

their first major operation against the North Vietnamese Army, in July 1966. Operation Prairie followed in October 1966, where casualties mounted for the medical staff. Stewart's service was vital during this operation where more than 1,400 Marines were killed and more than 9,000 were wounded.

After serving in Vietnam for thirteen months, Stewart returned to the States and served as an Assistant Dental Officer. In July 1968, he transferred to the Naval Reserve, where he continued to serve as an Assistant Dental Officer and was promoted to Training Officer, Executive Officer, and Staff Dental Officer.

In 1981, Stewart assumed duties as the Department Head for the Naval Reserve at Naval Air Station Lemoore. In the following years, Stewart was promoted to Commanding Officer for the Naval Reserve Hospital at Naval Air Station Lemoore and served as Staff Dental Officer for the Reserve Readiness Command of Region Twenty.

From July 1988 to September 1991, Stewart served as Commanding Officer for the Naval Reserve Dental Clinic in San Francisco. During his tenure, productivity per provider rose dramatically.

After 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy, Stewart retired with the rank of Captain. For his service, he was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation with Frame, 30-Year Naval Reserve Award, and Expert Rifle and Expert Pistol Awards.

In 2003, the Governor appointed Stewart to the rank of Colonel in the California State Military Reserve. Stewart received additional awards, including the California State Military Reserve Meritorious Achievement Medal and Military Reserve Service Ribbon.

Stewart is a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and a Life Member of the San Francisco Dental Society, Dental Association, and American Dental Association.

While serving in the reserve, Stewart also engaged in a private dental practice in San Francisco. He subsequently served for more than seven years as a staff dentist at the Valley State Prison for Women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Mr. Stewart Roller for his dedication to our country. He is a source of pride for our Central Valley and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH HERSMAN FOR HER SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished tenure of Deborah Hersman, who is leaving as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board after serving 10 years on the Board and five years as chairman.

Ms. Hersman, 43, is a resident of Lorton, Virginia, in my district. She is the daughter of

a retired Air Force Brigadier General and spent much of her childhood abroad before her family settled in Northern Virginia, where she attended Chantilly High School. While in college at Virginia Tech, Ms. Hersman interned in the office of Congressman Bob Wise of West Virginia. After graduation, she returned to Congressman Wise's office, ultimately serving as a senior legislative aide. After several years working on the House side, she joined the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where she rose to the position of Staff Director.

In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed Ms. Hersman to a 5-year term on the NTSB. President Obama reappointed her in 2009 and also nominated her as Chairman, making her the youngest person to serve in that role at age 39. Ms. Hersman has presided over the NTSB during a very active period for the organization. She has presided over a number of high-profile accident investigations, including the collision of two Metro Red Line trains, the airplane crash involving Senator Ted Stevens in 2010, and the collision between two freight trains in Oklahoma in 2012. In the face of all those tragedies, and dozens more, Ms. Hersman displayed remarkable poise and provided a reassuring presence with her calm, confident leadership.

In addition to her investigatory duties, Ms. Hersman helped to broaden the mission of the NTSB. She focused not just on what happened after a tragedy, but also what the government could do to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the first place. By focusing on behaviors that cause transportation accidents, like fatigue and intoxication, Ms. Hersman helped shape the NTSB into a more proactive organization. She recently announced she is leaving public service to become president and chief executive officer of the National Safety Council.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deborah Hersman for her tremendous service to our nation. I commend her for all the work she has done to keep our roadways, railways, and airspace safe for all Americans. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Hersman on her accomplishments, and I wish her and her family all the best in her future endeavors.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the latest version of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. I want to commend my colleague JOHN CARNEY on his efforts to address the needs of expatriate health care plans and to ensure that the jobs created by managing these plans remain in the United States. However, the bill, in its current form, would create more problems than it resolves. As you know, the Affordable Care Act established new coverage standards and protections for millions of Americans, including that they cannot be denied coverage for pre-

existing conditions nor have their benefits capped at arbitrary annual and lifetime limits. Unfortunately, the bill contains potential loopholes that could weaken coverage for many families and immigrant workers who live in the United States. While I do believe the text of the bill has been improved since its initial consideration, there is still more work to be done. According to the Statement of Administration Policy, the Administration echoes our concerns and it remains willing to work with Congress to find a reasonable solution. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will make the necessary changes in order to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

CONGRATULATING THE BURLESON FAMILY

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brooke, Adam, and Holland Burleson of Spruce Pine, North Carolina. The Burleson family has inspired a community and proven that we all can make a difference.

On April 26, 2014, the Burleson family organized the first-annual Run for Holland 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run. They organized the race to raise funds and awareness for families with children who have been diagnosed with Down Syndrome and other special needs. There was overwhelming support in the small community of Spruce Pine, with over 290 participants and more than 8,000 dollars raised.

Inspired by the birth of their daughter, Holland, on August 2, 2013, Brooke and Adam Burleson have gone above and beyond in shining light on this issue. Just months before Holland was born, Adam and Brooke found out their daughter had a very high chance of having Down Syndrome. In the months after, they found strength from other parents in their community. The Burleson family is now reciprocating those efforts.

