EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING FORT BRAGG'S PAUL BUNYAN DAYS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Paul Bunyan Days in Fort Bragg, California, on the event of its 75th Anniversary August 29, Sunday, through September 1, 2014.

For seventy-five years, the citizens of Fort Bragg have celebrated and honored the history of the community and its foundation in logging. The first celebration of Paul Bunyan, a giant lumberjack in American Folklore, was held in the year 1939. As the economy and culture of the coast continue to change, this three-day celebration will continue to honor the town's roots, history, and traditions.

With the dedication of its residents, Fort Bragg's Paul Bunyan Days will surely continue to be a wonderful celebration for the entire family. Please join me in expressing hearty congratulations to Fort Bragg's Paul Bunyan Days on the occasion of the festival's 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION'S CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important occasion, National Constitution Week. The important designation was made official by President Dwight Eisenhower on August 2, 1956 at the urging of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Constitution Week is celebrated every year during the week of September 17–23. The week-long celebration commemorates America's most important and oldest living document. It has grown and evolved slightly over the years, but the Constitution has always been a symbol of freedom for the United States, as well as people around the world.

I am especially proud of the work done by the Ecor Rouge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Baldwin County, Alabama, to bring attention to our nation's most important governing document during Constitution Week.

Constitution Week not only celebrates this iconic document, but also encourages citizens to take the time to read and learn about the document and reflect on what values it embodies as a primary symbol of freedom and patriotism. This week encourages reflection and celebrates our founding document which means so much to the history of the United States.

As the Daughters of the American Revolution have stated, the purpose of this celebration is to emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage, and encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

Mr. Speaker, we are, and have been from our birth, a nation that guarantees our citizens' very basic rights. And our government, as its very core function, is supposed to keep these rights secure. Our government does not create its own powers. Our government only gets its powers from the citizens' consent. That is why our Constitution is so important.

So on this Constitution Week, I encourage all Americans to take time to read our nation's Constitution and refresh our minds to the legacy of the document on which our nation's government is rooted.

HONORING DR. JASON TAYLOR SNODGRASS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of Dr. Jason Taylor Snodgrass of Independence, Missouri. Dr. Snodgrass is the principal of Fort Osage High School in Independence, Missouri, and has been selected by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals as the 2014 Missouri High School Principal of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Snodgrass's ability to excel in the ever-demanding role of principal in all aspects of education.

Dr. Snodgrass is a major contributing factor to the increasing success students are finding at Fort Osage High School. His results-driven leadership has seen an increase in the average ACT score and a 10% increase in ACT participation. His mantra, "Here at Fort Osage, we do things a little bit better!" has built up school spirit and pride while empowering the students of Fort Osage High School into believing in themselves and their own future. Dr. Snodgrass is a true asset to the Fort Osage School District with his commitment to students, relationship building and long-range goals for students, teachers and Fort Osage High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Dr. Jason Taylor Snodgrass's outstanding professionalism and commitment to educating the American youth. I join with Dr. Snodgrass's colleagues, family, friends, and students in congratulating him on his outstanding achievement, and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

TEXAS TOWNS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the best things about Texas is the fact that Texas towns each have their own unique history. There are hundreds of stories about towns and their colorful past and the settlers who founded them. However, the most interesting part of their unique history is how each town received its name.

A notable example is Gun Barrel City that picked up its name in the 1920s prohibition era. The secluded area in North Texas was also one of the hideouts for Bonnie and Clyde. Apparently, a moonshiner living on the main road to the remote area sat in his front room with a shotgun barrel sticking out of the window, watching for Federal Revenuers and Texas lawmen. Thus, came the name Gun Barrel City.

Dime Box was first called Brown's Mill in the 1860s. Since there was no Postal Service, settlers would leave mail in a wooden box at the mill with a dime. Old Man Brown would then take the letters (and dimes) then go 15 miles away to the official post office in Giddings and pick up mail for the community. When the Post Office eventually appeared, it made the community change its name. The concern was that Brown's Mill sounded too much like Brownsville; naturally they could not have that. So, they decided on Dime Box. Not to be outdone, by the "10 cent town," there is a Nickel, Texas.

Notrees, which you can guess by its literal name, is obviously in barren west Texas. It received the name when the only tree in the area was cut down for an oil and gas drilling boom in the 1940s.

There are many more such places in Texas with odd names, such as Hoop and Holler in nearby Liberty County. The list goes on, including towns like: Salty, Oatmeal, Earth, Moscow, Turkey, Tarzan, Ding Dong, Happy, Paris, Bigfoot, Muleshoe, and Hogeye.

My all-time favorite is Cut and Shoot, Texas, close to Conroe. There are several versions of how it got its name, but the one that seems the most credible comes from The History of Montgomery County, by William Harley Gandy, whose family members witnessed this story firsthand. According to Gandy, the following happened 112 years ago:

The homesteaders in this area were a God-fearing community of a couple hundred. They erected a community church/school for almost all denominations to use, including the Methodists, Missionary Baptists, and Hard Shell Baptists. However, they prohibited the Mormons and Apostolics from using the building.

All went well with the different religious groups until an out-of-towner of the Apostolic faith showed up ready to preach to the local sinners at the church house. Pastor Stamps was welcomed by some, but not by others.

Soon the community was divided into two groups: the ''Let him Preach'' group and the ''He Aint Preaching'' group. The two groups agreed to vote on it and set a meeting for Sunday morning, July 21, 1912. Someone locked the door of the meeting house, likely to keep the Preacher from preaching. Word got around that the door to the church was locked. Those who sided with Stamps vowed to break the doors down. So, both sides sent ''Paul Revere riders'' throughout the town, telling them to bring their firearms to the scheduled Sunday church meeting.

On Sunday morning, both sides showed up at the locked church building. Many had not only packed a lunch, but they also put their knives and pistols in their wagons just in case there was trouble. The obvious argument between the two sides erupted, and guns and knives were brandished. Unkind words may have been uttered as well.

Eventually, the ''Let him preach'' (in the building) crowd backed off. So preacher Stamps had to preach under a nearby tree. Later, a makeshift structure was erected for Stamps to preach all summer long under some shade—but he could not enter the church building.

However, the churchgoers headed off to court the next day. Both sides filed assault and disorderly conduct charges on the other with a nearby local Justice of the Peace (JP). Obscene language charges were alleged as well. (I guess unkind words were actually spoken at the church house by the church goers.)

When the JP inquired of a witness where the altercation took place in the County, a witness not knowing the actual location replied that it happened at the place of the cutting and shooting fight. The name Cut and Shoot stuck, and the rest is Texas history.

Let it be known that the names of Texas towns are not random, but a living symbol of what once was. They give us Texans a peak into how life used to be. The names of these towns represent vivid stories about culture and community with just a couple of words, all adding to the rich history of our great state.

And that's just the way it is.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO BRUCE WAYNE PHILPOTT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bruce Wayne Philpott of Pasadena, California, former Pasadena Police Chief, who passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, after courageously battling a prolonged illness.

Born in Portland, Oregon on January 8, 1944, to Vernon and Zoe Philpott, Bruce grew up in Portland and later, in Sunland, California. A natural athlete, Bruce enjoyed sports, especially baseball, hiking and camping, and fishing trips with his father and his two brothers, Kent and Gary. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from California State University Los Angeles and completed graduate studies at the University of Southern California School of Public Administration.

As a young man, Bruce became a law enforcement officer with the Pasadena Police Department. He served the police department with honor and distinction for 28 years, successfully moving through the ranks to the position of Chief of Police. In addition to his work with the police department, Chief Philpott served his community as a Special Assistant to the Pasadena City Manager and Director of Northwest Development, commander of the Pasadena Fire Department's Support Services Division, as well as teaching classes at Pasadena High School and Pasadena City College. He received several awards including the Community Ethics Award from the Glendale Character and Ethics Project, the Brotherhood Citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Pasadena Police Department's Silver Award of Merit.

After his retirement, in 1991, Chief Philpott continued to ardently serve his community through political activism and volunteering with numerous organizations. He was known for being outspoken and tenacious, with a passion for social justice and advocating for youth, especially related to inequity and poverty. Bruce helped revitalize the northwest Pasadena community and played a significant role in the Villa Parke youth boxing program. He was the co-founder and served on the board of the Community Non-Violence Resource Center, co-founder and Board President of Day One, a nonprofit organization focused on addressing issues of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse in Pasadena area youth, and he developed and facilitated the Partnership Workshop, Healing the Heart of America, A National Cities Conference, in Richmond, Virginia. In addition, he served on the board of directors for the Jackie Robinson Foundation, Pasadena Boys and Girls Club, Pasadena Planned Parenthood, Child Health Foundation and the Western Justice Center Foundation.

Bruce is survived by his three children, Kris Strong, Kelly Sturgeon and Greg Philpott, his brother, Kent Philpott, and his five grandchildren, Dustin, Samantha, Carson, Nicole and Mark.

Chief Philpott was an irreplaceable part of our community, and he will be greatly missed. A model public servant and a man of impeccable character, I ask all members to join me in remembering Bruce Wayne Philpott.

