburg Vocational-Technical Institute.

Once Dr. Welch began his career, he quickly emerged as a business and community leader. He founded Welch Tax Services and Accounting which assisted numerous local entrepreneurs and helped foster a thriving business environment in downtown St. Petersburg. As Director of Fiscal Affairs at St. Petersburg Vocational-Technical Institute, he used his adept diplomatic skills to resolve the 116-day sanitation workers' strike of 1968. He would continue to employ his ability to bring people together as the co-chair of the biracial Community Alliance, an organization dedicated to relieving racial tensions in the area.

In 1981, Dr. Welch became the second African American to serve on the St. Petersburg City Council. As a three-term council member, Dr. Welch championed development projects, and was one of the driving forces behind what are today some of St. Petersburg's most prominent landmarks. His efforts were instrumental in the development of Tropicana Field, the Pier, and the Bayfront Center. Dr. Welch was also a strong supporter of municipal interest-free loans for housing which led to major renovations in St. Petersburg. His outgoing nature and diplomatic manner earned him respect and results throughout his tenure as a council member.

While working diligently as a public servant, Dr. Welch continued to remain active in education and supporting local businesses through his office. Dr. Welch was always eager to mentor aspiring leaders and took an active interest in the youth of the community.

On September 16, 2013, Dr. Welch passed away at the age of 85. His legacy of service and leadership are an inspiration for all people throughout this great nation. His commitment to education, economic development, and equality will be forever remembered and appreciated. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Dr. David Welch for his lifelong service to the State of Florida.

HONORING ROSE CONRY FOR RECEIVING THE 2014 OVERALL JAX CHAMBER'S SMALL BUSINESS LEADER OF YEAR AWARD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Rose Conry, the Chief Executive Officer of StaffTime on receiving the 2014 overall JAX Chamber's Small Business Leader of Year Award.

StaffTime is a minority-owned staffing solutions company located in the 4th Congressional District of Florida. In addition to the Small Business Leader of the Year Award, StaffTime has also been named one of the 50 fastest growing companies of North Florida by the Jacksonville Business Journal. As historical high numbers of Americans are finding themselves unemployed for longer periods of time, I commend StaffTime for leading the temporary staffing industry and providing a full-service approach, specializing in administrative, accounting, legal and customer service positions. Established only four short years ago, StaffTime has grown to a $2 million company employing four full-time employees with 20 consultants.

Before becoming a small business owner, Conry worked in human resources for Jacksonville Surgery Center and CSX. She earned a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University and is currently pursuing her master's degree in human resources at Webster University. She continues to be heavily involved in the community with memberships in the Society for Human Resource Management, Leadership Jacksonville, Women Business Owners of North Florida, and JAX Chamber.

Small businesses are crucial to our nation's well being and the leaders who are paving the way during these difficult economic times need to be recognized. Conry's mission is helping connect individuals with meaningful employment; she is the American dream and she is helping others to live it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute to this Small Business leader, Rose Conry.

HONORING BERNEL ARTHUR RICHARDSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation readies to observe the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, I rise today to honor Mr. Bernel Arthur Richardson. Born in St. Croix, Mr. Richardson has been an activist, resident, lecturer, consultant, and economic development leader in Bronx County since 1969.

As an active member of the Civil Rights movement, Mr. Richardson understood the vital need to end the economic and political inequities facing the African-American community. After graduating from Howard University, Mr. Richardson began working alongside many of the South Bronx's renowned transformative figures to develop programs and initiatives that would create new economic opportunities for South Bronx residents.

Mr. Richardson started his public sector career in 1970 when he was appointed by Bronx Borough President Robert B. Abrams to sit as a member of the Community 3 Planning Board. His successes as a member of the Planning Board led him to become a part of the Mayor's Violence Against Women Task Force and to be asked to serve as a consultant on several citywide anti-poverty programs. He recently stepped down as Chairman of the Board at the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation but is still very active as the Executive Director of the Black United Leadership of the Bronx.

Mr. Richardson has served as a leader in my borough for many years and has helped make the Bronx a better place through his tireless efforts. As I reflect on the more than four decades of Mr. Richardson's public service to the residents of the Bronx and to the constituents of the 15th Congressional District, it fills me with hope that today's young African American leaders have mentors in the community to look to for guidance as they continue to champion social justice issues in our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in recognizing the past, present, and future accomplishments of Mr. Bernel Richardson.

