

and challenging legislative initiatives. Major Cross distinguished himself as a leader and as a visible example of Marine Corps professionalism and values. Through his direct and skillful engagement with numerous Members of Congress, Major Cross ensured the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood which resulted in direct and lasting improvements to Marine Corps war fighting capabilities, and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps.

Major Cross also successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted more than 20 international and domestic trips for Congressional and Staff Delegations. These delegations traveled world-wide and visited heads of state, military commands, and deployed US military personnel. His meticulous planning, attention to detail, and anticipation of requirements allowed members of the House and staff to focus on fact-finding and learning new information to guide critical decisions made by the Members of Congress.

Throughout his tour, Major Cross personally responded to hundreds of Congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Through his exceptional interpersonal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, he assisted the Director, Marine Corps House of Representatives Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support for issues critical to the Marine Corps. Major Cross also supported USMC House Liaison operations, to include planning and coordinating receptions and meetings on Capitol Hill for USMC personnel. These events included New Member Orientation for the Freshman Congressional Class of the 113th Congress and three Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremonies. He also scheduled and facilitated several hundred office calls for the leadership of the USMC to include the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and numerous other General Officers conducting business on Capitol Hill.

Major Cross, through his dedication to professional engagement with Congress, has contributed immeasurably to the Marine Corps' reputation throughout Capitol Hill. The rapport he developed with Members of the House has made a lasting impression and set the tone for a lasting partnership between the Marine Corps and Congress for years to come. The time he has spent supporting my constituents and other Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. He has made lasting contributions to the United States House of Representatives and we wish him well in retirement.

ANGEL LUTHMAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angel Luthman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angel Luthman is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angel Luthman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angel Luthman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 93 on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule "Providing for consideration of H.R. 3826, Electricity Security and Affordability Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4118, Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act" (H. Res. 497). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 94 regarding the Rule "Providing for consideration of H.R. 3826, Electricity Security and Affordability Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4118, Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act" (H. Res. 497). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 95 regarding the "United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013" (H.R. 938). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 96 regarding the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on "SIMPLE Fairness Act" (H.R. 4118). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 97 regarding the "SIMPLE Fairness Act" (H.R. 4118). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 98 regarding the "Better Buildings Act of 2014" (H.R. 2126). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER WARE

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Ware of Clinton, Illinois, a man who has overcome great personal obstacles and dedicated his life to public service and helping others.

Mr. Ware has worked for State Farm Insurance Company in Bloomington, Illinois as a Security and Safety Specialist for over twenty-two years. Christopher also served as a law enforcement officer with the Bloomington Police Department until he suffered a severe

stroke in 1997. During his time with the police department, Christopher helped to coordinate outreach programs within his community.

In his limited spare time, Christopher has dedicated himself to public service and volunteering in his community. He currently serves as Chairman of the DeWitt County Housing Authority Board, Precinct Committeeman for DeWitt County, and trustee of the DeWitt-Livingston-McLean Counties Regional School Board.

In addition to his public service work, Christopher has volunteered countless hours for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving in many leadership roles. In 2005, he received the "Award of the Year" or "Hero Award" from the Coast Guard Foundation for his work during Hurricane Katrina. In 2004 and 2011, Ware received the Lifetime Achievement Award in the USA Freedom Corps for his volunteer service activities. In 2002, the Governor of Illinois appointed Chris to the Illinois State Rehabilitation Council and in 2012 he was appointed to the Illinois Stroke Task Force.

It is my honor to recognize Christopher Ware for his lifetime dedication to helping others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 91 and "yea" on rollcall 92.

PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK AND THE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION

**HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week is Patient Safety Awareness Week, and today I'd like to recognize the National Patient Safety Foundation and the organizations in my district that work to promote and improve patient safety.

In Arizona's District One, we have several facilities that are committed to patient safety, including Oro Valley Hospital, Flagstaff Medical Center, and Ventana Medical Systems.

Oro Valley Hospital has been nationally recognized for its efforts, which include daily safety huddles and employee empowerment. At Flagstaff Medical Center, their patient safety program also encourages employee collaboration.

My district is home to Ventana Medical Systems, a world leader in developing solutions for tissue-based diagnoses. Ventana has a new advisory board that brings together experts to review patient safety.

I applaud the National Patient Safety Foundation and the hospitals and companies in my district and nationwide who are leading the way to keep patient safety as a top priority.

BRADY HOGOBOOM

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brady Hogoboom for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brady Hogoboom is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brady Hogoboom is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brady Hogoboom for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

---

IN HONOR OF OPHELIA DEVORE-MITCHELL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding and truly one-of-a-kind woman, Dr. Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell. Sadly, Dr. DeVore-Mitchell passed away on Friday, February 28, 2014. A Repast and Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Gallery at Fountain Park in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. DeVore-Mitchell was widely known as one of our nation's first African-American models and the founder of the first black model agency. She was more well-known in Columbus, Georgia as the longtime owner of the Columbus Times newspaper, which is now owned and operated by her daughter, Ms. Carol Gertjegerdes.