RECOGNIZING VALERIE RASCHKE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valerie (Val) Raschke who is transitioning from her position as Congressional Representative after serving the district for nearly two years.

Val served as District Scheduler and Marin County Field Representative for California's 6th District State Assembly Office for five years prior to joining California's 2nd Congressional District Office staff at the beginning of the 113th Congress. Val's steadfast devotion to the constituents of Marin County and Sonoma County performing a myriad of assignments helped countless individuals throughout the region tackle challenging issues. With a special attention to veterans' services, Val worked tirelessly to improve conditions for others. Her work with the military academy nominations helped many students navigate the applications process in hopes of serving the country.

Val served as my trusted representative in many community events where she was always regarded for her professional and thoughtful manner. Her expertise and personal flair in the creation of hundreds of certificates of recognition over the years, and more recently, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statements, were greatly valued by the many recipients of these honors. Revered for her strong work ethic, command of the written language, competence for managing sophisticated database systems, and wonderful sense of humor, Val has been an invaluable member of my staff in the State Assembly and the Second Congressional District and will be missed.

The residents of our congressional districts are better off today thanks to the work of Val Raschke. Her commitment to advocating for individuals in need of federal assistance is appreciated and we wish her continued success in the future. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Val for her many years of invaluable service to the people of Marin and Sonoma counties.

IN MEMORY OF JONATHAN FRENCH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Jonathan French of Glendale, KY. Only 25 years old, Jonathan was killed in a tragic accident while doing his job as a volunteer firefighter.

Jonathan's death represents the first on-duty firefighter to be killed in the line of duty there since July 1970. The entire Hardin County community is grieving the loss—a young man who was a son, a brother, a mentor and a fiancé.

His interests included hunting and rooting for the University of Kentucky's basketball team, but his passion was firefighting. A fellow Glendale volunteer firefighter reiterated that in an interview with the local paper, The News-Enterprise. ''He loved keeping the fire trucks clean. He took his firefighting seriously. He was one heck of a good man.''

A dedicated public servant, Jonathan was taken too soon. But his legacy and strong desire to serve his community will surely continue. I join with Kentucky's Second District in sending prayers to Jonathan's family. We will miss him and are thankful for his service.

HONORING DR. EDWARD GETTEMEIER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of Dr. Edward Gettemeier. Dr. Gettemeier is the principal of Hardin Middle School in St. Charles, Missouri, and has been selected by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals as the 2014 Missouri

Middle School Principal of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Gettemeier's ability to excel in the ever-demanding role of principal in all aspects of education.

Dr. Gettemeier is a major contributing factor to the increasing success students are finding at Hardin Middle School. He has modeled a high-rate work ethic that has permeated throughout the school. Through his work, Hardin has seen a significant increase in access to technology and developed programs to meet the needs of Hardin Middle School's diverse student population. Dr. Gettemeier has been a leader on implementing the St. Charles School District's Standards-Based Grading and worked with the St. Charles Juvenile Justice Center to develop a Teen Court system for Hardin students. His plan to improve the ABC's—Academics, Behavior, and Climate—have transformed Hardin Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Dr. Edward Gettemeier's outstanding professionalism and commitment to educating the American youth. I join with Dr. Gettemeier's colleagues, family, friends, and students in congratulating him on his outstanding achievement, and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERB STOTTLER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life of Herb Stottler, 79, who passed away on August 30, 2014, surrounded by those he loved dearly.

The citizens of Northeast Ohio are hard-working, honest Americans, and Herb was no exception. Herb was a dedicated labor leader, as well as a strong advocate for the Democratic Party. Herb served his nation proudly in the United States Marine Corps, where he was honorably discharged. Herb also faithfully devoted himself to his community, where he served as Ward 7 Council for the City of Akron, before becoming the International Staff Representative for the United Steel Workers of America.

Herb was preceded in death by his mother, Mona; brother, Bob; dear daughter, Debra Leigh; and nephew by marriage, Dave Fritz. He leaves behind his loving wife of 30 years, Jan; daughters, Pam and Tonia; granddaughters, Misty, Rachel (Matt), and Chelcie; great-grandsons, Dylan and Sam; brother, John (Suzie); nephews, Brian (Jan) and Bob (Kathy); nieces, Christine (David), Kim (Terry), and Jackie; and many great-nieces and nephews.

I am deeply saddened and extend my condolences to his entire family. Herb was a strong and dedicated man, who will be missed by those whose lives he impacted, because of his dedication and unwavering service, Northeast Ohio is a better place.

BILL SCHWERI

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of southern and eastern Kentucky, Mr. Bill Schweri, upon his retirement as the Director of Federal Relations at the University of Kentucky.

During his 42 years at the University of Kentucky, Bill has been a champion for progress in education, healthcare, and energy research across the state. Behind the scenes of Kentucky's highly esteemed flagship university, Bill has been a driving force, seeking out partnerships, programs and funding to help the most distressed region of the Commonwealth. I'm certain there is not a single resource that Bill hasn't researched for the benefit of southern and eastern Kentucky.

No one knows the value and power of creating and sustaining long-time partnerships quite like Bill. If the University of Kentucky needed a partner to improve education or access to healthcare, Bill ensured the connection was secured with his genuine, kind and humble approach. Most leaders seek recognition or credit for their efforts, but that has never been the case with Bill.

His work has lead to exponential growth of UK's research enterprise and jumpstarted new research initiatives that have enabled the university to be successful in competing for federal grants and contracts. This riveting scientific research on cancer, fossil energy, transportation and agriculture is blazing new trails in every aspect of our everyday life, and our country—to say nothing of our state—is better off for it. He has fought for legislation that is important to UK and student financial aid. Bill has also been a leader in The Science Coalition, and actively involved in the Council on Governmental Affairs, and the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. Over the years, he has deservedly gained the utmost respect of his peers in federal relations.

As he departs his post at the University of Kentucky, it is my intention to ensure Bill Schweri receives the recognition that is due him, for his tireless efforts on behalf of students and families across Kentucky, and specifically people living in Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District. We hope he knows he always has the thanks of a grateful Big Blue Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend Bill Schweri as we bid him a joy-filled retirement.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ANDREW BEATTIE, JR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Louis Andrew Beattie, Jr. of La Cañada Flintridge, California, an outstanding community leader, who passed away on Sunday, July 27, 2014.

Louis Beattie, better known as "Andy," was born on February 3, 1953 in Brownsville, Pennsylvania to Louis Andrew Beattie, Sr. and Marilynn Beattie. The Beattie family moved to Ventura, California in 1956, where Andy attended El Camino Elementary School, Anacapa Junior High School, and Buena High School where he was ASB President, Sophomore Class President, and a member of the Buena High School Hall of Fame. Andy graduated from Occidental College in 1975, earning a B.A. in Political Science. He was a devoted alumnus of Occidental College, serving as President of the Alumni Association Board of Governors and as a member of the Occidental College Board of Trustees. Andy had a long and successful career in the fashion and clothing industry, holding the position of Senior Vice President of Strategic Partners, Inc., a uniform and apparel company. Because of his interest and experience in the clothing industry, he and his wife, Kim, formed a line of pajamas called Liz & Lauren, named after their eldest daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, an enterprise of which he was very proud.

Andy was dedicated in both his professional pursuits and his commitment to serving his community and our country. On the local level, Mr. Beattie was a Public Safety Commissioner for La Cañada Flintridge for six years, playing a significant role in initiating La Cañada Flintridge's new "Alert LCF" emergency notification system and the city's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. He served as president of the La Cañada Unified School Board, working to improve the educational programs and buildings in the La Cañada Flintridge schools, and president of the La Cañada High School Spartan Boosters. Andy's public service extended beyond his local community as he spent many years volunteering for the White House's Office of Advance, a department responsible for coordinating the travel schedules of the President and press corps. Mr. Beattie travelled with President Clinton and President Obama often, and he visited several nations including Iraq, Poland, South Korea, Chile, and India during his service for the White House.

Andy Beattie is remembered in his community as a fair, honest, smart, and thoughtful person, who "put family first." He is survived by his wife, Kim Beattie, their three daughters, Sarah, Katherine, and Lauren, his mother, Marilynn, and his brothers, Neil and John.

Andy was an exceptional community leader, admired by all as a man of impeccable character and he will be greatly missed. I ask all members to join me in remembering Louis Andrew Beattie, Jr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FEAST OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, the largest Portuguese feast in the world and one of the largest festivals in New England.

Founded in 1915, the Feast recreates the traditional religious festivals of Portugal and celebrates the safe passage onto American shores. The Feast is often referred to as "the Madeira Feast" because its roots lie in the tiny mountain and shoreside villages of the island

of Madeira, the "Pearl of the Atlantic." For the last 100 years, New Bedford has hosted the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, featuring authentic Portuguese food, wine, and music, along with lessons on Portuguese history and folklore.