THE SERVICE OF MR. JACOB GILLISON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jacob Gillison, who served as office manager and scheduler in my Washington, DC office for nearly 14 years.

For over a decade, Jacob served as a member of my staff, friend, confidant, and counselor to many in what we call Team Lewis, our office family. Jacob recently joined the staff of Senator BERNIE SANDERS as the administrative director and scheduler. I would like to congratulate him on his new position, and thank him for his many years of service to my office and constituents.

I first met Jacob many years ago when he was a member of the United States' Air Force (USAF) Air Traffic Control Field. During his nearly two decades of service in the U.S. Air Force, Jacob was recognized repeatedly for his dedication and commitment to excellence. When I learned that he was considering a transition to a different branch of government, I was pleased to invite him to join my Washington, DC staff as scheduler and office manager. If he was able to keep military planes safe and on-time, I believed he might be able to keep me and my staff on schedule.

When he joined my office, I learned even more about his total commitment to service. As a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Jacob was handpicked by the president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. to serve as deputy assistant to the international president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity focusing on governmental and civic affairs. In this capacity, Jacob conceptualized and coordinated "Sigma

Day on the Hill,'' which brought local high school students to Capitol Hill to lobby on the behalf of legislation affecting high school students and their local communities. This experience enlightened and exposed young people in learning how their Congress works and inspiring them to move from the sidelines to the frontlines.

During his spare time in the evening and on weekends, Jacob advises and counsels young men in the local community. His selfless efforts did not go unrecognized as the leadership of Nu Sigma Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. voted and honored him as ''Mentor of the Year 2010.'' As an additional testament to Jacob's long and exceptional service, the Free Masons bestowed on him their 33rd Degree, an honorary title granted to those Masons who distinguish themselves.

A native of Beaufort, South Carolina, Jacob graduated from Battery Creek High School and continued his education by earning dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Economics from Benedict College and an additional degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of visiting Beaufort, South Carolina and even attending the beautiful Gullah Festival. I was particularly proud to meet and become an honorary member of Jacob's welcoming family. He is truly a loving and dedicated family man—a proud brother, father, and grandfather. Jacob's son, Dexter, and daughter-in-law, Nikita, continue the family tradition of service as members of the U.S. Air Force. His lovely daughter, Mekala, is a high school honor roll student, ROTC member, athlete and dancer, and Jacob's handsome first grandchild, Brice, is the apple of his eye.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about how great a member of my staff and family Jacob Gillison was. I will truly miss him, his children, grandson, twin brother Esau, and brothers-in-spirit—Tyson and Glenn—but I wish him continued success in his new position and this exciting, next stage of his outstanding career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''ACCESS TO HEARING HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2014''

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Access to Hearing Healthcare Act of 2014. This important legislation will allow Medicare beneficiaries the option of going directly to a qualified audiologist for hearing and balance diagnostic tests. Medicare presently requires that beneficiaries with hearing loss or balance disorders obtain a physician referral before seeing an audiologist.

This referral requirement differs from other federal health agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Office of Personnel Management, which allow patients to directly access audiologists. Hearing impairment is one of the most common conditions affecting older Americans, with approximately 33 percent of adults aged 60 and over and 40–50 percent of those aged 75 and over with hearing loss. Hearing loss among senior citizens, if left untreated, can result in isolation and depression.

We need to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can obtain audiology services in a timely manner. I ask that my colleagues support this important legislation.

HONORING THE GREATER BEACHES VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3270 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Greater Beaches Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3270.

Created in 1939, Post 3270 is Jacksonville's oldest continuous veterans organization. The First Coast is honored to have such a commendable organization that is committed to serving veterans, military families, and their communities.

The Veterans of Foreign War can trace its roots back to 1898, when the veterans of the Spanish American War and the veterans of the Philippine Insurrection joined forces and founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their members who returned wounded and sick after serving their country. At a time when there was no medical care or pensions, our country's heroes were often left to fend for themselves. As such, these individuals were compelled to do something about it. Taking matters into their own hands, they banded together to form what is now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Starting out with only three chapters, the Veterans of Foreign War continued to grow over the years with more than 2,000,000 members today. They have been instrumental in establishing the Veteran's Administration, creating the GI Bill for the 20th century, and developing a National Cemetery system.

