EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT CENTENNIAL

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the College of St. Benedict (CSB) of St. Joseph, Minnesota as it finishes up its centennial school year.

Founded in 1913, CSB became the thirteenth all-female Catholic liberal arts residential college in the United States. Later partnering with the all-male St. John's University, students today enjoy an academic environment committed to sciences, literature and the arts, which the school notes is "to prepare students not only to make a living, but to appreciate the richness and beauty of living as well."

CSB prepares their students well. Alumni have gone on to be successful in a number of different fields, with notable graduates including teachers, doctors, activists, judges, entrepreneurs, and even a college president.

For 100 years, parents have sent their daughters to this historic campus knowing that they will find a learning environment that promotes the Benedictine values—such as stewardship, truthful living, respect, and community—that continue to enrich central Minnesota. And no matter how far their graduates go, whether it be geographically or in their careers, they know that once a Bennie, always a Bennie.

The Class of 2017 led the charge this year as the second century of Bennies. May these students continue to grow in their faith and pursue their dreams under their instructors' guidance, and join the generations of alumni that have done such tremendous work for their community, for their state, and for their country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring the students, alumni, staff, and faculty of the College of St. Benedict for reaching the noteworthy centennial milestone. Here's to another century of quality education.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Look Good Feel Better program. This free non-medical public service program of the Personal Care Products Council Foundation helps people with cancer look good, improve their self-esteem, and manage their treatment and recovery with greater confidence.

In the United States alone, nearly 900,000 women have participated in the program which now offers 15,400 group workshops in more than 2,500 locations nationwide. These programs are supported locally by more than 6,000 volunteers.

Look Good Feel Better was founded and developed in 1989 by the Personal Care Products Council Foundation, a charitable foundation established by the leading national trade association representing the global cosmetic and personal care products industry. The program is available across the country and around the world in 25 countries.

Look Good Feel Better is a collaboration of the Personal Care Products Council Foundation; the American Cancer Society, Inc., the nation's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to ending cancer and saving lives; and the Professional Beauty Association, the largest organization of salon professionals with members representing salons/spas, distributors, manufacturers and beauty professionals. These organizations work together to provide free group workshops, makeup kits, individual consultations, support resources, and more to help cancer patients thrive during treatment and recovery.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Look Good Feel Better program and all of its sponsors and volunteers for 25 years of success in offering this unique and vital program for people living with cancer.

IN RECOGNITION OF JANICE BYRGE ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT CORNING INC. IN HARRODSBURG, KY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Janice Byrge. On Thursday, May 15, Janice will celebrate 50 years with Corning Inc. Corning, known for its glass products, has grown in Harrodsburg. Some of the most cutting-edge projects are being worked on in Harrodsburg, including Corning Gorilla Glass.

This growth and the great successes of Corning, is due in large part to the employees. One of those employees is Janice.

A Harrodsburg native, Janice has spent half a century exemplifying the hard and quality work being done at Corning Inc. From her early days in ophthalmic, to sheet glass operations, to today's role of being a store room attendant, Janice has been a fixture of the Harrodsburg plant.

Janice still resides in Harrodsburg with her husband David. She is the proud mother of Tammy, the beaming grandmother of Jeremy and a loving great-grandmother.

I applaud Janice on this milestone anniversary, and for her dedication to the job. Please accept my best wishes for today and the years to come.

THE VETERANS OF PENNSYLVANIA'S 11TH DISTRICT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the brave men and women from Pennsylvania's 11th district who served our country during World War II and the Korean War.

Today, many of Central Pennsylvania's veterans have travelled to Washington, DC to view the monuments erected in their honor and pay respects to the soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice and are laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. In WWII and the Korean War, these individuals fought courageously and valiantly against enemy forces to protect the freedoms of not only Americans, but also people throughout the world. It is important that we continue to ensure that these American heroes receive the honor and respect that they deserve. This trip demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces provided an invaluable service to sustain our country's freedom. Therefore, I thank these individuals and their families for their sacrifice and commend them for their dedication to preserving our American way of life.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DOUGHERTY

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to take note of a public servant who goes above and beyond the official description of their job. One such person is a constituent of mine, Michael Dougherty. Officer Dougherty and a colleague came to the aid of a man suffering a seizure and they acted to save his life.

Michael Dougherty and his colleague Paul Markowski are Behavior Detection Officers at La Guardia Airport in Queens, NY. They were headed across the parking lot on April 13th after their shifts when they saw a man signaling for help. The two Officers took charge of the situation, got the man in a stable position and made sure he did not fall and injure himself. After stabilizing the man, the two officers, now assisted by others, quickly called for an ambulance and the man was taken to a hospital for treatment. These prompt and heroic actions likely saved a life.

As a former nurse, I know that all public service workers pledge to do their best to serve and protect the public, but it is altogether fitting that from time to time we stop to

honor those who personify service. I commend Michael Dougherty and Paul Markowski for their actions and wish them many more years of service.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1914 SMITH-LEVER ACT

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I join with Ohioans in the Second District in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1914 Smith-Lever Act.

As we entered the 20th Century, America's scientists and researchers were at the forefront of scientific and technological developments that helped pave the way for unprecedented economic growth and prosperity.

Many of these innovations were developed at our nation's great land-grant universities, and Smith-Lever was able to connect these collegiate discoveries to hard working farmers and families across rural America through extension programs.

As the law sets forth, extension programs would be established to diffuse and distribute the ''useful and practical'' information for agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and have adopted an expanded mission over the last century to include 4–H, farmers, Master Gardeners, and Consumer Sciences.

In Ohio, our extension offices and staff continue this one hundred year-tradition. Our counties and families continue to benefit from educators bringing the latest best practices to local communities in a practical and meaningful manner.

And as America remains at the forefront of discovery, the extension program will continues to diffuse new knowledge throughout our communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LAKE HAVASU MARINE ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lake Havasu Marine Association on being awarded the 2013 Hollister Award for Outstanding Service in the Field Of Boating Safety. The Lake Havasu Marine Association (LHMA) has made impressive progress since it was founded over 30 years ago. I would like to specifically recognize their ''Pack it In, Pack it Out,'' ''Designated Operator,'' and Lake Havasu River Channel projects.

The ''Pack it In, Pack it Out'' campaign was created in 2008 by the members of the LHMA and paid for by funding from private donors. Through this program, 150,000 trash bags have been provided to boaters each year. Over the span of four years, 450,000 bags have been distributed and over one million pounds of trash have been removed from the shorelines of Lake Havasu.

The LHMA also assisted in the development of the ''Designated Operator'' campaign spearheaded by Carl Flusche, Vice Chairman of the Association. The aim of this campaign is to reduce the incidence of accidents and fatalities related to alcohol use on the Colorado River and Lake Havasu. One of the unique and innovative elements of the program is the creation of latex wristbands that are designed and purchased by sponsors and distributed to ''designated boat operators'' who have made a commitment to remain sober while operating a watercraft. Local businesses have sponsored the program and provide non-alcoholic beverages at no cost to those who have made this commitment. As the program continues to gain support among the boaters of Lake Havasu, it has also garnered national attention for its efficacy. Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Flusche and the innovative work of the Association, boating safety has improved and there has been a notable increase in the number of boaters taking charge of their safety and utilizing designated watercraft operators.

Finally, the LHMA has supported boating safety by spearheading the Lake Havasu River Channel Project to deepen a channel through shallow delta sediments in a half-mile stretch on the upper side of Lake Havasu. The dredging project increased the channel depth from approximately two feet to four feet. It also marked the channel with buoys to alert boaters of the depth and created a ''no wake zone.'' This project will undoubtedly relieve congestion and increase boating safety.

Congratulations to the Lake Havasu Marine Association for taking these steps to increase boating safety.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM W. WINGARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William W. Wingard as he is honored as the Greater Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce 2014 Citizen of the Year. Mr. Wingard's contributions to the Spring Lake community are truly deserving of this award and this body's recognition.

Mr. Wingard has been a resident of Spring Lake since his birth in 1927. He has been active in the Spring Lake community and government. He served as a Councilman for 9 years after being elected in 1980. He also served on the Spring Lake Board of Adjustment, the Planning Board and the Juvenile Conference Committee. In addition to his service to the municipal government, Mr. Wingard was also a 17-year member of the Spring Lake First Aid Squad (where he was also elected president), and an honorary member of the Goodwill Fire Company and Fire Company No. 1.

Outside of his municipal commitments, Mr. Wingard was past president of N.J. Gravel & Sand Company and co-founder of the 200 Club of Monmouth County. He currently serves on the Jersey Shore University Medical Center Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, once again please join me in recognizing William Wingard as he is honored by the Greater Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce as the 2014 Citizen of the Year.

HONORING ST. CLOUD HONOR FLIGHT

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the final Honor Flight out of St. Cloud, Minnesota during my tenure as their Member of Congress. It has been a highlight of my career to honor our nation's heroes from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and help them see the monuments built in their honor in Washington.

For many of these veterans this is their first trip to their nation's capital, and their first glimpse of the pivotal role they've played in furthering the cause of liberty. These men and women selflessly and heroically defended America abroad, and for that, simple words of gratitude will never compare to the bravery they exhibited during some of America's darkest hours.

The example set by these men and women has inspired many others to follow in their footsteps. And the efforts and dedication of the Guardians who ensure that the veterans have safe accommodations and assistance throughout their visit also cannot be forgotten.

Mr Speaker, I ask this body to join me in honoring our nation's heroes from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. They truly are the living embodiment of the American values and freedoms we hold so dear. Minnesota Veterans aboard the final Honor Flight from St. Cloud Minnesota to Washington, DC, on April 22, 2014 for submission into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Werner Leland Allen, Paul Clinton Anderson, Oliver Newton Anderson, Edwin Theodore Aschenbrenner, Donald Dean Baustian, Leland Lorell Bennett, Richard John Bernick, Alfred Irwin Betcher, Bernard Nicholas Bitzan, Wayne Elwood Bonkrude, Vernon Lee Butson, James Edward Carpenter, Harold Lee Carver, Bruce Kay Cottington, Robert John Danaher.

George Harvey DeMarais, Paul Eugene Demarce, Richard Vernon Forbes, Oran Everett Goodell, Orville Charles Haan, Donald Herman Handahl, Cletus Marcel Hohn, Wallace Allen Jacobson, Carl Raymond Johnson, Robert Jermayne Johnson, Paul Joseph Jost, William Jackason Kathman, Donald Herman Krueger, Bryon Lee Kunkel, Bernard Louis Lieder.