Today, this historic feast continues to maintain its cultural significance to those who wish to honor the Medeira customs. Additionally, it is known to provide endless entertainment to the entire New Bedford community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the town of New Bedford and the Club Madeirense S.S. Sacramento, Inc., who sponsor the feast, for the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament's 100th anniversary. May this magnificent cultural event continue to flourish for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING AVANCE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor AVANCE, Inc. and to recognize its 40th anniversary of service to families and children in Texas. This outstanding organization was founded in 1973 to provide family support services and education to parents. AVANCE began in one room of the Mirasol Housing Project on the West Side of San Antonio with a handful of families and has grown into a national organization with sites across the country.

Every day, AVANCE's staff works tirelessly to "Unlock America's Potential" by strengthening families in at-risk communities through effective parent education and support programs. This effort has changed the lives of thousands of Texas families, leading the way for stronger, healthier communities; a sharper workforce; and increased educational attainment.

AVANCE has successfully capitalized on parents' inner strength and innate love for their children to help them become the best teachers and stewards of their children's growth and success. AVANCE works on the principle that parental education alone is sometimes not enough; an effective intervention must build parents' resilience, interpersonal connections, networks, and access to education, jobs and other opportunities. True parental engagement empowers parents to become advocates for their children and families.

Studies have shown the effectiveness of AVANCE's two-generation approach. In an external study designed to assess whether participation led to changes in education and socio-economic status, results showed that the AVANCE program has positive effects on families long after they graduate—especially for the most disadvantaged families. Parents had dramatic increases in educational attainment, better jobs and home ownership.

Congratulations to AVANCE President and CEO Richard J. Noriega and the AVANCE Board of Directors. Today, AVANCE has active sites in the Texas cities of San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso, Waco, Del Rio, San Juan and in the Rio Grande Valley as well as in several other states.

Mr. Speaker, I join with our community in expressing congratulations and deep gratitude to AVANCE for its more than four decades of exemplary service and dedication to the families of Texas. We wish you many more years of success toward fulfilling your mission of Unlocking America's potential.

H.R. 5078 AND H. RES. 644

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014, and had I been present would have voted against the legislation offered by Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

I am concerned that this legislation would prevent both the current and future Administrations from undergoing a rulemaking process to clarify enforcement of Clean Water Act protections of streams and tributaries around the country. This rulemaking process is necessary to clarify what is now an unclear and confusing set of guidelines as to which waterways fall under jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

The small streams, wetlands, headwaters, and tributaries that are affected by this ruling flow into the drinking water of over 117 million Americans, support businesses and recreation, and are crucial habitats for wildlife, including in my home state of Rhode Island. The Administration has undergone an open and transparent process, including a lengthy public commentary period that is still underway, to come up with a rule that more clearly defines which waterways are under jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, in order to protect our country's drinking water supply and waterways from pollution, actions that benefit every American. Preventing the Executive Branch from clarifying this issue jeopardizes the safety of waterways across the country.

Additionally, I strongly oppose H. Res. 644, condemning the President for the prisoner exchange of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, and had I been present I would have voted against it. As Commander in Chief of the U.S. Military, the President has a constitutional responsibility to protect the lives of U.S. servicemembers, as well as the lives of U.S. citizens abroad. While Members of Congress may not agree with the President's decision, a resolution calling his actions illegal is hardly helpful or useful at this time. And the fact remains, an American soldier is home safely because the President took seriously his constitutional responsibilities to protect American lives.

The decision made by the President was made in close consultation with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey. Sergeant Bergdahl had been held prisoner by Taliban forces since 2009. It was determined that there was a very narrow window of opportunity to ensure his safe return. General Dempsey has said that the opportunity to make a prisoner exchange for Sergeant Bergdahl represented the best and last chance to ensure his freedom. When confronted with the decision to either ensure Sergeant Bergdahl's safety, or allow him to die in enemy captivity, the President decided to act in order to save his life.

When we send our brave men and women in the Armed Services onto the field of battle, we send them with the assurance that we will never forget their sacrifice, and that we will leave no man behind. The President has demonstrated true leadership by honoring this pledge. I do not believe it is appropriate for Congress to undermine that leadership, or that pledge.

TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2014

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2014. This bill will improve the health care system's ability to recognize and respond to victims of trafficking by providing health care professionals with the knowledge and training they need to deal with this modern day form of slavery.

We know that the victims of sex and labor trafficking in the United States suffer from wide-ranging physical and mental health problems. In one study, over 87% of these victims have sought care from an emergency ward in a hospital, a neighborhood clinic, or a family physician. Because of this, these health care professionals are in a unique position to identify trafficking victims and help them recover.

At the same time, we are also discovering that healthcare providers and professionals remain unaware of sex trafficking and the role that they can play to help them. In fact, even when medical personnel think they have identified a victim, which is only about half the time, they don't know how to help or are not even aware that there are protocols in place to refer them to others for help. This is even more distressing because the medical professional is probably the one expert most likely to encounter a victim at some point during their enslavement.

Although trafficking is demonstrably expensive to our society—and a debilitating public health issue—current federal law does not require medical care professionals to receive training regarding the nature and scope of sex trafficking in this country. Nor does current law require health care professionals to be trained to identify possible trafficking victims, nor how to respond to victims if they are able to identify them. My bill would take the first necessary steps to make this training available.

The Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act mandates that HHS take steps to develop evidence-based protocols to recognize and respond to victims of trafficking. It also sets up a comprehensive pilot program to test these protocols and determine whether or not the protocols will actually result in victim identification and rescue. Those protocols that are shown to be evidence-based can then be taught to health care professionals as part of their medical and nursing school curriculum. They can also be included in continuing-education modules.

The U.S. government estimates that more slaves exist today than ever before. Currently, there are more than 20 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. Yet most Americans don't realize that trafficking is also a huge problem here in the United States. Some estimate that as many as 300,000 U.S. children are at risk of sex trafficking each year.

We must take action to stop this horrendous danger to our people. The bill I am introducing today instructs the Department of Health and Human Services to work with medical and nursing schools to evaluate existing protocols, and develop new ones to identify and respond to victims of trafficking. It is an appropriate concern for healthcare workers and it is my hope that, once health care professionals are convinced that the protocols are tested and evidence-based, they will welcome the opportunity to incorporate them into their medical training so that they can assist the victims and help them heal.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas: It is the privilege and duty of the American people to commemorate the two hundred twenty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

Whereas: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week; now, therefore I, TOM RICE by virtue of the authority vested in me as Representative of the 7th Congressional District of the State of South Carolina do hereby recognize the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week and urge all citizens to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

HONORING A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF DR. GLENN POSHARD

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the careers of a true champion of Southern Illinois, Dr. Glenn Poshard. I say the ''careers'' in the plural form because Glenn wore many hats—soldier, educator, legislator, administrator and advocate, in his service to his community, his state and his nation.

Born and raised in Southern Illinois, Glenn Poshard served in the U.S. Army, deployed to Korea. On returning home, Glenn used the GI Bill to begin a relationship with Southern Illinois University that would span over 40 years and include roles as a student (Glenn earned bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees from SIU Carbondale), adjunct professor, administrator and University President.

Glenn began a career in education as a high school teacher and coach, and served as the director of the Southern Illinois Educational Service Center. He began his legislative career when he was appointed to fill a seat in the Illinois Senate in 1984. He would represent Southern Illinois in that body until 1988 when he was elected to the U.S. Congress. Glenn would serve in Congress until 1999 and there are still a number of members who served with Glenn in this chamber who continue to count on him as a trusted friend and colleague.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Glenn was well known as a champion of working men and women who stood up for the needs of his constituents in Southern Illinois. Glenn worked tirelessly to secure job creation, educational opportunities, health care facilities and fair wages. He also led by example on campaign finance reform and worked to limit the influence of money in politics. Throughout his political career, Glenn was known as a fiery orator who brought crowds to their feet. By word and deed, Glenn always inspired his constituents and instilled optimism and hope.

After retiring from Congress, Glenn returned to education and his beloved Southern Illinois University where he was named vice chancellor of administration at SIU Carbondale. He served on the Board of Trustees until 2005, when he resigned to seek the position of University President, a post he held until retiring from that position this past Spring. Glenn Poshard's tenure as SIU President was the second longest in the university's history.

Fifteen years ago, Glenn and his wife, Jo (also an educator), cofounded the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children. This charitable organization has provided invaluable assistance to children who have suffered abuse and also serves as an advocacy tool in the fight to permanently eradicate the scourge of abuse that impacts far too many children and families in Southern Illinois and throughout our nation.

Throughout many roles, Glenn Poshard has always worked for the betterment of Southern Illinois and its people. He has done so as a model of integrity and inspiration. I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Glenn Poshard and expressing our appreciation for his lifetime of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOREN AND ELOUISE SUTTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Loren Sutton who have been married 58 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Loren and Elouise met at Southeastern Bible College in 1953. They were married in Birmingham, Alabama, on June 8, 1957.

Loren and Elouise accepted their call to ministry on April 6, 1958 and served as pastors in Townley and Jasper, both in Alabama, before they arrived in Opelika, Alabama, to start a new church in March of 1965.