I am honored to have such brave men and women in the 4th Congressional District of Florida. Not only have they served their country abroad, but they continue to serve their communities at home. Such service deserves praise and I wish them many more years of success. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute honoring the Greater Beaches Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3270.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of February 3, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

rollcall No. 32—On final passage of H.R. 1791—''yea'';

rollcall No. 33—On final passage of H.R. 357—''yea'';

rollcall No. 34—Motion on ordering the previous question on the rule—''nay'';

rollcall No. 35—H.Res.470—''nay'';

rollcall No. 36—On ordering the previous question on the rule—''nay'';

rollcall No. 37—H.Res.472—''nay'';

rollcall No. 38—DeFazio Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 39—Holt Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 40—On motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3590—''yea'';

rollcall No. 41—On final passage of H.R. 3590—''nay'';

rollcall No. 42—Napolitano Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 43—Matsui Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 44—Bera Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 45—Capps Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 46—Huffman Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 47—McNerney Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 48—Peters (CA) Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 49—On the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3964—''yea'';

rollcall No. 50—On final passage of H.R. 3964—''nay'';

rollcall No. 51—Grijalva Amendment—''yea'';

rollcall No. 52—Labrador Amendment—''nay'';

rollcall No. 53—On the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2954—''yea'';

rollcall No. 54—On final passage of H.R. 2954—''nay.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall vote No. 60 on an amendment to S. 25 to clarify that the reduction in the cost of living adjustment for military retirees applies only to those members or former members of an armed force who became a member of a uniformed service on or after January 1, 2014. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted ''aye'' and ask consent that my statement be included in the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 56—H. Res. 447—Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'';

on rollcall No. 57—JOURNAL—On Approving the Journal, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'';

on rollcall No. 58—H. Res. 475—On Ordering the Previous Question, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to

strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, providing for proceedings from Feb. 13, 2014–Feb. 24, 2014, had I been present, I would have voted "yes";

on rollcall No. 59—H. Res. 475—On Agreeing to the Resolution, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, providing for proceedings from Feb. 13, 2014–Feb. 24, 2014, had I been present, I would have voted "yes";

on rollcall No. 60—S. 25—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, and for other purposes, had I been present, I would have voted "yes";

on rollcall No. 61—S. 540—On Passage to designate the air route traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; and

on rollcall No. 62—H.R. 3448—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide for an optional pilot program allowing certain emerging growth companies to increase the tick sizes of their stocks, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING DR. JEFFREY LEVENSON FOR HIS WORK WITH SURGICAL EYE EXPEDITIONS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jeffrey Levenson for his good will and compassion for his work with Surgical Eye Expeditions.

As a practicing ophthalmologist for over 30 years, Dr. Levenson has dedicated his career to giving the gift of sight. At the age of 51, Dr. Levenson underwent cataract surgery to restore his own vision loss. Realizing firsthand the devastation of vision loss, Dr. Levenson reached out to California-based Surgical Eye Expeditions, a nonprofit humanitarian organization that recruits volunteer ophthalmologists to perform free, sight-restoring surgery throughout the world.

In 2009 Dr. Levenson traveled to Peru for his inaugural trip performing multiple cataract surgery. Since then, he and his wife, Dr. Ilene Levenson, have traveled to Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexcio performing multiple surgeries for those less fortunate. In a typical week long trip the ophthalmologists are able to perform 20 cataract surgeries. While we are fortune here in the U.S. to have the latest specialized technology and equipment for cataract surgery, Dr. Levenson had to rely on a low-tech approach that he learned by watching other ophthalmologists online. And while this may have been more difficult to perform, Dr. Levenson has given the gift of sight to many patients that thought they would never see again. And with their appreciation his patients have thanked him in different ways, one from Peru giving him a goat and in El Salvador, two live chickens.