Harry Edwin Lindbloom, Eugene Burton McKee, Carl August Morris, Emery Marshel Nelson, Verne Francis Rech, Thomas Daniel Routhe, Robert Leon Ruplinger, Elmer Peter Schumer, Kenneth Alan Tessmer, Robert 01lie Uppgaard, Robert Allen Walters, Gerald Fredrick Wright, John Arthur Adelman, George William Aleshire, Gerald Dean Ankerfelt.

Clarence Louis Beckmann, Rudolph George Beilke, Kenneth Joseph Belkolm, Gerald James Benusa, Eugene Joseph Borgert, Donald Norman Bungum, Edward Henry Burggraff, Kenneth Burton Christiansen, George Wilford Courrier, Ervin Carl Damlow, Lyle Edward Doebbeling, Clarence Herman Fischer, James Earl Gloege, Douglas John Goenner. Peter Gronewold, Chester Engnor Hopland, Donald John Huberty, Elmore

Virgil Johnson, Richard Matthew Kahlhamer, John Thomas Keefe, Rodney Clark Kenyon, Ronald Eugene Krebs, Willard Harvey Krueger, Marvin Virgil Kumpula, Ernest Dominic Lewandowski, Ervin Daniel Lewandowski, Vernon George Maslow, Aloys Herman Meyer, Francis Charles Mortier.

Robert Howard Pellow, Roger Jerome Robeck, Gerald Sylvester Roering, DuWayne Herbert Sabrowsky, Allen Dale Simonson, Lester Reynold Thies, Richard Arlen Underdahl, Chauncey Edward Van Hatten, Dayle Jacob Von Holdt, Joseph Frank Wallschlaeger Sr., Cornelius Ni Warzecha, Ronald Duane Weiss, Richard Jake Wolf, Charles Wood Wright, Norbert Joseph Zahler, Donald Bernard Zahler.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for rollcall vote 194. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

UKRAINE'S ELECTIONS—LEGITIMATE AND HEROIC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in a little more than two weeks, Ukraine will be holding presidential elections while Russia continues its campaign of aggression and destabilization. The evidence overwhelmingly indicates that the pro-Russian separatist militants that have been operating in parts of eastern Ukraine act at the behest and direction of the Russian government. President Putin has already said that the Ukrainian elections are illegitimate.

Yesterday Putin softened his tone with respect to the May 25 elections. Yet at this point words mean little unless they are matched by deeds. Putin has also claimed that the tens of thousands of troops deployed on Ukraine's border are being pulled back, yet so far there is no evidence that this is happening.

The upcoming elections are legitimate—and more than legitimate. They are heroic—many people will be taking real risks of future reprisals in voting. Yet according to a recent IRI poll, an overwhelming 84 percent of Ukrainian citizens said they will definitely or are likely to vote in the elections, including a substantial majority in the two regions in which the militants are active. The vast majority of Ukrainians do not support the separatist movement, and wish to remain in a united Ukraine. It is up to the Ukrainian people—and only the Ukrainian people—to decide their own future through democratic means. It is not up to Russia—whose President famously said that the collapse of the Soviet Union was a "major geopolitical disaster . . . a genuine tragedy". These are views shared by few of the people living in Ukraine, whether they consider themselves Ukrainian or Russian, and few of the people living in the other non-Russian former Soviet republics.

The real tragedy here is the suffering of so many innocent people at the hands of militants, extremists, and hooligans—including the OSCE military monitors who were held hostage by the pro-Russian militants for more than a week. The militants have murdered a number of pro-Ukrainian activists and have kidnapped, threatened and intimidated others, including journalists who simply favor democracy and free speech. Some 40 people are in captivity in the separatist hotbed of Sloviansk alone. Minorities also have reason to be concerned—militants have attacked the Roma community and among Russian special forces in Ukraine are members of neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic groups. And over the weekend, we saw the terrible clashes in Odessa that resulted in the deaths of more than 40 people.

We must not forget Crimea, where the Russians are consolidating power and taking measures against Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians The revered long-time Crimean Tatar leader and former Soviet political prisoner, Mustafa Dzhemilev, has been banned from returning to his homeland. Other activists have been attacked and threatened.

An overwhelming majority of Ukrainian citizens, even in the two regions where the pro-Russian separatists are most active and where most of the violence is taking place, don't wish to join Russia, and certainly don't want war.

I welcome U.S. and international assistance to Ukraine's democratic and economic development, including for the upcoming elections. Especially important is helping Ukraine strengthen the rule of law and overcome the devastating legacy of corruption left in the wake of the ruinous Yanukovich regime.

The U.S. and international community should redouble efforts to counter Russian aggression and to support the Ukrainian people's overwhelming aspirations for peace, freedom, democracy and economic well-being. We must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those who want dignity, peace and freedom, in solidarity against those seeking to impose foreign autocracy and imperial rule.

HONORING SALLY D. CHESTER

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sally D. Chester, a truly inspiring nurse from my district and recipient of the Palm Beach County Medical Society's 2014 Heroes in Medicine Humanitarian Award.

Throughout her career Sally has provided outstanding service to those in her local community. As chair of the Palm Beach County Medical Society, she united physicians in improving the community's health and as president of Leadership Palm Beach County, she educated and united leaders in building a better community.

In 2004, when her husband, Don, became a quadriplegic following a devastating accident, she stood by him as his primary caregiver and became involved with service dog training. As a cofounder of Genesis Assistance Dogs and board member of New Horizons Service Dogs, she works to transform the lives of people with disabilities, including our veterans, through the training and placement of assistance dogs.

In honor of her inspiring service for our community, I am pleased to recognize Sally D. Chester, R.N., and wish her continued success in all of her endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 204, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA

SPEECH OF

HON. COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 83, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor's Center for the lei draping ceremony on June 8, 2014 to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha the Great. For more than forty years, the Hawai'i Congressional delegation and the Hawai'i State Society have hosted a lei draping ceremony which coincides with the celebration of King Kamehameha Day in the State of Hawai'i on June 11th.

King Kamehameha the Great, also known as King Kamehameha the first, was born in North Kohala on the island of Hawai'i and grew to become one of the most powerful figures in Hawaiian history. He was a superior warrior and was the only man in the history of the Hawaiian people to unite the Islands after nearly a decade of warfare.

According to Hawaiian legend, on the day King Kamehameha was born, a new star appeared in the heavens, signaling the birth of a great chief. At the time of his birth, the Hawaiian Islands were in a state of chaos, with rival chiefs constantly at odds with each other. King Kamehameha utilized western advisors and technology, such as muskets and cannons, to aid him in combat during his quest to unify the Hawaiian Islands. In 1810, King Kamehameha fulfilled his goal of uniting the Kingdom with the surrender of the Chief from Kauai.

With his forward thinking and vision for Hawai'i, Kamehameha ensured that the newly united Hawaiian Kingdom would not crumble after his death by establishing a uniform legal system and promoting a fruitful trade with Western powers. He is noted for Kanawai Mamalahoe, or the Law of the Splintered Paddle. It is said that when King Kamehameha led a raid, his foot got caught in between two rocks. A couple of local fishermen, who were fearful of the warrior, not realizing that it was

the great king, hit Kamehameha with a paddle on the head, so hard that it splintered into thousand pieces. King Kamehameha survived the incident and those same fishermen were brought to him for punishment. However, to their surprise, the King did not seek revenge for the incident but rather blamed himself and declared that every innocent, unarmed man, woman and child would be protected during wartime. The Law of the Splintered Paddle has become the basis for a number of humanitarian laws of war and was the first written law in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. This reflects King Kamehameha's devotion to protecting the weak during times of war and his belief that every human life was precious beyond comprehension.

King Kamehameha was also steadfast in preserving the traditional Hawaiian cultural beliefs and practices. He was a strong follower of the Hawaiian religion and deeply valued the long standing kapu system, the laws and regulations of ancient Hawai'i.

Without King Kamehameha and the unification of the Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i would have been torn apart by competing western interests. The Kingdom of Hawai'i, with a united front, was able to resist western colonialism until the overthrow in 1893. For the people of Hawai'i, the reign of King Kamehameha, celebrated on June 11th, represents a time of great prosperity and peace in Hawaiian history. It serves a reminder of the greatness in the Hawaiian people and the everlasting respect for the King who united Hawai'i while remaining true to the traditions and beliefs that have guided the people for hundreds of years and many more to come.

KEVIN O'DONNELL

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin O'Donnell who is receiving the 2014 Greater Hazleton Friends of Scouting Distinguished Citizen of the Year award.

Mr. O'Donnell is the president of CAN DO, Inc. which is a private, non-profit industrial/economic development corporation serving the Greater Hazleton area in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He began his career with CAN DO in 1973 as assistant director, and in 1984, was named director, a title that was changed to president in 1995 and one that he continues to hold today.

The Greater Hazleton Friends of Scouting Distinguished Citizen award recognizes individuals who set a positive example for others and demonstrate selfless concern and care for their communities. For the past 40 years, through his work with CAN DO and other efforts, Mr. O'Donnell has attracted regional, national, and global companies to do business in Northeastern Pennsylvania, which in turn has created thousands of jobs and produced hundreds of millions of dollars for the local economy.

In addition to his most recent award, Mr. O'Donnell has been recognized countless times for his selfless contributions to the community. In 1984, he was the first individual ever named, ''Developer of the Year'' by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. In 2006, he received the Ben Franklin Innovation Award ''Special Achievement'' for contributions to the Great Valley Technology Alliance, and in 2009, he was inducted into the Northeast Pennsylvania's Business Hall of Fame. Mr. O'Donnell has also been recognized for his work as a former officer and member of several local educational institutions and community and civic groups. He currently is on the board for the Wiltsie Center for the Performing Arts and serves as a member of the Hazleton Civic Partnership Advisory Committee. In addition, he is a member of the Hazleton Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. O'Donnell has made countless contributions to improving life for residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Therefore, I commend him for his hard work and congratulate him on receiving the 2014 Distinguished Citizen of the Year award from the Greater Hazleton Friends of Scouting.

RECOGNIZING COACH FRED PENNINGTON

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Coach Fred Pennington of Evans High School. Coach Pennington began his coaching career at Evans in 1959 as the school's junior varsity basketball coach. His leadership was immediately evident, and after becoming the school's varsity basketball coach, his first varsity team won 20 games in the 1961–1962 season. Coach Pennington's 1968 team was state runner-up, and in 1975, he led the Trojan team to victory in the state championship. One of his players, Darryl Dawkins, became the first player drafted directly out of high school into the NBA.