The Suttons have four children and three grandchildren including: Loren Sutton Roberts, wife of Dr. Don Roberts; Elizabeth Sutton; Timothy Sutton; Dr. John Sutton.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Loren and Elouise Sutton for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL BEN P. BINGCANG

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to celebrate the life and share the passing of a dear friend of mine and a devoted servicemember, physician, husband and father, U.S. Army Colonel Ben P. Bingcang.

Colonel Bingcang passed away at his home in Nicholasville, Kentucky on July 31, 2014 at the age of 67 and is survived by his wife, Cornelia C. Bingcang of Nicholasville, Kentucky; his three sons, Oliver, Alexander, Christopher; and a host of family and friends.

We grieve the loss of this great American, but we also celebrate and honor his life and his service to our country. Since receiving his commission in the U.S. Army Reserves with a rank of Captain on January 3, 1983, Colonel Bingcang spent the rest of his career providing medical care and comfort to service members and civilians alike. When Colonel Bingcang was not treating patients at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, he was tending to the wounded on the battlefields and commanding hospitals during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and, in more recent years, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Bingcang embodied the best of America's ideals, values, and commitment to service, constantly living by the motto of his home reserve unit in Kentucky in both his civilian and military life: ''Say it, Mean it, Do it!''

Due to Colonel Bingcang answering the call to serve his country, many lives were saved and comforted by his medical care and countless staff and patients' spirits have been raised by his loving personality. I am forever grateful for his friendship and service to our local community and our country. He was truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, 2014 I was not present for 3 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 481, I would have voted ''yea.''

Had I been present for rollcall No. 482, I would have voted ''yea.''

Had I been present for rollcall No. 483, I would have voted ''yea.''

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 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 $17,756,856,045,819.45. We've added $7,129,978,996,906.37 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING GLEN R. BORTELL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glen R. Bortell's one hundredth birthday.

It is with great pride that I stand to honor Mr. Bortell, not only for his long life but his great contributions to the health and well-being of his fellow citizens. Mr. Bortell has not let life pass him by without many accomplishments for the good of his community and those around him. The dedication and effort of people like Mr. Bortell allow our communities to thrive and reach their utmost potential.

For nearly 10 years, Mr. Bortell has volunteered at Citrus Memorial Hospital in the diagnostic imaging department. At an age when most hope for a quiet and restful retirement, he has dedicated an amazing 5,000-plus hours of his time to the hospital and its patients. Still having so much to give, to this day Mr. Bortell continues transporting patients in wheelchairs and beds to various departments throughout the hospital.

The selflessness Mr. Bortell has demonstrated throughout his life as well as his constant "can do" attitude have inspired many members of his community, especially his fellow volunteers and hospital employees. I am extremely proud to be Mr. Bortell's congressman and I invite everyone to join me in wishing Mr. Bortell a Happy 100th Birthday, and congratulating him on his long, rich, and active life.

IN RECOGNITION OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RET.) BENNIE G. ADKINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Bennie G. Adkins, of Opelika, Alabama, for being awarded the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama on September 15, 2014. In his honor, I am submitting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following summary of his service and heroism as written and prepared by the United States Army:

"Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins was drafted into the Army Dec. 5, 1956, at the age of 22, from Waurika, Oklahoma. Upon completion of initial training at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was assigned as an Administrative Clerk-Typist to a garrison unit in Giessen, Germany, with a follow-on assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, Georgia. After attending Airborne School, he volunteered for Special Forces, in 1961. He served with the Special Forces for more than 13 years with the 7th, 3rd, 6th and 5th Special Forces Groups (Airborne).

While in the Special Forces, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam for three non-consecutive tours. His first tour in the Republic of Vietnam lasted from February 1963 to August 1963. His second tour of duty in Vietnam lasted from September 1965 to September 1966. His final Vietnam tour lasted from January 1971 through December 1971.

Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins distinguished himself during 38 hours of close-combat fighting against enemy forces, March 9–12, 1966. At that time, then-Sergeant First Class Adkins was serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A–102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces at Camp A Shau, in the Republic of Vietnam.

When Camp A Shau was attacked by a large North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in the early morning hours of March 9, then-Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position defending the camp. He continued to mount a defense even while incurring wounds from several direct hits from enemy mortars. Upon learning that several Soldiers were wounded near the center of camp, he temporarily turned the mortar over to another Soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, Adkins repeatedly exposed himself to sniper and mortar fire, while moving casualties to the camp dispensary.

Adkins exposed himself to enemy fire transporting a casualty to an airstrip for evacuation. He and his group then came under heavy small-arms fire from members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group, which had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese. Despite this overwhelming force, Adkins maneuvered outside the camp to evacuate a seriously wounded American and draw fire away from the aircraft, all the while successfully covering the rescue. Later, when a resupply air drop landed outside of the camp perimeter, Adkins again moved outside of the camp walls to retrieve the much-needed supplies.

During the early morning hours of March 10, enemy forces launched their main assault. Within two hours, Adkins was the only defender firing a mortar. When all mortar rounds were expended, Adkins began placing effective recoilless rifle fire upon the enemy, as they infiltrated the camp perimeter and assaulted his position. Despite receiving additional wounds from enemy rounds exploding on his position, Adkins fought off relentless waves of attacking Viet Cong.

Adkins then withdrew to regroup with a smaller element of Soldiers at the communications bunker. While there, he single-handedly eliminated numerous insurgents with small-arms fire, almost completely exhausting his supply of ammunition. Braving intense enemy fire, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered vital ammunition and evaded fire while returning to the bunker. After the order was given to evacuate the camp, Adkins and a small group of Soldiers destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, dug their way out of the rear of the bunker, and fought their way out of the camp.

Because of his efforts to carry a wounded Soldier to an extraction point and leave no one behind, Adkins and his group were unable to reach the last evacuation helicopter. Adkins then rallied the remaining survivors and led the group into the jungle, where they evaded the enemy for 48 hours, until they were rescued by helicopter, March 12. During the 38-hour battle and 48 hours of escape and evasion, Adkins fought with mortars, machine guns, recoilless rifles, small arms, and hand grenades, killing an estimated 135–175 of the enemy and sustaining 18 different wounds. Adkins' extraordinary heroism and selflessness, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, Detachment A–102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces and the United States Army.

After Vietnam, Adkins served as First Sergeant for the Army Garrison Communications Command in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He then joined Class #3 of the Army Sergeants Major Academy in El Paso, Texas. After graduation, Adkins served with the Special Forces at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then led training at Fort Sherman's Jungle School in the Panama Canal Zone. He retired from the Army in 1978.

Adkins earned his bachelor's degree from Troy State University, in 1979. He earned his Master's Degree in Education, in 1982, and then, a second Master's Degree in Management, in 1988, all from Troy State University. Simultaneous to pursuing his degree programs, he established the Adkins Accounting Service, Inc., in Auburn, Alabama, serving as its CEO for 22 years. He also taught night classes at Alabama's Southern Union Junior College, for 10 years, and at Auburn University, for six years. Adkins has been married to his wife, Mary, for 59 years, and together they have raised five children.

Adkins' previous awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, the Purple Heart with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and Five Loops, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, the Republic of Vietnam Bravery Medal with Brass Star, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the U.S. Army Master Parachutist Badge, the Vietnamese Parachutist Badge—Two Awards, the Expert Badge with Rifle and Pistol Bars, the Sharpshooter Badge with Carbine Bar, and the Marksman Badge with Machinegun Bar."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Command Sgt. Maj. Adkins for his service and

congratulating him on receiving such a well-deserved honor. He is a true American hero.

H.R. 5272, H.R. 5230, AND H.J. RES. 76

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my strong opposition to two pieces of legislation that were brought before the House on August 1st, 2014. H.R. 5272 and H.R. 5230 are partisan bills that do nothing to fix our broken immigration system. Rather than effectively addressing the situation at the border or the larger failures of our immigration system, the House majority has chosen to penalize children by removing trafficking protections for child refugees from Central America, and preventing the administration from deferring the deportation of DREAMers.

Deporting hardworking, law-abiding people who were brought here as children will not make our country safer or more prosperous. Our resources are limited, and the administration must have the ability to prioritize the deportation of those who are a threat to our country. Furthermore, we will not solve the crisis at our border without seriously investing in our immigration courts and addressing the violence and poverty in Central America that are causing these children to flee. H.R. 5272 and H.R. 5230 are not sincere attempts to address these issues, and although I was not able to vote on these bills, had I been present I would have voted ''no'' on both.

I would also like to express my strong support for H.J. Res. 76 to provide $225 million in emergency funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. The Obama Administration requested the additional funds to help Israel replenish the scores of missiles it is using to defend its civilian population from Hamas rocket attacks. As the author of the Iron Dome Support Act, which authorizes further assistance to Israel for Iron Dome, I support emergency spending to provide additional resources for the missile defense system, which has saved countless civilian lives. Had I been present I would have voted ''yes'' on H.J. Res. 76.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF WARREN P. ROGERS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lexington, Kentucky native and businessman Warren P. Rogers for his efforts to find creative solutions to public infrastructure financing as a champion of ''P3'' public-private partnerships in Kentucky.