Dr. Levenson has served our local community with pride, working with the Riverside Park Surgery Center, Baptist Health and St. Vincent's HealthCare in Jacksonville. In addition Dr. Levenson has worked with the Vision is Priceless Council, a volunteer nonprofit in Jacksonville that provides free vision and glaucoma screenings, eye-care education, and injury prevention. The Council's Cared Vision Program, "Gift of Sight," provides cataract surgery for 20 people a year who are completely blind and unable to afford the surgery. Dr. Levenson serves as the Council's Medical Advisor and donates more than 100 services to the Cared Vision Program all while regularly volunteering at vision clinics throughout the community.

Jacksonville is honored to have such an amazing humanitarian as a part of our community. The gift of sight is priceless and I commend Dr. Levenson on his compassion and his work to help those in need both at home and abroad. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute honoring Dr. Jeffrey Levenson.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE RAY WILSON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of the Honorable Ray Wilson of Northwest Florida. Mr. Wilson was Okaloosa County's longest serving sheriff, and he is known throughout the area for his intelligence, his unwavering commitment to fairness and upholding the law, and his determination to serve and improve his community. All of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Mr. Wilson was born in Campton, Florida, and was a lifelong resident of Okaloosa County. After graduating from high school and serving in the United States Army, Mr. Wilson returned to his native Okaloosa County and decided to run for sheriff. Law enforcement was in his blood, as his father, Lester Wilson was the Crestview Chief of Police. At the age of 28, Ray Wilson was elected, becoming the youngest sheriff in Florida history.

Despite his young age, Mr. Wilson's astuteness and commitment to service were immediately evident. He genuinely loved serving his community and had an extremely successful 20-year career. Thanks to this kind of determination, he helped lead a truly first-class sheriff's department that made Okaloosa County a safer place for all residents and visitors. In fact, Mr. Wilson's impact on the history of Okaloosa County was so strong that he was bestowed a Civic Leader Award by the sheriff's department in 2012, more than 35 years after leaving his post.

In addition to his service and leadership in law enforcement, Mr. Wilson was a man of great faith and a minister of the Gospel. He was also a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is an honor for me to recognize the life and service of the Honorable Ray Wilson. My wife Vicki and I send our prayers and condolences to his wife, Virginia; children, Stuart, Scott, and Sharon; his six grandchildren; and numerous great and great-great grandchildren.

HONORING O'CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Black History Month and to recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans to my congressional district in The Bronx. African-Americans have made countless contributions to and sacrifices for this great nation, and nowhere is this more visible than in New York City.

As the Representative of the Fifteenth Congressional District of New York, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to get a firsthand account of the work and contributions of Ms. O'Cynthia Williams to our community, and I am proud to recognize her hard work and dedication to The Bronx.

Known throughout New York City as a champion for education equity, Ms. Williams has dedicated her professional life to developing reforms and initiatives that improve the quality of education at New York City's public schools. As a mother of six New York City Public School educated children, she has very keen understanding of what a quality public school education is.

As a Parent Leader & Organizer with the New York City Coalition for Educational Justice, and a founding member of the United Parents of Highbridge, Ms. Williams has dedicated countless hours to traveling across New York City and educating parents on the importance of parent engagement, parent leadership development training, and how to make principals and teacher more accountable.

Last year, Ms. Williams won an important victory for a neighborhood in my district. While working alongside the United Parents of Highbridge, her dream of establishing Highbridge's first middle school came to fruition. The Highbridge Green School, the Bronx's first "green" school, opened its door at the start of the 2013–2014 school year. For the first time in the history of this part of my district, the young men and women of Highbridge will no longer have to travel across several neighborhoods in order to get to their middle school. And Ms. Williams played a vital role in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. O'Cynthia Williams, an important advocate for a better future for children in The Bronx and throughout New York City.

CONGRATULATING KEITH ELLIOTT WASHINGTON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keith Elliott Washington for accomplishing his goal of visiting all seven continents.

I first met Keith a few years ago and he expressed his deep passion in politics and his interest in the needs of the American people.

I applaud him on completing a mission which began 18 years ago, when he first visited Senegal in 1996. This was his first visit outside of North America.

On February 2, 2010 at 12:00 p.m., Keith visited Antarctica and achieved his dream of visiting the last continent. I congratulate him for his determination to complete this personal milestone.

IN HONOR OF CHRISTI MYERS, ABC13 HEALTH CHECK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a reporter who has dedicated her career to our health.