While we celebrate Coach Pennington's public successes, the unwritten story of his influence is his undoubted impact on young people's lives. He inspired young people to meet high standards, to function as part of a team, and to achieve set goals. In the process, he gave them important tools with which they could improve their lives and the lives of others.

Throughout his career, Coach Pennington has demonstrated outstanding leadership on and off the court. It is my distinct honor to recognize Coach Pennington for his dedication to the students and athletes of Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF PESHTIGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Town of Peshtigo Fire Department. The Town of Peshtigo, with the assistance of its neighbors in the City of Marinette, passed a resolution to purchase the necessary fire equipment to get started in 1963. The first meeting of the Town of Peshtigo volunteer firefighting company occurred on April 28, 1964. A few months after this meeting, the town board officially created the Town of Peshtigo Fire Department with Howard Rettke being named Chief.

Since the beginning, the Town of Peshtigo has continually made the safety of these firefighters a priority by investing in the most modern technology. The Town of Peshtigo Fire Department has worked closely with surrounding communities to foster better coordination and faster response times to better protect the lives and property of their friends, families and neighbors.

The department plans to mark this anniversary on June 21 at Badger Park in Peshtigo with live music, a pig roast and waterball competition with other firefighters from the greater Peshtigo area. As Congressman, I am proud of the work being done by fire departments throughout the 8th District and I encourage the residents in Northeast Wisconsin to join with me in celebrating the Town of Peshtigo Fire Department's 50th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, and Wednesday, May 7, 2014, I missed eleven votes as I was home in Arkansas continuing my work in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating storm that hit my district, including a visit with the President of the affected area in Vilonia, Arkansas.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote 194, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 195, ''no'' on rollcall vote 196, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 197, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 198, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 199, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 200, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 201, ''no'' on rollcall vote 202, ''aye'' on rollcall vote 203, and ''aye'' on rollcall vote 204.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Society of Clinical Oncology on 50 inspiring years of innovative cancer research and treatment.

Many Americans have a close connection to this terrible disease, whether they have survived it themselves or cared for a loved one who suffered through cancer. It galvanizes all of us to push for new early detection methods as well as new treatments.

In 1964, the seven founding physicians who created the American Society of Clinical Oncology came together with a vision for a professional society that would educate other physicians on treatment methods. At that time, cancer was largely untreatable and only a handful of hard-to-tolerate therapies were available.

Fifty years later the American Society of Clinical Oncology has almost 35,000 members

worldwide. The number of drugs available to treat different types of cancer has steadily increased over the years thanks to some of these physicians. Today more than two-thirds of patients with cancer are alive five years after their diagnosis. This is a true testament to the groundbreaking research and diligent work of so many in this field.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the American Society of Clinical Oncology for their leadership in the fight against cancer. It is my sincere hope that this and other research avenues will lead to new discoveries to better detect cancer and save lives.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. COAST GUARD'S 9TH ANNUAL CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR SAFE BOATING EXPO

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the U.S. Coast Guard's 9th Annual Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Expo, which recognizes May 17 through 23, 2014 as National Safe Boating Week. The event also marks the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

With an average of 700 people dying each year in a boating-related accident, approximately 71% of these fatalities are caused by drowning. The vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error and/or poor judgment, not by faulty equipment or environmental factors. It is known that a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets. It is crucial that the public stay educated about boating safety and the ways in which they can protect themselves and others.

At the Channel Island Harbor Safe Boating Expo, attendees will be able to watch offshore helicopter and fire rescue demonstrations, as well as flare inspection and disposal services, vessel safety exams and other hands-on exhibits. The event will also be attended by the American Red Cross, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Channel Islands Harbor Patrol, Oxnard Police/Fire Dive Team, the Channel Islands National Park, Ventura County Sheriff Rescue, Ventura County Fire Department, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Service, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Ventura Sail and Power Squadron. These attendees represent the collaborative efforts and partnerships that we have in Ventura County.

This important and engaging community event is hosted by the United States Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Harbor, a multi-mission unit that conducts Search and Rescue, Homeland Security, Maritime Law Enforcement, Counter Drug & Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations, Marine Environmental Protection and Boating Safety from Point Dume, CA, to Point Conception, CA, and out 50 nautical miles. Their area of responsibility also includes the gorgeous Channel Islands in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The station is also homeport to the 87-foot Patrol boat USCGC *Blacktip* and ESD Detachment Oxnard.

I want to congratulate the U.S. Coast Guard on their ongoing efforts to educate our community about recreational water safety and join them in supporting the campaign efforts of National Safe Boating Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID J. WENZEL, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 AMOS LODGE AMERICANISM AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of David J. Wenzel, recipient of the 2014 Amos Lodge Americanism Award. This honor recognizes a lifetime of outstanding community service best exemplifying the American spirit. A native of Scranton, he proudly served as Scranton's 27th mayor from 1986 to 1990, and has supported many public, civic, and charitable causes both before and after his distinguished term.

A trained Army officer, David Wenzel served in Vietnam as a First Lieutenant, commanding the mortar platoon of A Company of the American Division. While leading his men in occupying an area near the battalion fire base, he stepped on a land mine and was almost killed. The explosion took both his legs and caused other serious injuries, but Wenzel survived. Upon his return home, he underwent four major operations and an intense rehabilitation, but walked out of the Valley Forge Army Hospital on two prosthetic legs. He received a Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the South Vietnam Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge in recognition of his outstanding service and sacrifice for his country.

As Mayor of Scranton, Wenzel oversaw an active administration that accomplished a great deal during a period of renaissance and progress for the city. During his term, Scranton began to implement plans for the Mall at Steamtown and established flood control projects to aid in the recovery from Hurricane Gloria. He emphasized full cooperation with the city's growing neighborhood associations and made the city a leader in access for the disabled. Under his leadership, Scranton earned the moniker ''Tree City'' for the city's commitment to plant thousands of trees in an urban environment. Throughout his term, David embodied honesty, integrity, and cooperation in working with the city council to serve the people of Scranton.

After his term as Mayor, David Wenzel continued serving his community at the Schemel Forum at the University of Scranton, where he still teaches today, and as an advisor to many veterans associations. He has served on the Boards of the United Way, Allied Services, Mayor's Prayer Service, Scranton/Pocono Girl Scout Council, Deutsch Institute, American Legion, and the University of Scranton's Board of Regents. Wenzel was also named the Disabled Veteran of the Year in Pennsylvania and the National Disabled Veteran of the Year.

I am proud to congratulate David Wenzel on this award recognizing his voluminous service to his country and the city of Scranton. His record of serving others embodies the ideals of our country, and he is a role model for all Americans to emulate.

CONGRATULATING ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH AND WELLNESS COALITION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Adams County for being awarded the Healthy Ohio Healthy Community GOLD award from the Ohio Department of Health!

As a physician, I know the importance of preventative care and the impact of lifestyle choices in creating healthy communities. The leaders in Adams County are to be commended for their efforts.

As we empower residents and families to make healthier choices, we all thrive as a community. Promoting healthy options at home and in the workplace is a positive mission for everyone.

Specifically, the Adams Brown Creating Healthy Communities Program and the Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition deserve recognition. These programs, in collaboration with the Adams County Regional Medical Center Diabetes team, Adams County Court of Common Pleas, and local employers like General Electric, have made effective progress in working towards a healthy and effective workforce and county.

I am excited to watch Adams County's continued success and thank their leaders for working to improve the well-being of all their residents.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the National MPS Society for their 40 years of supporting families while searching for cures for this genetic disease. Mucopolysaccharidosis or MPS is a group of genetically determined lysosomal storage diseases that render the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates. The damage caused by MPS on a cellular level adversely affects the body and damages the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system. MPS often results in intellectual disabilities, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span. Symptoms of MPS are usually not apparent at birth and without treatment; the life expectancy of an individual affected begins to decrease at a very early stage in their life. Research towards combating MPS has resulted in the development of limited treatments for some of the MPS diseases.

I ask my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing May 15, 2014 as National MPS Awareness Day. This is an important time during which the MPS disease community will help increase the awareness of this

devastating disease, as well as supporting research to improve treatments, find cures and receive early diagnosis. The MPS families are encouraged to reflect and support each other and to reach out to those families who have lost loved ones to MPS. By wearing their purple ribbons and sharing these ribbons within their community, they are increasing public awareness about this disease. This date is also the start of the National MPS Run/Walk season along with other local community activities to raise awareness along with money for research and for family assistance programs. I commend the National MPS Society and their many volunteers for an unwavering commitment to bring about awareness of this disease and to continue to advocate for federal legislation to streamline the regulatory processes and to speed effective treatments and cures for their loved ones. More must be done to find cures and effective treatments, but let us reflect on the importance of this day. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commemorating National MPS Awareness Day.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POINT PLEASANT FIRE CO. #1

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the 90th anniversary of the Point Pleasant Fire Co. #1, we recognize the spirit and unflinching courage of dedicated volunteers who run to the rescue—ready to protect their neighbors and the community—since 1924. The Point Pleasant Fire Co. now has grown into a much larger fire organization with many more well-trained volunteers who comprise the complement of firefighters and dive and technical rescue teams. Also, on his day, we may reflect on the generations of firefighters and company officers who answered the call. They are an integral part of the great history of the Point Pleasant Fire Co. and their service will be remembered as an example of the true spirit of first responders everywhere. Today's firefighters continue to set an example of public service and volunteerism for others to follow and the community is grateful to those who contribute to this effort.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUND EARS CLUB

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hound Ears Club, a community-minded club nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains near the towns of Blowing Rock, Boone and Banner Elk; and the Robbins Family, who had the vision to found the club. Chartered in 1964, the Club has provided fifty years of community service and economic benefits to the people of Watauga County, North Carolina.

Over the years, Hound Ears Club members have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit many Watauga County charities. Members and residents have served, and continue to serve, on the boards and among the ranks of these charities.

Over the past fifty years, the Hound Ears Club has made valuable contributions to the economic needs of the citizens of Watauga County through capital investment projects, local business patronage, college scholarships, real estate development and perhaps most importantly, by providing jobs in the community. Hound Ears members and the Robbins Family have contributed tremendously to the success of Watauga County's tourism industry.

I commend the Hound Ears Club for its fifty years of serving Watauga County, and wish the members all the best as they embark on fifty more.

UNION INSTITUTE & UNIVERSITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of Union Institute & University, a private, non-profit, accredited university, designed exclusively for adults seeking academic programs that transform lives and communities.

Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, with centers in California, Florida, and Vermont, Union's vision is to engage, enlighten, and empower motivated adults in their pursuit of a lifetime of learning and service. This forward-facing institution now serves 2,000 students around the nation and offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees and certificates. Union Institute & University pioneered many of the concepts now common in higher education, including distance and online education, individualized self-paced programs, and an abiding commitment to adults seeking transformative education.

Today, the university's 15,500 alumni—including the Most Honorable Prime Minister of Jamaica, Portia Simpson Miller, and our esteemed colleague, the Honorable Congressman from Illinois, Dr. Danny Davis—are transforming lives and communities, and making a difference wherever they live and work.

HONORING DON RUST

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Don Rust who on May 1, 2014, retired as Fire Chief for the city of Houston, Missouri.

Don began his career in the fire department in January of 1976 and has served as the Chief of the Houston department for the past thirty one years. During his tenure, Don has an exceptional list of accomplishments. Don oversaw the construction of a new fire station, created the Junior Fire Fighter Program to attract younger recruits, improved the department's insurance rating, and significantly improved fire fighter pay.

Don also sat on numerous committees and served his community in various ways. He was the County Civil Defense Director, served on the Houston Planning and Zoning Commission, and supervised the Texas County Rescue. In 2007, Don received the U.S. Presidential Service Award that recognizes volunteerism in the fire service.

Don has been married to his wife Janet since 1975 and is the father of two sons, Darren and David. Both followed in their father's footsteps and have served as firefighters. It is my privilege to recognize Don's achievements before the House of Representatives and I wish him a long and fulfilling retirement.

AMERICA LOSES WAR HERO WITH PASSING OF EARL BROWN FLATT

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the passing of a great man in our community who served his country as a United States Marine and later as a community leader in South Louisiana.

Earl Brown Flatt joined the Marine Corps in 1941 at the ripe old age of 17. Earl knew from Day One he wanted to serve his country and make a lasting impact for future generations. He accomplished that goal. Participating in the Iwo Jima campaign during World War II, Earl was a proud member of the Marine Corps exemplifying its core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

After his distinguished career in the Marine Corps, Earl took a leading role in the organization of State Farm Agencies in the State of Louisiana. He was a State Farm Insurance Manager for 44 years and retired in 1994. Earl made sure to give back to his community and worked tirelessly to improve it. He helped establish the Crime Stoppers of Lafayette and was very active in the Republican Party of Louisiana. In addition, he was a charter member of the Oakbourne Country Club. But Earl never wandered very far from the armed services as he served as the President of the Honor Air and arranged 22 flights to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials. He attended countless funerals throughout Acadiana to honor the lives of fallen soldiers. His patriotism was only matched by his devotion to his family.

Earl is survived by his wife of 62 years, Darlene Storey Flatt of Broussard; two sons, Pat Flatt of Broussard and Jon Flatt of Austin, Texas; two brothers, Wayne Flatt of Dallas, Texas, and Estle Flatt of Nashville, Tennessee; five grandchildren, Rachel, Wesley, Alys, Leigh Anne, and Olivia; and one great-grandson, Cooper.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COL. ROBERT PELLETIER

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Robert (Bob) Pelletier, who will retire this year from the United States Army Reserve after 30 years of outstanding service.

Col. Pelletier's career has spanned decades and he has served in various places all over the world including Kuwait, Iraq, Korea, Honduras, Germany, and Afghanistan. He served in both Operation Desert Storm and the Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 1984 following graduation from The Citadel in South Carolina, Col. Pelletier entered helicopter flight school at Fort Rucker in Alabama. After completing flight school, Pelletier served in the 4th Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment until January of 1989, holding various leadership assignments during his tenure.

In June of 1989, he began his tenure as commander of the Headquarters and Service Company in Kuwait and Iraq. While in the Middle East, Col. Pelletier also served as a Plans and Operation Officer playing an important role in coordinating the United States' efforts in Operation Desert Storm.

At the conclusion of his service in the Middle East, Col. Pelletier continued his service overseas, first in Musan, Korea and later in Honduras, before returning home to the United States in 1995. Col. Pelletier landed in Omaha, NE, after he joined the United States Army Reserves and was placed as the Maintenance Branch Chief of the 561st Corps Support Group.

In 2003, Col. Pelletier traveled to Germany and Kuwait along with the 3rd COSCOM to offer support in Operation Iraqi Freedom becoming the Director of Rail Operations and Reconstruction until March of 2004.

In January of 2009, Col. Pelletier became the Department of Army's Liaison to the Governor of Nebraska for Homeland Security and Defense, a position through which he has offered superb service to the state of Nebraska.

Col. Pelletier has been decorated with many awards for his outstanding service including the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf and a Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf. He is also the recipient of the Joint Service Commendation Medal along with the Army Achievement Medal.

Col. Pelletier and his wife, Terry are current residents of Omaha, NE where he is a Regional Operations Manager for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Col. Robert Pelletier for his outstanding 30 years of service to our country and the state of Nebraska.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 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 $17,484,285,711,524.06. We've added $6,857,408,662,610.98 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONDEMNING CHINA FOR VIOLATING VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Vietnam and China, I rise today to strongly condemn China for violating Vietnam's sovereignty in the South China Sea and to call upon the U.S. to issue a clear and decisive statement of response.

On May 2, 2014, China anchored HD981 rig in Vietnamese waters and deployed dozens of naval vessels to support its provocative actions. On May 3 and May 5, China issued notices banning all vessels from entering the area and stating that HD981 rig will conduct exploratory drilling. HD981 is anchored totally within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf of Vietnam, about 120 nautical miles from Ly Son island of Vietnam.

I thank U.S. Senator JOHN MCCAIN for his leadership in unequivocally stating that China's territorial claims to the waters have no basis in international law. Simply put, China's provocative actions are an escalation of its intent to threaten peace and maritime security in the East Sea.

Since 2009, China has escalated its claims of the "nine-dash line", cut the ship cables of the "Binh Minh II" and "Viking II (May and June 2011), established "Sansha City" (June 2012), implemented "measures to enforce 'Fishery Law of the People's Republic of China' (entering into force since January 2014), enhanced oil explorations in disputed areas, attacked Vietnamese fishing vessels, launched patrol boats, and conducted military exercises in the South China Sea to flex its power and deter other claimants.

All the while the U.S. response has been negligible, although the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific has held hearings on the matter and several Members, including myself, have introduced Resolutions to promote a peaceful and collaborative resolution to any and all disputes in the South China Sea.

I am especially disappointed by the State Department's weak response to China's recent aggression. U.S. Department of State spokeswoman Jen Psaki stated, "Vietnam has declared a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone based on its coast line in accordance with the law of the sea. Then we call on China because China has a different view on that. That's why we continue to call on both sides not to take provocative or unilateral actions given this is occurring in disputed waters near those islands and these events, of course, point to the need for claimants to clarify, their claims in accordance with international law and reach agreement of what types of activities should be permissible within disputed areas such as these waters."

I call upon the State Department to issue a more clear, definitive, and concise statement than this. Once more, as Senator MCCAIN stated, China's claims have no basis in international law, and the U.S. State Department should not shirk from saying so. I join with Senator MCCAIN in calling upon China's leaders to take immediate steps to de-escalate tensions, and I call upon the U.S. to lead the way. For historical purposes, I have submitted this statement with supporting documentation so that there is no dispute about the facts or about where I stand.

[As of May 5, 2014]

FACTSHEET ON OPERATIONS OF CHINA'S HD–981 OIL RIG IN VIETNAM'S WATERS

On May 2, 2014, Vietnamese authorities announce that at 5:22 am on May 1, 2014, the drilling rig HD–981 and 3 oil service vessels of China were spotted as going south from the northwest of Tri Ton island which belongs to Vietnam's Hoang Sa Archipelago (Paracels). At 4:00 pm May 2, 2014, the drilling rig RD–981 was set afloat at the location of 15°29′58″ North latitude and 111°12′06″ East longitude of Tri Ton island with 27 protecting ships. This location is about 130 nautical miles off Vietnam's coast and 119 nautical miles off Vietnam's Ly Son island. To date, the number of Chinese vessels has gone up to more than 50. The location of the rig lies well within the oil block No. 143 of Vietnam, undeniably within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

2. In the last few days, Vietnam has continuously communicated with China expressing its serious concerns. Vietnam has reiterated and stressed that "the location that the Chinese drilling rig HD–981 and protecting vessels operate is undeniably within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf; the operations of this drilling rig and protecting vessels have seriously violated Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and national jurisdiction as stipulated by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS), the 2002 Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), other related agreements between the two countries' leaders, and Vietnam-China basic principles on settlement of sea issues. Vietnam asks China to immediately withdraw the drilling rig and protecting vessels out of Vietnam's waters".

Viet Nam has sufficient historical evidence, legal basis, and de facto administration over Hoang Sa to assert its sovereign rights and national jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Vietnam requests that China respect Vietnam's exercise of sovereignty over Hoang Sa, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone; and concurrently proposes to China to settle the disputes over Hoang Sa and other disputes related to Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction through negotiations and other peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Vietnam totally rejects and resolutely protests China's arguments that the "operation of drilling rig HD–981 is an ordinary activity south of Zhongjian island (Tri Ton) of Xisha (Hoang Sa) islands", and has nothing to do with Vietnam's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone; this is "an area of the

territorial sea and contiguous zone of the Xisha islands (Vietnam's Hoang Sa) and that on-going operation is conducted on a usual basis at a location administered by China without any dispute''; and that China would not accept Vietnam's request of negotiation over Hoang Sa.

3. The fact that China disregards Vietnam's communication requesting the withdrawal of the drilling rig and oil service vessels out of Block No. 143 is obviously an act on purpose and an intentional and serious violation of Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction over Hoang Sa, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf; serious violation of the accords reached between two countries' leaders, the spirit and content of the DOC, related principles the international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Chinese activities have tremendously affected the political trust between the two countries, adversely impacted the bilateral negotiations over sea issues, and damaged the sentiments and feelings of the peoples of Vietnam and China.

4. The Government of Vietnam respectfully asks all Governments in the world to voice condemnation of those wrongful acts by China; demand China to recall its drilling rig HD–981 out of Vietnam's waters and respect the rights and interests and coastal nations in accordance with the 1982 UNCLOS, fully and seriously observe the spirit of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ensure the security and safety in the East Sea (Bien Dong); and call upon China to soon settle disputes with Vietnam through peaceful negotiations, thereby contributing to peace and stability in the region.