As the federal budget faces continued challenges with autopilot spending programs and a massive federal debt crowding out other spending priorities, we must continue to look for creative solutions to fund public projects. In Kentucky, Warren Rogers has worked with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky, the League of Cities and several other organizations to champion H.B. 407, a bill that would clarify the rules to allow for private-public partnerships—often referred to as P3s—by the state and local governments in Kentucky.

These partnerships are already a tool used by 30 other states, creating greater private-sector involvement and investment in public works, leading to better predictability, less risk and less cost for taxpayers.

Mr. Rogers helped organize and co-chaired the Kentucky Chamber's P3 coalition and testified on behalf of the legislation before committees to encourage its passage. Ultimately, the legislation passed both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly with large bipartisan majorities—27–9 in the Senate and 86–9 in the House. While the Governor found cause to veto this legislation, the broad bipartisan support it enjoys will no doubt lead to its passage once again in 2015.

On behalf of Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District, I would like to thank Warren Rogers for his work to protect and improve Kentucky's public infrastructure.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. AND MRS. WILLIE FRANK SMITH, SR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Rev. and Mrs. Willie Frank Smith, Sr. who have been married 50 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Rev. and Mrs. Smith met in Selma, Alabama and were married on July 28, 1964 at New Canaan Baptist Church in Camp Hill, Alabama.

Rev. Smith has served as the pastor at churches in Camp Hill, Valley and Notasulga.

The Smiths have three children including: Willie F. Smith Jr., a minister, medical transcriptionist and Christian education consultant; Monique Smith Gadson, a professional counselor and mother of two daughters Nia and Imani; and Patrick T. Smith, Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and father of Gabrielle and Caleb.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Rev. and Mrs. Smith for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

HONORING DENNIS C. BLESS, CRNA, MS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dennis C. Bless, CRNA, MS, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Bless will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) whose headquarters are located in my Congressional district. I am proud that Mr. Bless was elected as the 2013–2014 president of this prestigious national organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 34 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals.

As a CRNA for nearly 20 years, Mr. Bless has contributed greatly to the health care community in Minnesota and nationwide, serving as a clinical nurse anesthetist at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota. Mr. Bless also serves as an adjunct instructor for St. Mary's University of Minnesota and clinical/didactic instructor for the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia. He has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to his professional education and development. Mr. Bless was awarded his Master of Science degree in nurse anesthesia from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, a certificate in nurse anesthesia from the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia, a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota and his Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business from Iowa State University.

In addition to his service as AANA President, Mr. Bless has held various leadership positions in the AANA, including President-elect, Treasurer, Director Region 4, and as a member of numerous AANA committees. Mr. Bless also serves on the Board of Directors for the AANA Associations Management Services and is a distinguished speaker on anesthesia topics, lecturing nationwide on the safety, value and cost-effectiveness of CRNA care.

During his AANA Presidency, Mr. Bless has been a prominent advocate for patients and for the practice of nurse anesthetists before federal agencies and members of Congress. He has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system: recognition of CRNAs as Full Practice Providers in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), proper implementation of provider non-discrimination requirements, and appropriate recognition of the full scope of CRNA practice, including pain management and related services in the Medicare system.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Bless today on a job well done. His service to the AANA, his patients and his commitment to high quality health care nationwide are truly commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his notable career and outstanding achievements.

HONORING DR. ROBERT C. KEEN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Bobby C. Keen, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Hancock Regional Hospital, in my congressional district.

Dr. Keen began his career at Hancock Regional Hospital in 1994 as its Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Five months later Dr. Keen was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer, the position he held for the next twenty years.

Dr. Keen's professional awards and achievements are many and noteworthy. They include the Hancock County Mental Health Association's Time, Talents and Treasures Award, and the Indiana Hospital Association's Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Keen was also appointed by three former Governors to serve on the Executive Committee of the Indiana Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Board, as well as severing under two Governors on the Hospital Council of the Indiana State Department of Health.

Hancock Regional Hospital has been an outstanding example of premier health care success in Indiana by delivering top notch medical care and providing expertise to the community. Dr. Keen's steadfast dedication and continued leadership within the hospital has been vital to its success.

Dr. Keen retired from his duties heading this exemplary institution this past June. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in thanking him for his long career and service to his hospital and community.

HONORING THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York Hall of Science on the 50th anniversary of its dedication. The Hall of Science is a true jewel that Queens and all New Yorkers are so proud to have in our city.

This year, Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens celebrates the 75th anniversary of the 1939–40 World's Fair and the 50th anniversary of the 1964–65 World's Fair.

The fairs brought the world together in Queens to share experiences and see the newest technologies and products that would one day change our world.

What began as a fair pavilion showcasing exhibits about atomic energy, space exploration and satellite communication has evolved over five decades into one of the world's preeminent centers for science education and teacher professional development.

The legacy of the Fair is present not just in the vintage NASA rockets still in the museum's front yard, but in the spirit of innovation, discovery and a quest for knowledge that still permeates the Hall of Science's more than 400 exhibits, which include the country's largest Science Playground and a miniature golf-course where each hole teaches a lesson in space physics.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Hall of Science has just completed a $50 million fundraising campaign. Two new exhibitions are coming on line this year. Design Lab will introduce visitors to the creative design process and Connected Worlds will present an immersive digital environment where visitors can explore sustainability and learn how their personal actions have a global impact. The campaign has also enabled a $25 million restoration of the Great Hall, the original World's Fair pavilion. Wallace Harrison's iconic space-age ''Cathedral to Science'' with its soaring stained glass walls rising 100 feet in the air once again stands as a majestic, inspirational destination for hundreds of thousands of people to get excited about science, technology, engineering and math.

The New York Hall of Science is also preparing to host its fifth annual World Maker Faire on September 20–21. At the great World's Fairs, governments and industry presented exhibitions on what they thought the future would hold. At World Maker Faire, it is the makers themselves who are offering a preview of the future. More than 600 projects will be on display, giving people a glimpse at the best of creativity in all its forms. The Hall's President, Dr. Margaret Honey, was among the distinguished guests invited by the President to celebrate the first ever White House Maker Faire earlier this year, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has been a major supporter of the maker movement as it has grown and evolved worldwide. The movement is tapping into our innate sense of curiosity, creativity and collaboration, with staggering results. More than 100 maker faires took place around the globe last year.

The National Science Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Office of Naval Research, NASA and the U.S. Department of Education have all been major supporters of the Hall of Science. Recognizing this important institution's impact on education for students, teachers and families, these agencies, not to mention my office and the entire New York delegation, have all supported investments in new educational resources, exhibits and programs that each year serve a half-million museum visitors (many of them children on school field trips), help more than 3,000 teachers enhance their capacity as educators, and inspire countless young people to pursue careers in the STEM fields.

Today, I salute the Hall of Science, a respected leading institution among science education centers worldwide. I wish that all Americans have the chance to visit the Hall at some point in their lives. For the New Yorkers that haven't visited yet, I hope you have a chance to visit this Queens treasure as soon as you can.

HONORING PATTI GILMORE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patti Gilmore of Hutto, TX. A pillar of this quiet town nestled in the heart of my congressional district, Patti is retiring after years of exemplary service to her beloved community.

Daily life in a city like Hutto rests upon the shoulders of dedicated public servants like Patti Gilmore. Throughout her career, she was the indispensible woman, juggling a multitude of responsibilities, performing great work whenever needed, and making it look easy. As if managing the administrative support and operations of the City Manager's office wasn't enough work, Patti coordinated meetings, press releases, and distributed the informative Hutto Highlights newsletter. She also managed the legislative initiatives for the City while maintaining effective relations with other governmental entities.

Patti's dedication to making Hutto a great place to live is second to none. She pioneered countless programs such as Hutto Day at the Capitol, Youth in Government, Hutto Citizen's University, and Hutto Matters. She led and served on numerous civic committees including Hutto Has Heart, Friday Night Live, Youth Advisory Task Force, and Marketing Task Force. Patti is also very active in several community organizations including the Hutto Lions Club, Hutto Discovery Methodist Church, and Al-Anon.

Yet Patti's commitment to service doesn't end at the Hutto city limits. Working with the Adopt-A-Unit program, she has been instrumental in obtaining donations, organizing events and providing support to deployed troops and their families. Her acts are a sign of true patriotism to our great nation and to the men and women who serve our country.

Patti Gilmore's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. She has positively impacted the lives of thousands and there's no doubt that Hutto is a better place because of her. I join all the people of Hutto in saluting her service.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY AND DONNA PRESLEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Larry Presley who have been married 56 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Larry and Donna met while attending Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. They were married on August 30, 1958 in Overland Park, Kansas. They moved to Lee County, Alabama, in 1987.

Larry has been in the ministry 57 years and still serves as full-time minister in Opelika, Alabama. The Presleys have two sons, Lynn and Jamey.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Larry and Donna Presley for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. NICHOLAS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a significant milestone in the life of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish of Lorain, Ohio in my District. The parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, September 14, 2014.