As Chairman of the House Ways & Means Health Subcommittee, I pay special attention when Christi Myers comes on my screen, because if there is something new to know in medicine, we all learn it from Christi. Today we are all wondering what we will do when she retires from Houston's ABC 13 at the end of this month. We may all need a ''health check'' to cope with the shock.

Christi Myers' work in the medical community has set the gold standard. Recognized with a regional Emmy for the story of an infant who now has a piece of his young father's liver, Christi's work has earned more than a 100 awards, including a National Award for Excellence from the Epilepsy Foundation of America, honors from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, the Harris County Medical Society, the Harris County Pharmacy Association, Houston Press Club, Texas Public Health Association, Texas Medical Association, the Texas AP Broadcasters, and so many more.

Christi Myers can also just as easily cover a story on toxic waste or nomadic herders in the Russian Arctic. In 1989, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston honored her for reports that helped secure the freedom of a Soviet Jewish family. That's making a real difference. Something Christi is famous for

Christi's inside look at military medicine during the first days of the Iraq war took us inside operating rooms where American casualties received life saving treatment.

Some of her colleagues call her Dr. Myers because she simply is that good. We can't begin to tally the lives she may have helped save by informing us of new health treatments and cures. If we live to be 100, it's a good bet it's thanks to tips she has provided.

Christi Myers is a rare reporter, having reported at KHOU, KPRC and KTRK, for over three decades. February 28th is our last opportunity to catch her reports before she devotes herself fulltime to her family. I'd just like to close with a simple ''Thank you, Christi.''

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ENFINGER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of Mr. Franklin Roosevelt Enfinger. Uncle Frank was a loving husband and father, successful businessman and an integral part of the Northwest Florida community. He was known throughout the area for his gregarious nature, sense of humor, and willingness to help family, friends, and strangers alike. He truly touched the lives of all of those who were blessed to know him.

A native Northwest Floridian, Uncle Frank grew up in Pace, Florida and attended Chumuckla School, where he graduated in 1951. After graduating from high school, he served our Nation with honor and distinction in the United States Air Force before embarking on a long and successful career in business. Uncle Frank developed his business acumen working at Air Products for 20 years, and after leaving Air Products he became a serial entrepreneur. Over the years, he owned and operated numerous successful businesses in the area, before retiring in 1995.

Uncle Frank was also truly devoted to both faith and family. He was an active member of Wallace Baptist Church, and together with his wife of 62 years, Aunt Gwen, he raised four children and was a loving grandfather of ten and great-grandfather of ten.

Mr. Speaker, to some Uncle Frank will be remembered as a successful business leader; to others, a kind-hearted friend and neighbor always willing to lend a helping hand; and to his family, he will always be remembered as a true family man. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I send our prayers and deepest condolences to Aunt Gwen; our cousins, Frankie, Anne, Darrell, and Denise; and their ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Uncle Frank will truly be missed.

HARRISBURG AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) as they celebrate 50 years of providing educational opportunities to the people of Central Pennsylvania.

HACC was established on February 14, 1964 as the first community college in Pennsylvania, with its inaugural class of 426 students matriculating on September 21st of that year. Originally housed at the former Harrisburg Academy site on Front Street, the College purchased a 157-acre tract in Wildwood Park, and in April of 1966 broke ground on the $3.5 million building project, eventually moving to this new campus in 1967. As the student body grew, HACC continued to add buildings and gained the first accreditation for a Pennsylvania community college from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Campuses opened and expanded in Gettysburg, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York, and offsite learning locations, as well as a robust Virtual Campus were established.

Today, HACC is the largest community college in Pennsylvania, with almost 22,000 degree-seeking and thousands more non-degree seeking students enrolling each semester. The college offers nearly 200 associate degree, certificate, and diploma programs. Approximately one third of students go on to continue their education and pursue a bachelor's degree at a four year college or university. The college also offers workforce development programs in fields such as allied health; law enforcement and security; and technology and trades, giving students the chance to receive affordable training for a specific career. As of 2011, the College had graduated more than 46,467 students in a variety of majors.