Dr. DeVore-Mitchell was born in 1922 in Edgefield, South Carolina but moved to New York City, where she majored in Mathematics at New York University. At the age of 16, she was working for Ebony magazine and in 1946, she enrolled in the Vogue School of Modeling, which up until then had excluded women of color.

She was acutely aware of how African Americans were stereotypically depicted in the media, and she made it her mission to change this public perception. In 1946, Dr. DeVore-Mitchell opened the Grace del Marco Modeling Agency and in 1948, she founded the Ophelia DeVore School of Self-Development and Modeling. These agencies were pivotal in transforming the social landscape of America by paving the way for African Americans to pursue careers in the fashion and entertainment industries at a time when it was not the norm for black women to be recognized for their beauty.

In 1955, Dr. DeVore-Mitchell and her models made history as the hosts of ABC's "Spot-

light on Harlem," New York's first television program produced by and for African Americans. She went on to produce several other New York cable television shows, including the "Ophelia DeVore Show." She again made history in 1959 and 1960 when two of her clients, Ms. Cecilia Cooper and Ms. LaJeune Hundley became the first Americans, Black or White, to win titles at the Cannes Film Festival in Paris, France.

Dr. DeVore-Mitchell helped shape the lives and careers of the country's top African-American models and entertainers. She has received more than 300 awards and honors over her lifetime and in 1985, she was appointed by President Reagan to the John F. Kennedy Center Committee on the Arts. In addition to her accomplishments in modeling and producing, Dr. DeVore-Mitchell was a newspaper owner and publisher, business executive, and consultant.

Maya Angelou once said, "In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength. We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of that tapestry are equal in value no matter their color." Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell used beauty as a public platform to address injustice and prejudice, blazing a trail for countless others along the way. By challenging the status quo and championing diversity, she helped to ensure that future generations would enjoy a robust and truly unique American culture that recognizes all members of society.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the nearly 700,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell for her numerous outstanding achievements and her everlasting dedication to promoting African-American power, pride, and presence. May her family members and friends be consoled and comforted by the knowledge that she made a great difference in this world and helped to build a better, more equitable America.

---

HONORING LEROY "POP" MILLER FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the memory of Leroy "Pop" Miller who recently passed away after living a life of courage, dedication, and bravery. He left behind a legacy of honor, a family who will forever remember him, and a community of friends who say goodbye with gratitude in their hearts.

Leroy Miller—known simply as Pop—left us at the rich age of 94 years old. He was a longtime member of my church, St. James United Methodist, where he found a spiritual home after moving to Kansas City from Charlotte in the early 2000s. He came to Kansas City after his wife, Sadie, passed away. His loving son, William Miller, urged his Dad to make the move so he could be closer to his family, in particular his two grandsons—William, Jr, and Jordan.

Before joining our community, Pop was nothing short of an historical figure in his

home state of North Carolina. He was a member of our Greatest Generation and one of the few surviving African-Americans who fought in World War II. Just days after graduating from North Carolina A&T University in 1942, he was drafted into the United States Army where he was stationed in Europe and became a member of the famous Red Ball Express.

Red Ball drivers, mostly African American men, were drawn from the Army's Quartermaster Corps and fought both the enemy and the hazards of the road and weather to successfully deliver their loads. Pop's unit drove trucks from the Cherbourg Peninsula all the way to the North Sea, and throughout France, Germany, and Holland.

Despite his continued display of bravery, Pop and other African American soldiers also had to battle the racist forces that existed among their fellow Americans. When he returned home after serving—and sacrificing—for our country, he found what so many others discovered as well. African Americans were still not treated as equals. Even with his college education, he found his own job choices were very limited. But Pop was a fighter, on and off the battlefield, and became an educational pioneer, helping to break down the barriers of segregation in Charlotte, North Carolina, and throughout the United States.

Pop is remembered as a strong leader who enforced discipline at a time when fights and riots accompanied integration in schools. He is remembered as a strict educator who valued academics as much as sports, and worked to see straight A students recognized as publicly as star athletes. And Leroy "Pop" Miller is remembered as a man who wanted to be known not as a successful African American principal, but simply as a successful principal.

I am honored to have had Leroy "Pop" Miller as a member of the St. James congregation and as a constituent of the Fifth District of Missouri. He touched the lives of many and will remain in our hearts, and in our memories, for years to come.

---

HONORING ST. JUDE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE AS ALABAMA'S CLASS 1A BOY'S STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FOR 2014

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Jude Pirates for capturing their second-straight victory in the Class 1A Alabama State basketball Championship on February 28th. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, I congratulate the Pirates for the tremendous athleticism, determination and energy they displayed throughout their season under the resolute leadership of Head Coach Earl Taylor and his coaching staff.

With their victory over Parrish, the St. Jude Pirates won their eighth Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) state basketball championship and tenth in school history. The Pirates finished their season with 24 wins and 5 losses. Throughout the season, the Pirates faced some of the state's biggest and best teams which helped to prepare them to perform at the regional and championship levels.