The parish history recounts that on September 14, 1914, the first Byzantine Catholic bishop, Bishop Soter Ortinsky, dedicated St.

Nicholas Church. The pastor at that time was Father Basil Beretz. The people who were members of the parish had actually initiated plans for a church of the Byzantine Rite Catholics a number of years before that time. St. Nicholas' founders emigrated from a region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which is today the easternmost part of Czechoslovakia and arrived in Lorain, Ohio in the last part of the 19th century and the beginning of the twentieth century. They attended St. Michael Hungarian Byzantine Rite Catholic Church and for a brief time services were held in Kohlmyer's Hall in Lorain.

The church history characterizes the years from 1900 to 1914 as the formative years of St. Nicholas Parish: ''In 1905 a committee of Byzantine Rite Catholics of Rusyn origin sought the advice and counsel of the late Bishop Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland. In 1907 the faithful of the future St. Nicholas Parish solicited funds for the purchase of lots on Toledo Avenue, Lorain, the former site of the church and rectory. The parish would then relocate in 1982 to 2711 W. 40th Street, the present site of the St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church complex. An historical mural retained in the old church for many years contained the list of the following contributors for the lots: Andrew Kakos, Andrew Ksenich, Andrew Karahuts, George Ksenich, Michael Lascisky, Michael Rusinko, George Demchik, John Danko, George Vajda, Vasil Pavelvach, Peter Yureck, John Kocak, Joseph Kokinda, Peter Kekel, John Taraka, Stephen Lascisky, Elek Ksenich, John Kvasnak, Nicholas Ksenich, Vasil Teleha, Peter Hazlak, Mike Rericky, Peter Hrinda, George Maczik, Mike Kizak, Jacob Andraska, John Jeresko. Stephen Ksenich, Joseph Suster, John Moroznak, George Tomcso, Frank Kablinka, John Szalag, Daniel Demjanovich, Mike Koscs, Mike Koczak, Joseph Szasz, Joseph Gluvna, John Naaymik and John Maylik. The purchase of the aforementioned lots was consummated through the Cleveland Chancery in the name of Bishop Schrembs and held by him in trust for the St. Nicholas Parish. In this manner St. Nicholas Parish was constituted as a Catholic parish under a Catholic bishop.''

The church continued to grow and expand, both physically and in membership. A rectory was added in 1919 and a second story of the original church was dedicated on July 16, 1928, by Bishop Basil Takach, the first bishop of the Byzantine Rite Catholic Exarchate of Pittsburgh. Renovations continued and in 1946 the mortgage was paid off.

Under the stewardship of Father Andrew Pataki who later became the bishop of Parma, a parochial school was built. On Sunday, June 12, 1960, a festival was held and Bishop Nicholas T. Elko blessed a newly renovated St. Nicholas Church and the new St. Nicholas School. Sisters under the Order of St. Basil the Great came to Lorain to begin teaching at the school in 1962. A small house was purchased nearby and remodeled by parishioners as a convent.

On Dec. 14, 1964, St. Nicholas' celebrated its golden jubilee with bishop Nicholas T. Elko officiating at the pontifical Divine Liturgy assisted by the former pastors Fathers Andrew Pataki and George Simchak.

By the late 1970s it was apparent the church had outgrown its original buildings and, in ''a beautiful testimonial to the generosity and the love that our parishioners have for their church'' according to the history, the substantial funds needed to build a new building were raised. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Sunday, Jan. 25, 1981. During the ceremony, the history notes, ''the sound of axes could be heard ringing from the nearby woods. The St. Nicholas wood-chopping crew had a lot of land to clear and they did not have time to attend the ceremony. Additionally, a ''hearty band of volunteers worked throughout the year of 1981 and painted the entire interior of the complex, laid all the floor tiles (estimated at over 10,000 tiles), sanded and stained all the woodwork and contributed thousands of cost-free hours of labor. As a result of their physical contribution, the interior of the convent was finished as well as many other items that were not in the original contract. By early spring, the new complex was nearing completion and an appeal was made for volunteers to purchase the pews, certain kitchen items and the appointments in the church. The response was overwhelming. The parishioners of St. Nicholas, the Greek Catholic Union Lodge, the Russo-Slav Club and other fraternal organizations associated with the church had come through once again.

The church history records that ''the last service to be held at the old St. Nicholas Church was on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982, and many a tear was shed as the last song was sung. Finally, on Holy Thursday evening, April 8, 1982, Father Felock blessed the new altar and church and the first service was held.'' The life of the parish continued in its new location through the 1980s, 1990s and into the new century. The school was closed in 2007 and the parish embarked on a mission of renewal as the new century dawned.

Today, the members of St. Nicholas Church's focus is on its future even as they honor its past. Standing on the shoulders of its founders and the families who established the parish as a cornerstone of its community, the parishioners of today's St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church are proud of its rich history. Yet, as they celebrate a century of parish life, the congregation of St. Nicholas' looks toward the next century with hope and faith. Onward!

OPPOSITION TO THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to express my opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, or BDCP. The BDCPs comment period closed at the end of July and California state officials reviewed comments from stakeholders throughout California as it determines the best route going forward. The result: the state has delayed implementation of the BDCP.

Since being elected to Congress in 2006, I've expressed concerns with this proposal. Building two tunnels that make it easier to ship Delta water south does nothing to address California's larger water issues. We need to focus our investments on recycling, desalinization, conservation, and storage—both above and below ground. Becoming better managers of our water resources will help prepare our state for wet and dry years.

As evident by the BDCPs delay, this flawed plan is based on unreasonable assumptions instead of sound science and has raised red flags from various federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is why I offered an amendment to the FY15 Energy and Water Appropriations Act to ban the government from funding tunnels taking our water. We must focus our finite federal resources on initiatives that will result in increased water supply and storage capacity, not waste it on projects that take from one region of the state and send it to another.

The BDCP is not a plan that reflects the interests of all Californians; I along with my Delta colleagues remain willing to work with all parties on a statewide solution that considers all stakeholders interests.

HONORING ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Mason University President Emeritus Dr. Alan Merten and his wife, Sally. In June, I had the pleasure of attending a dedication naming the university's new senior administration building ''Alan and Sally Merten Hall.''

Dr. Merten served as George Mason University's president for 16 years, stepping down in 2012. This dedication is a fitting tribute to the Mertens, a pair who worked tirelessly for the better part of two decades promoting, growing and improving George Mason University. As a result of Alan and Sally's efforts, the university has become one of Virginia's greatest schools, as well as a nationally and internationally recognized center of academic and research excellence.

Current George Mason President Angel Cabrera honored the Mertens' service to the George Mason community at the June 23 ceremony. President Cabrera and former Board of Visitors rector, Edwin Meese III, lauded the Mertens' contributions to the school and to the community, and I was allowed to offer a few words as well. I always enjoyed working with Dr. Merten and was grateful for the opportunity to speak on my relationship with Alan and Sally, as well as my appreciation for their commitment to the school and leadership in the community.

As stated in the resolution used to enact the dedication, the Mertens' legacy includes four endowed scholarships and numerous gifts to university building and program funds. There is no doubt that George Mason is a better institution for the Mertens' efforts. I hope they will remain active in the George Mason community for many years to come.

I respectfully submit George Mason University's ''Resolution to Rename University Hall'' and the following news article from George Mason University on the ceremony.

RESOLUTION TO RENAME UNIVERSITY HALL IN HONOR OF ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN

Whereas, George Mason University President Emeritus Dr. Alan G. Merten led the university with distinction for 16 years, during which time he launched an ambitious

and successful program to build the school into a major teaching and research university; and

Whereas, under Alan Merten's leadership, George Mason University became the largest research university in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with increasingly nationally and internationally highly ranked programs; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sally Merten, the former first lady of George Mason University, was instrumental in bringing the community and the university closer together, serving on several community nonprofit boards during her husband's tenure as president, including Fall for the Book, as well as several university advisory boards; and

Whereas, Sally Merten actively participated in university life, especially employee recognition events; and

Whereas, together Alan and Sally Merten have been generous donors to the university, establishing four endowed scholarships: the G. Louise and Anthony J. Otto Endowed Scholarship in Creative Writing; the Eric G. and Melissa H. Merten Endowed Scholarship; the Ruth A. and Gilbert E. Merten Endowed Scholarship; and the Kathleen A. Lieder and Lloyd C. Fell Student Scholarship Endowment in Music Performance/Vocal Studies; and

Whereas, the Mertens have made significant gifts to a number of other university funds, including the Patriot Club, the Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, and Mason arts programs; and

Whereas, the Mertens remain active and engaged members of the surrounding community, thus continuing to serve as ''ambassadors'' of the university; Now, be it therefore

Resolved that the building on the Fairfax Campus now known as University Hall be named Alan and Sally Merten Hall in recognition of the Mertens' many contributions to George Mason University; be it further

Resolved that this resolution be entered into the minutes of the George Mason University Board of Visitors this day, May 7, 2014.