Mr. Speaker, Harrisburg Area Community College is the sole institution of its kind serving the Central Pennsylvania region. Therefore, I commend all the students, teachers and other members of the HACC community who have helped this academic institution grow and flourish over the past 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVILIAN DEPUTY COY MILLER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Coy Miller, Civilian Deputy of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, upon the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Miller's entire career is comprised of public service, dedication, and devotion to the Huntington Engineer District and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

After beginning his service to the Federal Government in 1978, Mr. Miller spent many years working throughout the Huntington District to develop and improve its waterways. As a result of his talent and valuable contributions, Coy was promoted to Civilian Deputy in 2003, and in the eleven years since he has been a consistent source of outstanding leadership and vision. Collaborative problem solving, discipline, and enthusiasm are just a few hallmarks of Mr. Miller's unique leadership style, which enable his team to provide the highest professional standards in delivering flood risk management for our communities and navigation solutions for our waterways.

While serving as Civilian Deputy with the Huntington District, Coy has completed numerous projects that positively impact an untold number of West Virginia residents and businesses. Under his leadership, he successfully championed the Huntington District as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's Dam Safety Production Center, as well as established the district as the USACE's Dam Safety

Modification Mandatory Center of Expertise. In addition, he oversaw the completion of two massive navigation projects: the Marmet Locks and Dam in Kanawha County and the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason and Cabell County, West Virginia.

Recently, Coy's hard work was instrumental in obtaining USACE funding to implement renovations to the Huntington District's Federal Building in the city's downtown business district. The Huntington District also attributes Coy with its great achievements in financial performance, securing obligation values exceeding six hundred million dollars in the past three years alone.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Coy and have always appreciated his insight and willingness to share his wisdom with me for the betterment of the Second Congressional District as well as the State of West Virginia. It has been an honor to work with such a professional and I hope our paths cross again after his much deserved retirement.

Coy Miller resides in Barboursville, West Virginia with his wife, Janeese. Together they have two sons. Mr. Miller is an active member of his community and is heavily involved in his church, Antioch Missionary Baptist, where he serves as deacon, Sunday school teacher, Team Youth Director, and Team Church Camp Director.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, our neighboring states, and indeed, the United States of America owe Coy Miller a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many years dedicated service. I am honored to call him a friend and fellow West Virginian.

THE HOMEOWNERS TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act. In 2012, the 49 state attorneys general announced that they had completed negotiations with the country's five largest mortgage servicers to settle claims arising from mortgage fraud and wrongful foreclosures. The settlement, which amounts to over $25 billion, is the largest settlement this country has seen since the 1998 Master Tobacco Settlement.

This historic settlement will allow hundreds of thousands of distressed homeowners to stay in their homes through enhanced loan modifications and principal reduction, and it will also provide payments to victims of unfair foreclosure practices. Unfortunately, under current law, those settlement payments would subject the homeowners and servicemembers who receive them to additional tax burdens. For instance, homeowners receiving relief in the form of mortgage debt forgiveness and direct cash payments for wrongful foreclosure could be subject to Federal income tax. Moreover, additional tax would be owed on the payments made to servicemembers who were wrongfully foreclosed on while deployed overseas.

To prevent that injustice, the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act would extend the exclusion for debt forgiveness on a primary residence and exclude the relief payments from income for homeowners and servicemembers. This bill also considers the particularly egregious actions taken by the five largest banks in violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Over the past three years, the five largest servicers violated the law and wrongfully foreclosed or overcharged mortgage interest on servicemembers, many of whom were deployed overseas in combat zones. Accordingly, the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act not only excludes this relief from income to servicemembers, but denies these banks the ability to deduct these payments from their Federal income taxes.

The estimated 1.7 million homeowners eligible to benefit from this settlement deserve to receive the full benefit of this relief—relief that was negotiated in good faith by the States, the banks, and the Federal Government. Collecting Federal income tax on relief for struggling homeowners is not only bad policy, but is simply the wrong thing to do.

As we move forward from one of the worst recessions in American history, we must be vigilant and provide as much help to the American people as possible. This bill will do just that, and will ensure that our homeowners and servicemembers get every bit of relief they deserve.

HONORING KELLIE TERRY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the everyday contributions African-Americans have within my district in Bronx County.

Creating sustainable change within the environmental justice movement is a daunting task that takes years of consistency, perseverance, and support. I would like to pay homage to the Bronx's premier leader in environmental justice, Ms. Kellie Terry. For more than a decade she has committed countless hours towards ensuring the South Bronx is free from harmful environmental elements and factors. Her work and her dedication to helping others has improved the lives of many of my constituents.