[As of May 7, 2014]

FACT SHEET NO. 2 ON CHINA'S LATEST ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM'S EEZ

1. China's provocative behavior:

To date, the number of China's supporting ships moving toward the drilling platform has increased to more than 80, including 7 military ships, 33 marine patrol boats and surveillance ships, and many other vessels.

2. China's use of force:

Videos and pictures show Chinese ships, backed by helicopters, aggressively obstructing Vietnamese ships.

The Chinese ships also sprayed water cannons, damaging Vietnamese vessels and injuring their crew members.

At around 8:10 a.m. on May 3, a Chinese ship struck the right side of a Vietnamese Marine Police vessel at high speed, smashing the windows of the Vietnamese vessel that was attempting to take evasive maneuvers.

A total of eight Vietnamese ships were rammed, hit, or sprayed with high pressure hoses.

At one point, five Chinese ships surrounded a single Vietnamese vessel.

3. China's impingement on freedom of navigation:

The Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) announced on its website on Saturday that all vessels should keep one mile (1.6 km) away from the rig, called the Haiyang Shiyou 981.

Despite Vietnam's objections, MSAC on Monday expanded the prohibited area around the rig to a three-mile (4.8 km) radius.

On the ground, China uses force to drive away Vietnamese ships.

The location is right on vital international sea lanes. Consequently, China's acts are threatening maritime security and safety in the region.

HONORING PAUL MARKOWSKI

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Paul Markowski. Paul is a Behavior Detection Officer with the Transportation Security Administration based at LaGuardia Airport in Queens, NY. While off-duty, Paul assisted a man in distress, saving his life.

On the afternoon of April 13, after finishing their shifts while walking to their cars, Paul and his colleague, Michael Dougherty, spotted a man who was signaling for help. They quickly approached and found the man struggling to breathe while waving a nonfunctioning inhaler. As the man began to have a seizure, Paul and Michael caught him before he fell, and then gently laid him on the ground. Other officers noticed the situation and subsequently called for an ambulance. The man was successfully transported to a nearby hospital.

Paul's actions were nothing short of heroic. Speed, teamwork, and willingness to act all played a role in helping save the man's life. I was honored to speak with Paul on Friday afternoon to thank him for his exemplary service. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in recognition of the decisive actions displayed by Mr. Markowski.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX GAITER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and one of the finest men I have ever known.

Felix Gaiter recently passed away at the age of 91. He was a well-known businessman in my District and owner of the Gaiter Construction Company, which was the largest African American-owned construction company in East Tennessee.

I had the privilege to be the lawyer for the Gaiter Construction Company for just about the entire time I practiced law. Mr. Gaiter was one of the kindest, hardest working, and most honest people with whom I have ever dealt.

Mr. Gaiter was also a veteran of World War II, and he easily earned his place among the ''Greatest Generation'' with his service and honorable life.

A member of Rogers Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, he always lived his life by the Golden Rule.

Mr. Gaiter is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 66 years, Mrs. Margaret Gaiter, who has always been very kind to me. Mrs. Gaiter treats everyone with love and respect. She is a very bright fixture in the Knoxville community and active in countless organizations.

My wife, Lynn, and I send our condolences to Mrs. Gaiter, her three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Felix Gaiter was a wonderful husband, father, and citizen. I call his life and accomplishments to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD. This Nation would be a much better place if we had more people like him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 203 on May 7, 2014. I would like the record to reflect I would have voted ''yes''.

HONORING AMERICA'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct the House's attention to Public Service Recognition Week, a time in which we honor the more than 20 million men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees.

These people are our friends and neighbors, and they perform critical work every day that is vital to our nation's welfare. They keep us safe from terrorist threats and food-borne illness, develop new treatments for diseases, protect our environment, educate our children, provide care to veterans, deliver our mail, and the list goes on. Despite the popular notion of the isolated ''Washington bureaucrat'', the overwhelming majority of government employees serve in our own communities in all fifty states—including 85 percent of federal employees. Yet, we often overlook or simply take for granted America's public servants.

Of course, the government's ability to effectively perform essential functions depends on a well-trained and highly-engaged workforce. According to the Government Accountability Office, nearly 30 percent of federal employees on board at the end of fiscal year 2011 will be eligible to retire by 2016, including one-third of the government's top scientists, engineers, physicians, mathematicians, economists, and other highly specialized professionals. We must redouble our efforts to identify and recruit the next generation of talented public servants to ensure government can continue to tackle our nation's toughest challenges.

At its best, government is an instrument of our common purpose. It is a powerful tool to defend the vulnerable, expand opportunity, and help our country reach its full potential. In a representational democracy, government is not an abstract idea but a living institution that is powered by men and women dedicated to promoting and protecting the common good. To all of those who have stepped up to the plate and devoted their lives to this noble calling, I thank you.

As we mark the passage of Public Service Recognition Week, I urge all my colleagues to join me in commemorating the hard work and sacrifice made by our nation's federal, state, and local government employees.

MESSAGE OF PRIME MINISTER ERDOĞAN ON THE EVENTS OF 1915

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to a statement made by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in which he noted the importance of April 24th to Armenian communities around the world, and expressed his condolences to the descendants of those Armenians who died in the violence nearly a century ago. The Prime Minister renewed Turkey's offer to participate in a joint historical commission, where Turkish, Armenian, and international scholars would come together to document those terrible events.

In his weekly parliamentary address to his party's legislators on April 23rd, Prime Minister Erdoğan stated Turkey's willingness to "confront" the historical events, and again called upon Armenia and the Armenian diaspora to join this effort.

I believe a process in which both parties are active participants will enable Turkey and Armenia to resolve many of the issues of conflict between them, and will allow them to move deeper into the 21st Century while building a constructive relationship, as neighbors should.

I hope my colleagues will join me in encouraging all parties to engage in the process.

The statement issued by Prime Minister Erdoğan follows:

THE MESSAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN ON THE EVENTS OF 1915.

The 24th of April carries a particular significance for our Armenian citizens and for all Armenians around the world, and provides a valuable opportunity to share opinions freely on a historical matter.

It is indisputable that the last years of the Ottoman Empire were a difficult period, full of suffering for Turkish, Kurdish, Arab, Armenian and millions of other Ottoman citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnic origin.

Any conscientious, fair and humanistic approach to these issues requires an understanding of all the sufferings endured in this period, without discriminating as to religion or ethnicity.

Certainly, neither constructing hierarchies of pain nor comparing and contrasting suffering carries any meaning for those who experienced this pain themselves.

As a Turkish proverb goes, ''fire burns the place where it falls.''

It is a duty of humanity to acknowledge that Armenians remember the suffering experienced in that period, just like every other citizen of the Ottoman Empire.

In Turkey, expressing different opinions and thoughts freely on the events of 1915 is the requirement of a pluralistic perspective as well as of a culture of democracy and modernity.

Some may perceive this climate of freedom in Turkey as an opportunity to express accusatory, offensive and even provocative assertions and allegations.

Even so, if this will enable us to better understand historical issues with their legal aspects and to transform resentment to friendship again, it is natural to approach different discourses with empathy and tolerance and expect a similar attitude from all sides.

The Republic of Turkey will continue to approach every idea with dignity in line with the universal values of law.

Nevertheless, using the events of 1915 as an excuse for hostility against Turkey and turning this issue into a matter of political conflict is inadmissible.

The incidents of the First World War are our shared pain. To evaluate this painful period of history through a perspective of just memory is a humane and scholarly responsibility.

Millions of people of all religions and ethnicities lost their lives in the First World War. Having experienced events which had inhumane consequences—such as relocation—during the First World War, should not prevent Turks and Armenians from establishing compassion and mutually humane attitudes among towards one another.

In today's world, deriving enmity from history and creating new antagonisms are neither acceptable nor useful for building a common future.

The spirit of the age necessitates dialogue despite differences, understanding by heeding others, evaluating means for compromise, denouncing hatred, and praising respect and tolerance.

With this understanding, we, as the Turkish Republic, have called for the establishment of a joint historical commission in order to study the events of 1915 in a scholarly manner. This call remains valid. Scholarly research to be carried out by Turkish, Armenian and international historians would play a significant role in shedding light on the events of 1915 and an accurate understanding of history.

It is with this understanding that we have opened our archives to all researchers. Today, hundreds of thousands of documents in our archives are at the service of historians.

Looking to the future with confidence, Turkey has always supported scholarly and comprehensive studies for an accurate understanding of history. The people of Anatolia, who lived together for centuries regardless of their different ethnic and religious origins, have established common values in every field from art to diplomacy, from state administration to commerce. Today they continue to have the same ability to create a new future.

In is our hope and belief that the peoples of an ancient and unique geography, who share similar customs and manners will be able to talk to each other about the past with maturity and to remember together their losses in a decent manner. And it is with this hope and belief that we wish that the Armenians who lost their lives in the context of the early twentieth century rest in peace, and we convey our condolences to their grandchildren.

Regardless of their ethnic or religious origins, we pay tribute, with compassion and respect, to all Ottoman citizens who lost their lives in the same period and under similar conditions.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 4487)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to a prior commitment in my district, I had to miss votes on May 1, 2014. On April 9, 2014, I joined my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee in approving the Fiscal Year 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. Had I been present for the vote before the Full House, I would have voted for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act (H.R. 4487).

This appropriation bill supports the functions of the United States House of Representatives and those agencies that we rely on to best serve our constituents. Today's bill maintains level funding for Members' offices and Committee staff. While not ideal, it does not impose further reductions that would harm the ability of Congressional offices to respond to the needs of our constituents and our district. The bill also provides funding for the Library of Congress, Capitol Police, Botanical Garden, Architect of the Capitol, and Government Printing Office, which support for work of Congress and the American public. It is important that Congress ensure these agencies have the resources and funding they need to best serve our constituents and offices.

On Mr. NUGENT's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. GOSAR's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. BROUN's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. HOLT's amendment, I would have voted "yes".

THE KIDNAPPING OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN FROM A SCHOOL IN NIGERIA

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the families of the approximately 300 young women kidnapped by a radical Nigerian Islamist group. I lend my voice to the chorus of outrage and condemnation directed at this extremist group, which has forcefully separated young women from their families and devastated an entire community. There is no place in our world community for a group that displays such disregard for the tenets of Islam, human dignity, and international law.

All people and governments of good will should do all that is appropriate to assist Nigerian authorities in the safe recovery of these young women. I am heartened that Secretary Kerry has announced that a U.S. security team will be sent to Nigeria to assist in the efforts to bring these young women home to their families.