(SEAL)

C. DANIEL CLEMENTE,
Rector, George Mason University Board of Visitors.

GEORGE MASON UNVEILS ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN HALL

(By Preston Williams)

On Monday, George Mason University dedicated Alan and Sally Merten Hall in a building renaming ceremony attended by hundreds of members of the Mason community and several integral figures from the university's history.

Alan Merten was Mason's fifth president, serving from 1996 to 2012. Merten Hall is the new name for what formerly was called University Hall, one of many structures erected during the Mertens' dynamic 16-year tenure.

''When I travel around the region, the country or the world and people ask me what I'm most proud of with respect to what's happened at George Mason,'' Alan Merten told the attendees, ''the answer is always I'm proud of the pride that people have in this institution as a result of what we've all done.

''What kept me going—what keeps us all going—is stamina, passion and a caring attitude. That's what got George Mason going. That's what will keep George Mason going,'' Merten added before exiting to a standing ovation at the outdoor ceremony on the grounds outside Merten Hall.

Merten's successor as Mason president, Ángel Cabrera, hailed the Mertens' leadership of making ''one smart decision at a time'' and said that renaming the building in their honor was symbolic of their many contributions to the university.

''It is a reminder of how much these two individuals gave of their time tirelessly and how they helped George Mason be what it is today,'' said Cabrera, whose office has been relocated to Merten Hall, on the north end of the Fairfax Campus.

Two guests in particular added historical insight to the Mertens' tenure. Virginia Congressman Frank Wolf, who taught at the university in the late 1970s, and the former Board of Visitors rector, Edwin Meese III, cited the joint efforts of the Mertens as crucial to the university's growth, not only in size and enrollment but in stature as the largest public research university in the state.

''It's become one of the great universities in the commonwealth and one of the great universities in our country and it's all because of the great work—and they work as a team—Alan and Sally have done,'' Wolf said.

Meese's first year on the Board of Visitors coincided with the Mertens' first year in office. They built a strong partnership.

''It is said that a great institution is the length and shadow of its leadership,'' said Meese, the former attorney general under Ronald Reagan. ''And that's certainly true in this case. . . . The beneficial shadow of your leadership is now permanently inscribed in the form of this building. You've made [the university] the knowledge and cultural centerpiece of Northern Virginia.''

The current Board of Visitors rector, C. Daniel Clemente, read aloud the board resolution that formally proposed renaming the building Alan and Sally Merten Hall.

The Mertens remain active on campus and serve in a variety of roles for the university. They have endowed four scholarships.

HONORING DORIS KRASICK GOLDBERG QUEEN ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doris Krasick Goldberg Queen, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on September 28, 2014. She is a long-time constituent whose family I have known for more than 20 years.

Doris was born on September 28, 1914 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1939, she married Lewis Goldberg and together they were the proprietors of a longstanding Philadelphia neighborhood grocery store and butcher shop called "Lew's Thrifty Market." They had two children, Arlene Sockel (spouse Richard) and Robert Goldberg (spouse Hedy), four grandchildren, Bonnie Sockel-Stone (spouse Elliot, son of former United States Senator Richard Stone), Iris Sockel Mitrakos (spouse Steve), Lewis Goldberg (spouse Morgan) and Ellen Goldberg, and six great-grandchildren (Lily, Elizabeth, Jason, Stella, Ivy and Oliver).

Following the passing of her husband Lewis in 1971, Doris married widower Jesse Queen in 1973. Together they retired to Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, where they shared many vibrant years together, enjoying the company of family and friends. Jesse passed away in 1992, but Doris remains active and engaged in her current home of Tamarac, Florida.

It gives me great pride to honor Doris on the occasion of her 100th birthday. I wish her all the very best for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CAREER OF DR. CLIFFORD DEBAPTISTE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his 90th birthday, 60 years as owner and proprietor of the DeBaptiste Funeral Home, and for his incomparable record of community engagement.

Clifford DeBaptiste first came to West Chester, Pennsylvania on a visit in the 1940's. After serving in the U.S. Army, he graduated from mortuary school and married his lovely wife, Inez Manning. They then opened the DeBaptiste Funeral Home in 1954 and, in 1965, moved the business from its original location to 25 South Worthington Street where it may be found today.

In addition to running a successful business for 60 years, Dr. DeBaptiste has made numerous other invaluable contributions to the Greater West Chester community and beyond, including serving as West Chester's first African-American Mayor from 1994–2002. Additionally, he has been honored by the NAACP for his business leadership and by the National Purple Heart Association for his service in the U.S. Army. In 2014, Dr. DeBaptiste was also coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, the Thirty-Third and last degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Further, Dr. DeBaptiste chaired the Pennsylvania State Board of Funeral Directors for 13 years, received its President's Medallion for Service in 1991, and an honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree from West Chester University in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the 60 years of his incredible business record and service to the community, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr Clifford DeBaptiste, one of Chester County, Pennsylvania's most valued and respected citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRELL AND VERA MCNUTT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Jerrell McNutt who have been married 59 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Jerrell and Vera McNutt married on September 2, 1955, at Needham Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Mr. McNutt, a World War II veteran, earned three degrees and for the past 48 years has taught graduate-level Theology using the experimental method Clinica Pastoral Education (CPE). He has also served as CPE Supervisor for over 27 years at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mrs. McNutt has served as chief nurse in a Psychiatric Facility, Labor and Delivery and Geriatric Care.

The McNutts have three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson including: Linda Joy Jones, a teacher and mother of two sons and grandmother to one grandson; Barbara Vickery, an RN and mother of one son and one daughter; and Jerry Lester McNutt, an audio engineer, and father of two sons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Jerrell and Vera McNutt for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

HONORING DIANE COWAN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of Diane Cowan of Temple, TX. Diane is the latest recipient of the Cy Carpenter Award from Experience Works for her leadership, advocacy on behalf of older workers, and never-ending passion to help others succeed.

Diane retired in 2012 after a 36-year career with Experience Works, where she held progressively responsible positions including Texas state director and national customer service center director. Through her tireless efforts, she has helped Experience Works fulfill its noble mission to assist thousands of mature workers over age 55 with job placement, job training, and job counseling. Her leadership and advocacy, especially for older Americans in rural areas, makes her the ideal recipient of the prestigious Cy Carpenter Award.

Diane Cowan brings to life Gandhi's words that ''The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.'' Her commitment to advocacy and helping others reflects the best values of Central Texas. I applaud her work and wish her success as she continues to be a champion for older Americans.

HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Philadelphia Office of Forensic Science. Forensic science is the application of a broad spectrum of sciences and technologies to investigate and establish facts of interest in relation to criminal or civil law. The word forensic comes from the Latin forensic, meaning ''before the forum.'' In modern usage, the word defines a category of legal evidence that may be presented in a legal courtroom setting. Forensic science is a vital public service and access to quality forensic analysis dramatically improves the investigation of criminal activity leading to the exoneration of the innocent and the prosecution of the guilty. Forensic science plays a critical role in public outreach and crime prevention and that role is evolving within the criminal justice community. Crime scene investigators, forensic examiners and forensic scientists provide unbiased, accurate and reliable analyses of evidence recovered from scenes across the nation. In the United States there are more than 12,000 forensic scientists active in the field.

The dedicated and hardworking individuals that comprise the forensic science organizations are worthy of recognition for their commitment to proper scientific investigations to support the cause of justice. Through quality forensic services, accredited programs, validated scientific techniques and a commitment to scientific integrity, forensic scientists make a significant impact in our communities.

From August 10–16, 2014, professional organizations across the country acknowledged the value of modern forensic science and the role of forensic examiners by hosting events to observe National Forensic Science Week. Activities were presented to encourage a better understanding of forensic science and educate local, state and federal policy makers to the current capabilities and future challenges facing this field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in in expressing appreciation for the people, facilities, and technologies that make reliable forensic science possible for the betterment of our communities.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, located in Harding Township, County of Morris, New Jersey, as it celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed one of the most important and successful pieces of conservation legislation: The Wilderness Act. Over the past half-century, the Wilderness Act has led to the preservation of environmentally sensitive land in more than 750 Wilderness Areas in 44 states across America, encompassing 109 million acres.

Almost 7,800 acres of that total is found in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County, New Jersey. One of the most beautiful, peaceful, ecologically diverse and environmentally important areas of the Garden State, the Great Swamp is true wilderness, formed by the retreat of the Wisconsin Glacier. The Refuge remains today much as it has for millennia. But what took nature thousands of years to create was once almost destroyed in the blink of an eye.

In 1961, the Port of New York Authority (as it was then known) wanted to build another airport—the fourth—for the metropolitan area. The new airport would have been enormous: twice the size of Kennedy International Airport. If the Port Authority had its way, it would have paved over New Jersey's Great Swamp, which the PA maintained was the only practical site it could find.

Then, as now, the Port Authority was a powerful player in the region's politics. The Port Authority was used to getting what it wanted. Stopping it would not be easy. But in what would become one of the nation's first modern major environmental battles pitting progress against preservation, preservation and citizen action would win.