A native of The Bronx's Highbridge neighborhood, Kellie has always demonstrated a deep commitment to helping others. That commitment began early, as indicated by her participation in the ''Take Charge Be Somebody'' youth group, and her graduation with honors from the College of the Holy Cross. Since that time, Kellie has been devoted to public service.

As the Executive Director of THE POINT Community Development Corporation, Kellie has established a culture of leadership development that goes beyond the traditional youth development program. THE POINT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. The young men and women who work and participate at THE POINT learn how culture, the environment, food, and economics all play a critical role in transforming their neighborhood.

Kellie Terry's leadership has been recognized by The Bronx Chamber of Commerce, El Diario/La Prensa NY, and the New York City Council. She is currently the Board Chair of The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, the Board Chair of The Bronx River Alliance, and is a candidate for a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Pratt Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Kellie Terry for her selfless, dutiful commitment to the residents of Hunts Point, and for her tireless efforts in making The Bronx a place that is more livable for all residents.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF DOUG VOLLMER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, March 14 will mark the end of the long and distinguished career of Douglas K. Vollmer, Associate Executive Director for Government Relations, for Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). Doug has spent nearly 35 years overseeing the congressional relations activities of PVA. His uncompromising leadership has advanced the cause of America's paralyzed veterans. In addition, his work on disability civil rights for all Americans highlighted a career which reflected the mission of his organization to provide opportunities that maximize the independence of its members.

Doug is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He attended Northwestern University and received his undergraduate degree in 1967. Upon graduation, Doug entered the U.S. Navy and was commissioned in May 1968. Doug went on to serve with the River Patrol Forces and as a liaison officer with elements of the 5th Special Forces in the Republic of Vietnam from November 1968 to October 1969. He then spent 20 months serving on the staff of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence for the Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT). Following his service in the U.S. Navy, Doug received his Masters Degree from the University of Hawaii and pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

During his career at PVA, Doug has been involved with a broad range of issues affecting both the veterans' community and the larger community of people with disabilities. Since being named the PVA's Associate Executive Director for Government Relations in 1989, he has been involved in the passage of some of the most monumental legislation to be considered by the United States Congress including passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and healthcare eligibility reform for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He was instrumental in the battle to make Washington's Metro system accessible to wheelchair users; the fight to ensure access to commercial aircraft for people with disabilities; efforts to ensure fair housing policy became a reality for those in need; and he always played a leadership role in defining the VA's budgetary needs for America's disabled veterans every year. Doug's involvement in legislative issues for

veterans with spinal cord injury and dysfunction resulted in numerous advancements in the areas of health care, benefits, and vocational rehabilitation. His unwavering commitment to assist both service connected and non-service connected PVA members was the hallmark of Doug's service to the PVA, and it reflected his belief that ''a veteran is a veteran.'' As a result, thousands of veterans—disabled and non-disabled—and their families benefited from his work.

Since he began working for PVA, he has seen the VA grow from a regular federal agency to a cabinet-level department which enabled his advocacy for veterans to be recognized at the highest level of government. His close relationships with other leaders in the veterans and disability communities have been well established over the years and he has been a highly valued resource for policy makers at the executive level across the government and non-profit world.

His long career of dedicated service is truly worthy of praise. As an executive at PVA, he created an environment for his subordinates that encouraged creative thinking, individualism, and productive team work. As the longest serving staff member at PVA, Doug has been the anchor for 15 PVA Presidents. He wrote hundreds of congressional testimonies and represented the organization at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and across the country. Notably, it was Doug who mentored his late friend Gordon Mansfield as PVA's Executive Director. Gordon went on to become the Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, following service as the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, as well as the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Doug's impact on veterans—particularly those who have experienced spinal cord injury or disorder—and their families cannot truly be measured.

Doug and Scottie, his wife of nearly 44 years, live in Washington, DC. They have one son, Zachary, who also lives and works in Washington, DC.

The legacy that he leaves can be seen in the vast advancements in medical care provided by the VA and the fact that the United States is the world leader in access for all people with disabilities. Doug Vollmer has lived a life that truly has made a difference. For that, we are sincerely grateful.