As a Member of Congress, I will continue to monitor this situation and speak out against such atrocious acts. The outcry against this gross human rights violation must not fade before these young women are recovered and all guilty parties are brought to justice.

HONORING BOB HAMMERSCHMIDT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob Hammerschmidt of Springfield, Missouri on receiving the 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Ozarks Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Distinguished Citizen Award was created by the Boy Scouts of America in order to

recognize noteworthy and extraordinary leadership of citizens in communities across the United States. This award is only given out every few years to honor business and community leaders who have made substantial impacts in their communities and its residents. The Distinguished Citizen Award is a very prestigious award, which Bob Hammerschmidt undoubtedly deserves.

Currently, Bob Hammerschmidt is the president of the Springfield Region of Commerce Bank. Commerce Bank is located in Springfield, but its professional reputation precedes it throughout the state of Missouri. He is also the former council president of the Ozark Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Bob's community service includes an extensive and impressive list of organizations that have benefited by his service to the communities in which he has lived over the years.

Bob Hammerschmidt exemplifies the values taught by scouting, including the scout oath and law. These qualities include service to the community, good citizenship and strong leadership. Bob Hammerschmidt's track record makes it easy to see why his peers unanimously selected him as the recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award.

I am honored to recognize Bob Hammerschmidt for his service and leadership to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 188 through 193. If present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall votes 191, 192, and 193, and ''nay'' on rollcall votes 188, 189, and 190.

LTC DENIS DESCARREAUX PROMOTION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, The United States Army, the U.S. Military medical community, and a grateful nation, are united in their support of LTC Denis Descarreaux attaining the rank of Colonel.

Colonel Descarreaux exemplifies the values that are near and dear to the Army: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage.

Denis Descarreaux has always displayed an enduring work ethic and a commitment to serve others. His time in uniform is marked by distinguished service on behalf of the American people.

Dr. Denis Descarreaux exemplifies one seeking and obtaining the American Dream and presents as a model Soldier, citizen, husband, and father. Colonel Descarreaux has brought virtue to himself, his family, his uniform and his nation. We are assured that he will continue to be an invaluable asset to the United States Army.

Congratulations on your lifetime accomplishments and your promotion to Colonel in the United States Army.

With God's blessings.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY SERGEANT LAUREN MONTOYA

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. Army Sergeant Lauren Montoya who was recently wounded while serving her nation in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Montoya, from Austin, Texas, attended Texas A&M University for two years prior to joining the Army in January of 2011. Texas A&M has a long history of students who have answered the call to service, and Sergeant Montoya has kept that tradition alive.

After completing basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the Army sent Sergeant Montoya to Fort Huachuca, Arizona where she was trained in the Military Intelligence field as a Human Intelligence Collector. She was subsequently stationed at Fort Drum, New York to serve with the combat-proven 10th Mountain Division. It was there that she continued to distinguish herself as an exemplary soldier. Ms. Montoya's superiors quickly noticed her leadership ability and promoted her to Sergeant in just two short years of service.

Due to her dedication, professionalism and leadership ability, Sergeant Montoya was selected to participate in the Army's Cultural Support Team assisting a Special Forces unit conducting counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan. Her unique abilities as a Human Intelligence Collector and devotion to selfless service led to her assignment as an advisor to a Special Forces unit deployed to carry out volatile missions in Afghanistan.

In November 2013, Sergeant Montoya deployed with her Special Forces unit to Afghanistan where they spent five months conducting missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During that deployment, Sergeant Montoya's unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device while traveling from a mission in southern Afghanistan. Sergeant Montoya was injured in the attack but survived and was transported to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas to recover.

Sergeant Montoya's commitment to duty and selfless service demonstrate her caliber as a soldier, Texan and American. During the tenure of her brief military career, Sergeant Montoya earned numerous awards and decorations including the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Marksmanship Qualification Badge—Marksman with Recoilless Rifle, and a meritorious count of five Army Achievement Medals.

With the prayers and love from family and friends, Sergeant Montoya continues to recover at Brooke Army Medical Center and looks forward to the next steps in her future. Upon completion of her military service, she hopes to return to Texas A&M University and finish her degree.

Her service and sacrifice to this country cannot be measured. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to wish her a speedy recovery and all the blessings God may grant unto her.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. On the second Saturday of May for the last twenty-two years, letter carriers and volunteers across the country help to collect food donations and deliver them to various food banks in their areas. This year, the food drive will be held on Saturday, May 10th.

In my district, donations are delivered to the North Texas Food Bank and local pantries to provide food to people in need. In Dallas County alone, 450,000 residents are food insecure, including 300,000 children. Of the 1.8 million Texas children, one in four live in food insecure households.

Hunger in Texas remains a systemic problem. With the help of food drives like the one organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers, many families are able to put nutritious meals on their tables. Last year, letter carriers collected 74.6 million pounds of food to deliver to local food pantries.

I commend the National Association of Letter Carriers for their efforts and for their commitment to help stamp out hunger nationwide. Their service is extremely valuable and we can all contribute to their efforts by donating to the food drive. More than 1,200 branches nationwide will be participating in this year's food drive activities.

Our letter carriers not only provide a valuable service each day, but also strive to supply basic necessities to those in need during their annual food drive. I urge my colleagues to support the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ST. PAUL POLICE OFFICER JOSH LYNAUGH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of all the brave men and women in law enforcement who have given their life in the line of duty.

As we celebrate National Police Week 2014, let us take time to recognize that law enforcement officers all across America risk their lives every day to protect our families and keep our communities safe. Every peace officer serving in Minnesota, or any community across this country, knows that wearing a uniform carries a special responsibility and exceptional risk. I salute their courage, commitment, and exceptional public service.

Today marks almost a year and half since St. Paul Police Officer Josh Lynaugh suffered a fatal heart attack after an on-duty police chase in East St. Paul. This was a time of great pain and loss for his family, constituents

in my district, as well as Minnesotans all across our state. Today, the law enforcement community continues to heal from this loss and it is my firm belief that they will ultimately do so because of their strength and resilience. We must never forget the heroic sacrifice of our fallen peace officers. The valiant bravery of these men and women helps ensure the safety of our families and communities.

Police officers bear an enormous responsibility for keeping our cities and towns safe. Throughout my career in public service, I have advocated for ensuring that local police departments have the funding resources they need to do their jobs successfully and compensate their officers fairly. From my work as a state legislator to the work I do here in Congress, supporting those who dedicate their lives to protecting the public has been, and will remain, a top priority.

This National Police Week, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the courage and sacrifice of all law enforcement officers and yield back the balance of my time.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4487) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, earlier during debate colleagues criticized the production of secure credentials by the Government Printing Office for Federal agencies. Some of the statements, particularly the claim that this represents an ''overreach'' of the GPO's statutory authority and that the GPO has a ''monopoly on this issue'' are simply not true, and I want to correct the RECORD.

At the request of then-Public Printer Robert Tapella, the Joint Committee on Printing, which I had the honor to chair during the 110th Congress, authorized GPO to perform this function. Since that time, every JCP chairman has overseen the GPO's production of secure credentials and approved the GPO's annual expenditures for this purpose.

Far from an ''overreach,'' secure credential work is firmly within the GPO's statutory authority. GPO has a long history of secure credential work, such as with the manufacture of U.S. passport blanks since 1926. By definition, passports and all other forms of government credentials involve ''printing,'' the production of something in printed form. With secure credentials, intricate, multi-color modern printing embedded with anti-counterfeiting features is utterly indispensable to render a document immediately recognizable by handlers as the genuine article and thus inspire the confidence necessary to establish identity, facilitate border crossings and other purposes.

While serving as Public Printer, Mr. Tapella once declared that the production of secure credentials for the Federal Government does not belong in the private sector. I happen to agree with him and believe Congress should direct as much secure credential business to GPO as possible. In my view, the production of Federal credentials is as inherently a government function as the production of United States currency, which is produced solely by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

But however much the former Public Printer and I may agree on this issue, the GPO today—under the leadership of Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks—has taken a far more reasonable approach and simply makes the GPO available to all Federal agencies who wish to use its services. GPO asserts no ''monopoly'' nor can it as a practical matter, as Federal agencies are able to seek the services of either the public or private sector to meet their secure credential needs. With respect to the product at issue here, the GPO produces blank border-crossing cards for the State Department's visa office, and the cards are subsequently personalized by the State Department's own contractor, MorphoTrust. Moreover, the State Department continues to employ MorphTrust to produce passport cards, another secure credential. As here, the State Department and a number of other agencies contract directly with private companies for many of their secure-credential needs. To say, therefore, that GPO has a ''monopoly'' on the work is silly.

On December 4, 2013, the House Administration Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Minority Member, held an oversight hearing on the recent report by the National Academy of Public Administration entitled ''Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age.'' Congress ordered the study. Among other things, the Academy found that unlike with passports, ''the GPO is not the sole provider of smart cards [secure credentials]. Agencies may obtain smart cards from private sector vendors as well.'' The Academy's report endorsed GPO's work in that field.

I urge my colleagues to read the Academy report, currently available on the Academy's web site. I also urge Members to review the response provided by the GPO to questions submitted for the record of the December 2013 hearing concerning secure credentials, reprinted below. Clearly the GPO does not deserve the criticisms lodged earlier and elsewhere. The men and women of the GPO perform a valuable and necessary service in providing secure credentials to support the missions of Federal agencies involved in securing our borders and other law enforcement tasks.

EXCERPTED QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC PRINTER, DAVITA VANCE-COOKS, FOLLOWING THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HEARING HELD DECEMBER 4, 2013

Question 7. GPO produces the millions of passports and related documents provided to Americans every year by the U.S. Department of State. You also provided sizeable quantities of other so-called ''secure and intelligent documents'' to the Department of Homeland Security. Do you foresee this portion of your business expanding in the future? Could GPO also produce such documents for state and local governments, as suggested in the NAPA study's Recommendation #9?

Response. In the wake of 9/11 and the introduction HSPD–12 and related Federal identification requirements, there has been an increase in the Government's need for secure credentials. With the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing, GPO implemented a capability in FY 2008 to help address this need. While GPO is far from the only provider of such requirements for Federal agencies, the volume of work processed by our capability has increased and is projected to increase in future years, as the report of the National Academy of Public Administration recently concluded. Regarding the production of secure credentials for state and local governments, GPO does not have the statutory authority to produce work that is not authorized by Federal law, nor are we equipped and staffed to handle secure credentials for all Federal agencies, much less for state and local governments.