This family is a true inspiration for us all. They have not only faced adversity, but conquered it by helping other families going through similar situations. They have taught us that no matter what situation God gives you, He can give us the strength to overcome it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Burleson family and the Spruce Pine community for their commitment to helping others. It is truly an honor to represent them in Congress.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

**HON. PATRICK MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their commendable decision to enlist in the

United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 23 enlistees, 11 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, one is a Coast Guard enlistee, and one is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the United States House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty-three local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machuca, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, Tyler Stewart, Brandon Hall, Dylan Reinhardt and Alicia Williams.

All will be recognized on May 8th at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF ROBERT BUFORD ACREE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Robert Buford Acree, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 85. Bob was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in Korea and began a family legacy within the United States Air Force.

Bob was born in Arkansas in 1924. He moved to Chowchilla with his family in 1937 and began to work in farming with his father when he was only 12 years old. He attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1943.

In 1945, thinking he was safe from the draft, Bob married Betty and continued working in farming. A year later, he was inducted into the Army. After completing basic training, Bob was assigned to the Army Air Corps and was sent to Aviation Engineering School in Spokane, Washington, for advanced training.

Upon completion of his training, Bob and roughly one hundred Army Air Corps replacement troops flew to Pusan, Korea. Bob then joined the 40th Aviation Engineer Squadron at Kempo Air Field, north of Seoul. Bob subsequently served in the squadron motor pool.

Bob returned to the United States in March 1947 and was discharged at Camp Beale. However, Bob decided to continue serving his country and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1948. He served for four years and was honorably discharged as an Airman Second Class in 1952. For his service, Bob was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal.

After his separation from the service, Bob returned to Chowchilla and to farming alongside his father. In 1949, Bob bought his own farm in the Dairyland area and farmed until 1961. Bob worked for the City of Chowchilla before beginning a long career with the Chowchilla Union High School District where he served with distinction as Director of Transportation from 1969 until his retirement in 1987.

Bob and Betty had two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Bob passed along his dedication to service to his son who retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant and to two of his grandchildren who are currently on active duty in the United States Air Force.

In addition to being a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and servicemember, Bob was also an active member of his community in Chowchilla. He was a member of the Chowchilla Mason Lodge, Chowchilla Odd Fellow Lodge, Mariposa Odd Fellow Lodge, and Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a long-time member of the First Baptist Church and Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Robert Buford Acree for his service and devotion to his family, community, and nation.

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HONORING MS. BRITTANY  
JOHNSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Brittany Johnson is the daughter of Kennedy V. & Jean S. Johnson. She is a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She is currently a student at the Mississippi School for Mathematics & Science where she maintains an "A" average. Prior to attending Mississippi School for Math and Science, she attended John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

At Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School, Brittany was honored for having the highest grade point average from the first through sixth grades. While in elementary school she served as a Junior Beta Club Member and a Girl Scout.

In Junior High School, Brittany was recognized for holding the highest state testing scores for Language Arts, Reading, and Mathematics. She continued to maintain a 4.0 GPA. When she became a high school student, she was active in Future Business Leaders of America where she competed and placed first in district and second in state competitions.

She went on to compete in the national competition in Anaheim, California for Word Processing I and Senior Beta, she also competed at other competitions and the Drama Club. She was recognized by President Obama and Congressman THOMPSON on scoring advance on the subject area tests of Algebra I and Biology I. Brittany has maintained an "A" average and the highest GPA average during her tenure at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School.

Desiring a greater academic challenge, Brittany in her sophomore year at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School applied and was accepted to the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus, Mississippi where she is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2015.

At the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science she is a member of the National Honors Society for High School Students, National Beta Club, Future Physicians of America, and Blu Diamonds Step Group.

She continues to maintain an "A" average in her courses of study.

Brittany is a dedicated citizen in her community. She volunteers in annual citywide clean-ups and is a former member of the Mayor's Youth Council and participated in it by working on numerous political campaigns.

She is an active member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, which is located in the city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where she is a member of the Junior Usher Board, the Youth Choir, the Youth Praise Dance Team and serves as Secretary of the Sunday School.

After completing high school she plans on attending college where she will major in Biology, to pursue her dreams of becoming a Cardiovascular Surgeon. She lives by the quote: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing student for her dedication to education.

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HONORING NORA RUPERT

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Broward County District 7 School Board Member Nora Rupert, a devoted teacher and mother and a dedicated community advocate. Her hard work improving our county's schools and bettering the futures of our children is an inspiration to education leaders in South Florida and across the country.

After Nora graduated from Florida Southern College and the Star Program at FAU for alternative education certification, she served as a substitute teacher with the School Board of Broward County and taught Language Arts and Reading at Piper High School for four years. She was elected in 2010 to serve as School Board Member for District 7 and has been a champion of education reform ever since. After adopting three children, she has gained invaluable experience advocating on their behalf through Exceptional Student Education and gifted issues in public schools. Finally, among many other organizations, Nora