Question 8. It is my understanding that aside from printing passports, GPO has also undertaken the manufacture of Border Crossing Cards and trusted traveler cards. Government agencies have been procuring from the private sector and issuing to their employees and contractors secure ID documents for decades. When did GPO get into the business of creating and providing secure credentials, other than passports? Can you please provide rationale as to why GPO believes that it should do this work for government agencies as opposed to the private sector, which has invested heavily to develop these new technologies?

Response. GPO provides a government-to-government solution to fulfill the requisitions of Federal agencies for secure credentials. Our program is staffed by cleared personnel and backed by a secure supply chain.

The establishment of our secure credential capability was endorsed to GPO management by GPO's Inspector General in 2005. GPO's proposal to set up a secure card center with its Security and Intelligent Documents business unit subsequently was approved in FY 2008 by the Joint Committee on Printing, which since then has also approved—on a bipartisan basis—all funding for this program in GPO's annual spending plans. In 2010, we became the only Federal agency certified by the General Services Administration to graphically personalize HSPD–12 credentials. In 2012 the Joint Committee on Printing approved the establishment of a COOP capability for our secure credential operations.

GPO serves as a card integrator, working closely with private sector providers to obtain the products and services needed to fulfill requisitions submitted by Federal agencies. For several years we have been accepted member of the Secure Card Alliance, a consortium of private sector companies and Federal agencies including the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, and the General Services Administration (http://www.smartcardalliance.org/). We work with the private sector for consulting, fabrication, design, materials, and supplies, essentially incorporating the best that industry has to offer into solutions sought by Federal agencies that requisition the work from us.

GPO's secure credentials capability serves as a valuable resource to a number of Federal agencies, including the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the U.S. Capitol Police, which relied on us to provide secure law enforcement credentials for the 2009 and 2013 Presidential inaugurations. In addition to satisfactorily fulfilling Federal agency requisitions for secure

credentials, our card production program was endorsed in the recent report of the National Academy of Public Administration. GPO provides secure credential products and services on a reimbursable basis with no appropriated funds.

Throughout the existence of GPO's secure credentials program, we have been open and transparent about its operation. As noted above, we are a well-known member of the Smart Card Alliance. We are subject to the oversight of the Joint Committee on Printing and our House and Senate legislative oversight and appropriations committees. Additionally, our program has been the subject of oversight by our Office of Inspector General (see for example http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/ig/audits/11-06_AuditReport(Issued_March_31_2011).pdf); the IG's semiannual reports to Congress for several years routinely tracked oversight of the GPO's secure credentials program as a ''management challenge'' (see for example http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/ig/semi-annual/11-30-09.pdf). We have kept the public informed through press releases (see for example http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/09news19.pdf, http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/10news39.pdf, and http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/11news60.pdf), YouTube videos (see for example http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=levIY1qIPy0, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ettaBOW4UEA, and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQxH1EZA71I), GPO annual reports to Congress, and other media.

Question 9. GPO's mission statement, articulated recently in your agency's strategic plan ''is to produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government.'' Do you consider the production of secure credentials as fundamentally related to or falling under GPO's mission? Do you believe that the manufacture of secure credentials falls within the definition of ''printing'' under Section 501 of Title 44 U.S.C.? If so, has the GPO communicated this interpretation to federal agencies in any of its discussions with federal agencies? For ID cards and passports: what is the cost of the ink and graphics component per security card? What is the cost of the technological component per card?

Response. Our ''produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government'' mission statement appears in our strategic plan and elsewhere to describe the informing function that GPO carries out, a function that is traceable to Article I in the Constitution. However, the public printing statutes of Title 44, U.S.C., make it clear that the performance of printing for the Government extends to a broad variety of products and services, some of which do not necessarily relate to an informing function. Over the years GPO has produced or procured tax forms, census forms, Social Security cards, ration cards, letterheads, envelopes, passports, postal cards, and other printed products that are associated with the operations of the Government. These products are produced by printing processes, including the processes of composition, presswork, and binding, which are defmed in Title 44 as within GPO's authority to perform. The production of secure credentials for Federal agencies also involves printing processes, and so GPO is authorized to produce them (though as a practical matter, GPO is able and equipped to produce only a limited amount of secure credential work). As long as Federal agencies submit a requisition that complies with the relevant provisions of Title 44 (certifying that the products requested are authorized by law, necessary to the public business, and backed by the necessary funding), GPO will perform the work. Federal agencies who have contacted us to discuss our secure credential capabilities are aware of this fact. Regarding the cost of ink and graphics component per security card, ink is a very small percentage of the material cost for any of our products (less than 1%). The technological component of our card business (chip and antenna) is about 20–25%.

Question 10. As you know, only about 16 percent of the GPO is appropriated by Congress. The rest of GPO's funding comes from ''operating profits.'' Did Congress appropriate the money for the Secure Credential Innovation Center—which is what I understand to be a new multi-million dollar GPO facility? Or was that facility funded through operating profits from ID card and other sales? Will the facility affect overhead costs?

Response. There appears to be a misunderstanding about GPO's Secure Credential Innovation Center (SCIC). This is a small (529 sq ft) work space on the 5th floor of GPO's building C that is staffed by one FTE and equipped with a single opening laminator, laser cutter, CNC mill, plasma torch, UV epoxy curing station, and related equipment for the design and testing of security features requisitioned by Federal agencies for passports and other secure credentials. It is not a ''multi-million dollar'' facility. It was funded through the revolving fund, not appropriated funds.

We also opened a secure card COOP capability at our Stennis, MS, facility in 2013, with the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing. The capital investment proposed for this project was $2.2 million dollars, including $1.5 million for a card printer and installation, $450,000 for the required IT infrastructure, $175,000 for necessary space renovations and security upgrades, and an estimated $75,000 in support and travel costs. All costs were funded through GPO's revolving fund, and the project came in on time and under budget.

As costs of GPO's SID business unit, neither the Stennis facility nor the SCIC are included in overhead costs for the GPO as a whole. They are direct costs that are recovered through the rates charged for SID products.

As noted earlier, none of the funds for GPO's secure card capability are appropriated by Congress. Concerning GPO's finances under section 309 of Title 44, U.S.C., GPO does not generate ''operating profits'' but is limited to recovering its costs. Part of these costs includes the ability to generate funds for investment in necessary equipment and plant improvements.

Question 11. I've heard that GPO ''sales teams'' have been telling the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies that utilize ID card technologies for various programs—for example, to control access to our borders and to verify immigration status—that they are required by law to obtain their secure ID documents from the GPO, because the GPO is the government's printer. Do you believe that this is the case? Do you believe government-issued secure ID cards must be manufactured by and purchased from the GPO, rather than the private sector? If so . . . do you believe the GPO has the technological and security capabilities to produce these types of items? If not . . . are GPO sales teams in error if and when they state that federal agencies are required to purchase these items from the GPO by law?

Response. In hearings before the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee for FY 2010, former Public Printer Robert C. Tapella said, ''I believe that Federal credentials belong in a Federally-owned, Federally-operated production environment and not in the private sector. And I think it is an inherently governmental activity'' (Hearings, Part II, April 28, 2009, p. 166). GPO management today does not endorse this position nor would it be practical. As a member organization of the Smart Card Alliance, we acknowledge the role of the private sector secure credentials industry in providing products and services to Federal agencies, and we work closely with them in the integration of card components to meet the requirements of products requisitioned from us. We do not compete against private sector companies for secure credential work. GPO provides a limited capability that is available for the use of Federal agencies seeking the provision of services in a govermnent-to-government setting, staffed by cleared personnel, and backed by a secure supply chain. As a postscript, GPO's SID business unit has one FTE (no sales teams) responsible for addressing inquiries for SID products and services that come from Federal agencies.

Question 12. It is my understanding that GPO either will soon or has recently begun manufacturing the US Border Crossing Card. The GPO ''won'' that business away from a private sector vendor. Please explain the process by which GPO ''won'' the contract away from the private sector and the decision-making behind GPO taking over production of the Border Crossing Card.

Response. We do not compete against private sector companies for secure credential work, and as a result we do not ''win business away'' from them. The Department of State submitted an SF–1 requisition to GPO for the production of the border crossing card. The decision to come to GPO for the production of this card was made by the Department, and the Department's requisition to us fulfilled all lawful requirements. GPO cannot participate in Federal agency RFPs where the private sector is involved. We are required by law to respond to requisitions for printing services from Federal agencies.

Question 13. Are you aware of testimony before the House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on National Security that said that over 30,000 counterfeit US Border Crossing Cards have been found at our US borders? Now that GPO will be producing Border Crossing Cards, could you please explain to the Committee how you will ensure that these cards have the anti-counterfeit technologies required to make these cards truly secure? Do you feel that GPO has the technical expertise and capability to ensure that these cards are equipped with anti-counterfeit technologies?

Response. We are familiar with this testimony, which is posted online by the Subcommittee. (In reviewing the

testimony provided at the hearing, we noted that the number of Border Crossing Cards identified as fraudulent rather than counterfeit by Chairman Chaffetz was 13,000, and that this number was identified in FY 2009, at http://oversighthouse.gov/hearing/border-security-oversight-part-iii-border-crossingcards-b1b2–visas/, 2:04:15). GPO received the requisition from the Department of State to begin producing the Border Crossing Card in 2013. We also noted that in the hearing the value of the Nexus card, which used to cross the border with Canada, was described very positively. GPO produces the Nexus card for the Department of Homeland Security.

Concerning GPO's ability to produce cards with anti-counterfeit technologies, GPO has significant expertise in the field of secure document design based on our work with passports. We have designed Government credentials with advanced security features. We work closely with the Department of Homeland Security's fraudulent document lab experts to validate credential designs and utilize both Government and commercial laboratories to test and evaluate our credential performances. For the Border Crossing Card, GPO worked with forensic document examiners at the Department of Homeland Security and with Department of State personnel to develop a product designed to withstand attempts at counterfeiting. We have the expertise and capability to ensure that these cards are equipped with anti-counterfeit technologies.

Question 14. I have heard that one of the ''selling points'' GPO uses with executive branch agencies is that the GPO can manufacture cards for them while also avoiding the competitive bidding requirements under Federal Acquisition Regulations. Do you believe that the GPO is required to follow the Federal Acquisition Regulations when it buys microchips, antennae, software, laminating materials, substantive expertise and training for its employees? Do all of those items need to be competitively bid to the private sector? Or can GPO buy essentially whatever it wants from whoever it wants, because it is doing so with money from operating profits rather than congressionally appropriated funds? Do you believe that following Federal Acquisition regulations would save the GPO money?

Response. GPO's Materials Management Acquisition Regulation (MMAR) is based on the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and is used as the authority for all procurements we make. Under the MMAR, GPO competitively bids for the acquisition of products and services used in GPO operations, including those required for the production of secure credentials. GPO's utilization of sole source procurement authority follows the same provisions established in the FAR for other Federal agencies.

As noted earlier, under the law GPO does not generate ''operating profits'' but is limited to recovering its costs. Part of these costs includes the ability to generate funds for investment in necessary equipment and plant improvements.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA) NATION-WIDE ACCESS REVIEW

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I rise today in support of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki's announcement that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will complete a nation-wide access review. As stated, the purpose of this review is to ensure a full understanding of VA's policy and continued integrity in managing patient access to care. As part of the review during the next several weeks, a national face-to-face audit will be conducted at all clinics for every VA Medical Center.

I am confident in the health care our veterans in Florida are receiving. With eight VA Medical Centers in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico and over 55 clinics serving over 1.6 million veterans, veterans are getting the best in the world.

Over 2,312 physicians and 5,310 nurses are serving the 546,874 veterans who made nearly 8 million visits to the facilities in our region. Of the total 25,133 VA employees, one-third are veterans.

In 2013, 37,221 women received health care services at VA hospitals and clinics in Florida, South Georgia and the Caribbean—more than any other VA healthcare network nationwide. This means that more than 75 percent of women Veterans enrolled for VA healthcare in VISN 8 were seen by providers in 2013.

I am especially pleased at the new Jacksonville Replacement Outpatient Clinic that was recently opened. The two-story, 133,500 square foot clinic provides state of the art technology and increased specialty services including diagnostics, improved laboratory facilities, expansion of women's services, minor ambulatory surgical procedures, expanded mental health telehealth services and additional audiology.

When opened, the Orlando VA Medical Center will include 134 inpatient beds, an outpatient clinic, parking garages, chapel and central energy plant. Currently, the 120-bed community living center and 60-bed domiciliary are open and accepting veterans.

The VA provides quality timely healthcare to our veterans. We have a duty to make sure that all those who have defended this country when called upon receive the care they have earned through their service. I support the Secretary in his nation-wide access review and look forward to hearing his report when it is finished.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which occurred on May 17th, 1954, and paved the way for integration of American schools during the Civil Rights Movement.

This unanimous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court established that state laws allowing for segregated public schools were unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment, energizing the movement to end Jim Crow laws dictating voting rights, public transportation, dining establishments, and almost every other aspect of American communities. One of the most important decisions in our nation's history, Brown was a deliberate rejection of a system of racial inequality.

Virginia's Fifth District is an integral part of the history of the Brown decision as Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward School was one of the five combined cases decided by the Supreme Court in Brown. In 1951, 450 students at Moton High School, an African-American school in Farmville, Virginia, staged a walkout to protest the inferior facilities and unsuitable conditions at the school. The protest began as an effort to equalize educational opportunities for all students in the county, but quickly escalated to a battle for desegregation as the NAACP joined the Moton students' cause along with the other cases decided in Brown. Thanks to this pivotal decision and the efforts of so many upstanding Virginians, the students of Moton High School won a great victory against segregation to ensure equality for young people across the country. While it did not end the struggle for desegregation, it certainly was a catalyst for change.

The promise of equal opportunity is a core facet of our Constitution. Today, we thank those who courageously fought for equality, leading to the Brown decision that led to the dismantling of racial segregation in our nation's public schools and giving life to the promise of our Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN OSTRUM AND ALAN KLAPAT OF THE WILKES-BARRE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Ostrum and Alan Klapat of the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department, who were recently promoted from the rank of captain to assistant fire chief and deputy fire chief, respectively. Together, they have almost 60 years of combined experience serving the city of Wilkes-Barre.

John Ostrum, a second generation firefighter, is the most senior member of the fire department. After joining the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department as a firefighter in 1978, he has

served for the past 26 years as fire captain. Ostrum has completed many fire and emergency response training programs, including water rescue, firefighter survival, and emergency vehicle driver training.

Alan Klapat has served the Wilkes-Barre fire department for 23 years. During his career, Klapat has served as lead fire investigator, fire training officer, and fire inspector for the city's fire department. He also provides fire safety education programs to civic and social organizations, elementary schools, educators, and child/adult caregivers. Before joining the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department, Klapat was enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and attained the rank of Sergeant.

I am proud to celebrate the achievements of these two distinguished public servants. They deserve our gratitude for their decades of dedication to public safety, and I wish them the best of luck as they protect the city of Wilkes-Barre in their essential new roles.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 120TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of the General Federation of Women's Clubs as its members gather for its 120th Annual Convention.

The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) was founded in 1894 as a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. With a membership of nearly 8,000 women among 220 clubs, NJSFWC is the largest women's volunteer community service organization in New Jersey. It also boasts the third largest state membership of all of the clubs within the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The 220 clubs of the NJSFWC are committed to fulfilling the NJSFWC's mission of making a difference in the community through projects and volunteerism. In 2012, the NJSFWC clubs completed over 35,500 community service projects and over 800,000 volunteer hours. The NJSFWC partners with other community-based organizations, such as The Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Autism New Jersey and Domestic Violence Shelters of New Jersey, among others, to help raise funds and organize projects. In addition to their volunteerism, NJSFWC members also advocate for policy issues fundamental to community improvement.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the 120th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of the General Federation of Women's Club. The club's commitment to providing opportunities for women to engage in community service and improve the lives of others is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES: 2014 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE WINNER

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences on receiving the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This prestigious award, offered annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community.

I have the good fortune to represent our state's Fourth Congressional District, which has earned accolades as one of the nation's best places to live, work, do business and raise a family. The vibrancy of this district stems from a remarkable concentration of world-renowned educational and cultural institutions—North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences prominently among them.

As one of the oldest natural history museums in the United States—providing services to our state for the past 134 years—it has transformed how museums engage their community and how members of the public understand, learn and participate in science activities. It strengthens North Carolina's K–12 education pipeline, increases the public's science literacy, and prepares tomorrow's researchers with college- and workforce-ready skills.

The Museum of Natural Sciences has positioned itself as a highly-regarded venue for topflight special exhibits of all kinds. Right now, it features a Rainforest Adventure exhibit, and it has hosted special exhibits on Birds of Paradise, Dinosaurs, Wildlife in North Carolina photography, and Journey through the Arctic in recent years. But it has also gone off the beaten path to expand the breadth of the Natural Sciences with special exhibits on the Titanic, Genghis Khan, the Brain, and my two personal favorites: Chocolate and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Along with the museum's permanent collections, these outstanding exhibits have helped make the Museum the most-visited museum and one of the top overall attractions in the state. Consider these numbers: more than 1 million people come to visit this museum in Raleigh every year; more than 30,000 others experience the museum's off-site offerings, with its world-renowned scientists and staff visiting locations such as schools, libraries, hospitals and senior and community centers; and millions of additional people are able to take advantage of interactive educational programs offered online. The Museum also makes unique efforts to reach lower-income communities and those with special needs.

Our Museum is one of just ten recipients of the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal for Museum and Library Service—an award reserved for museums that are making exceptional contributions to their community. The Museum of Natural Sciences has had a remarkable impact on the community—not just in Raleigh, but across the state of North Carolina.

As we congratulate Director Emlyn Koster and the Museum's other current leaders, it is also important to recognize long-time Director Dr. Betsy Bennett, who retired just over a year ago. Betsy took the museum from modest circumstances to the gleaming, high-tech, user-friendly facility we see today. The Nature Research Center, for example, which opened in 2012, is a testament to her dogged determination to see her shared vision come to fruition. Betsy's skill working with the State Legislature, successive state administrators, and collaborators in Washington is legendary. As former Governor Jim Hunt aptly noted, she is a ''force of nature.'' As her partner in the never-ending quest for funds, I have particular reason to see this award as a culmination.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I offer congratulations to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences—and each of the other National Medal winners—for achieving this distinction. And I thank each of this year's medal recipients for their innovation and their dedication to serving their communities. Our nation is better for your service.

CONGRATULATING TERRY GIBSON

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Terry Gibson, a vibrant resident of Ventura County, who will celebrate her 80th birthday on May 27, 2014.

Originally from the San Fernando Valley, Terry has always been an active member of her community. Her generosity and spirit of giving is resonated in her work, where her depth of sincerity and selflessness knows no limits.

While living in Glendale, California, Terry served as President of Temple Sinai, President of the Sisterhood of Temple Sinai, Vice President for new members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Southwest Region and Executive Vice President of the Western States Federation of Sisterhoods. In each of these leadership roles, Terry's spirit of volunteerism and commitment to her community never wavered even while she was a full-time, single working mother.

When Terry moved to Ventura County, her penchant for being an active and contributing community member continued. As a resident of Oxnard, she helped in the founding of the Ventura Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) and served as its first president for two years. Under her direct leadership, the Ventura County Chapter of the NWPC was able to increase women's participation in the political process. Today, with Terry's unwavering help, the organization continues to recruit, train and support diverse female candidates who will bring a woman's perspective to issues such as reproductive health, the environment and social, educational and economic justice. Her vision of gender parity in California politics is a mission we are all united on.

With her extensive experience, Terry has served as the treasurer for the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative, where she is part of an organization that is dedicated to empowering Ventura County women in areas such as education, health, economic justice, power sharing, institutional mechanisms, and

human rights. Her impacts in the Ventura County political sphere have been extensive and invaluable.

In her personal life, Terry is even more remarkable. She is the mother of five children, grandmother to fourteen grandchildren and great grandmother to three great grandchildren. Indicative of her sharp character and dedication to her personal and professional priorities, Terry has never missed a birthday, graduation, or family celebration during her years of working and volunteering in her community. She truly is as dedicated to her family as she is to her community.

I want to congratulate and thank Terry for all of her years of community service and it is with great enthusiasm that I offer Terry Gibson my sincere congratulations on the occasion of her 80th birthday! I wish her a very happy birthday and express my appreciation and admiration for all that she has accomplished.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 8, 2014, I was at home in Wisconsin taking care of my amazing wife and our new baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

1. H. Res. 567—Providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi—"yea."

2. H.R. 2548—The Electrify Africa Act of 2014—"yea."