Among those who fought to save the Great Swamp was the area's representative in Congress, my father, Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen.

Described by the New York Times as ''a leader of the opposition,'' my father headed the steering committee formed to oppose the Port Authority's plan. He helped mobilize the New Jersey Congressional delegation—both Republicans and Democrats—against the idea. He was joined by literally thousands of citizens in marshalling support and raising money to save what one writer described as ''a natural masterpiece.''

At countless hearings and public meetings, the public came out against the proposal. One of the most effective citizen leaders was Helen Fenske. Her efforts were recently recognized by naming the visitor's center at the Great Swamp in her honor. At one meeting called by the Department of Interior, more than 900 people crowded the room. Only one person spoke in favor of the proposed airport. He was not well received.

Yet despite the enormous outpouring of support for saving the Great Swamp, the Port Authority continued to press forward. But its efforts would never come to fruition. On May 29, 1964, 2,600 acres of the Great Swamp were designated a National Wildlife Refuge, the first such protected wilderness in the country. In recognition of the leadership and generosity of M. Hartley Dodge, who donated a considerable portion of the land for the new refuge, it carried his name.

Had the PA succeeded, the residents of New Jersey and New York would have been the primary losers. The Great Swamp helps regenerate and improves air quality for millions of people in New York City and northern New Jersey, protects water supplies, and provides homes to a wide variety of wildlife, including more than 200 species of birds—among them, our national emblem, the American Bald Eagle. But the nation would also have lost forever this unique natural treasure.

My father considered his effort to help preserve the Great Swamp as the proudest legacy of his service in the House of Representatives. During my own tenure in Congress, I have followed his lead. Over the years I have secured Federal funds to expand the Refuge.

Today, the tens of millions of people who visit the Great Swamp and the hundreds of other Wilderness Areas across the country can learn about and appreciate some of the most beautiful parts of America's precious natural heritage.

President Johnson called the Wilderness Act one of the ''most far-reaching conservation measures that a farsighted nation'' had ever enacted. As we mark its 50th Anniversary, my hope is that we will continue to build on its legacy for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

HONORING ARNOLD HARVEY

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay special tribute to an outstanding citizen from the State of Maryland, Arnold Harvey.

One of the great strengths of this country is how the American people look out for one another. When our neighbor is suffering, we lend a hand.

Arnold Harvey personifies that virtue. A Waste Management commercial driver for over 20 years, Mr. Harvey saw individuals and families in need along his route and worked to do something about it. In cooperation with his employer, Mr. Harvey organized food and clothing drives. He also founded a non-profit, God's Connection Transition to help those in his community in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Today, in partnership with grocery stores, retailers, churches and shelters, his non-profit donates food to 5,000 families a month.

Arnold Harvey is a shining light helping others during dark times. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD should reflect the good work he has done as a permanent testament to his generosity and the generosity of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arnold Harvey for his outstanding service to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAYNE AND JEAN IVEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ivey who have been married 50 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Jean of Manchester, Georgia and Wayne of Columbus, Georgia met while attending a surprise birthday party. They were married in Manchester on August 23, 1964.

In 1966, Wayne joined the Air Force and he and Jean joined a Baptist church in Tampa, Florida. Soon after, Wayne began to feel the call of God to full-time ministry. Since he had a problem with stuttering, he did not see how God could use him as a pastor, but Wayne soon found when he spoke on subjects related to God he did not stutter.

After completing his education, Wayne served as pastor in two full-time churches, Pleasant Grove in Abbeville and Midway in Smiths Station, both in Alabama. For almost a decade, he has served as part-time pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama. Jean currently works part-time as administrative assistant for the Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association.

They have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Wayne and Jean Ivey for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

CONGRATULATING STEFFES REGISTERED HOLSTEINS FOR RECEIVING THE ILLINOIS MILK PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dennis, Jane, and Darcy Steffes of Steffes Registered Holsteins of Elizabeth, Illinois, whose farm was recently awarded the Illinois Milk Producers' Association Environmental Stewardship Award.

Dennis and Jane have continued to build upon their family's five-generation tradition of dairy farming. Along with their daughter Darcy and three employees, Dennis and Jane strive to consistently produce high quality milk, all while staying conscious of the farm's impact on the environment.

It was with these goals in mind that the Steffes built a concrete tank on their property for the storage of manure, water, and yard run-off, with the contents being applied to the ground twice a year as part of the farm's comprehensive nutrient management plan. This plan has helped the Steffes to maintain an effective crop rotation program, ensuring that the land will continue to produce for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to know that businesses such as Steffes Registered Holsteins exist, and I want to once again congratulate the Steffes family and their employees on having been recognized by their peers for their dedication to environmentally friendly and sustainable farming practices.

HAPPY 125TH BIRTHDAY TO LAFAYETTE, COLORADO

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th birthday of the city of Lafayette Colorado, one of the historical gems of the Rocky Mountain Front Range. Lafayette is set in a dramatic location at the area that the plains meet the Rocky Mountains. Before the land was settled, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe nations roamed the plains. After migrating from the east coast, frontier woman Mary Miller raised her six children on the land and cultivated one of the most successful farms in Colorado. In 1888 Mary platted a 150 acre two site and named it Lafayette, after her late husband. The town had agricultural and ranching success which continues to shape its landscape and culture. In 1889 the town was officially incorporated into Colorado.

After the first mine shaft was dug in 1887, Lafayette grew to a thriving mining town. The community survived on the coal mining industry for the century to come. The last mine in Lafayette closed in 1956 and the town became a successful commercial and small industrial community nestled between Denver and Boulder.

Lafayette is known for their commitment to local art, respect of the environment, and historical preservation in their city. I congratulate the people of Lafayette for 125 years of community and prosperity and look eagerly forward to the future of this beautiful city.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRS FOR MUSIC ON 100 YEARS OF PROTECTING SONGWRITERS AND COMPOSERS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize PRS for Music—the United Kingdom's Performing Rights Society—representing that nation's composers, lyricists and music publishers—on its milestone 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1914, the same year as ASCAP, its sister American performing rights organization, PRS for Music has, for a century, championed and protected the rights of music writers and publishers by licensing the public performance of their music. Significantly, via reciprocal agreements with America's performing rights organizations, our friends at PRS for Music have protected our country's music creators by making it possible for American songwriters and composers to receive royalties when their works are performed in the United Kingdom.

British music creators who joined the PRS in its early years include Ivor Novello, the writer of "Keep the Home Fires Burning," Noël Coward, writer of "Mad Dogs and Englishmen," Ray Noble, composer of "The Very Thought of You," Jimmy Kennedy, lyricist of "South of the Border," Gustav Holst, composer of The Planets, Benjamin Britten, composer of The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, and pioneering music publishers William Boosey and Oliver Hawkes, who founded the PRS.

As time went on, the musical cross-pollination between the United States and the United Kingdom grew more and more intense and PRS songwriters who have made their mark on the USA and the world include the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Phil Collins, and Adele.

PRS for Music has played a leading role in the global music industry for 100 years and has weathered every new development in music delivery and musical style. I hope that my colleagues will join me in applauding the significant contributions of PRS for Music and wishing them many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. A.L. WILSON AND NANCY MAE BROWN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. A.L. Wilson who have been married 66 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

A.L. Wilson and his wife, Nancy Mae, were both born in Elmore County, Alabama and married on August 8, 1948. The Wilsons moved to Lee County in 1954 so Dr. Wilson could be pastor of Thompson Chapel AME Zion. Dr. Wilson served as pastor there for 50 years.

A.L. and Nancy Mae raised six children and have eight grandchildren. They include: Vandy Wilson, a retired Air Force veteran and father of three; Dr. Linda Wilson, who has a Ph.D in nursing and has one child; Carolyn Wilson-Dandridge, an Air Force veteran and mother of two; Barbara Wilson-Frazier, a graduate of Tennessee State University; Michael Wilson, a graduate of Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC; and Authurine Wilson-Sims, deceased after a short, but successful life as a teacher of special education. She leaves behind two children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. and Mrs. A.L. Wilson for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHWEST MISSOURI REGIONAL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southwest Missouri Regional Community Emergency Response Team (MOCERT1) on being awarded one of the 2014 Community Preparedness Awards by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Each year FEMA announces the winners of its Individual and Community Preparedness Awards. These awards are intended to recognize the outstanding emergency preparedness efforts of individuals, programs, and organizations throughout the country.

Out of more than 230 applications FEMA received for the 2014 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards only 11 were chosen to be awarded with the honor.

MOCERT1 is the first regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) within the State of Missouri. MOCERT1 incorporates the region's city and county CERT personnel, equipment, and assets into one regionally based team. MOCERT1 has enabled larger and stronger response efforts that would not otherwise be possible. MOCERT1 has not only deployed relief efforts locally, but their help has been requested in surrounding states and communities. The many response efforts of MOCERT1 have included helping the communities of Moore, Oklahoma, and Baxter Springs, Kansas, with tornado relief and response efforts.

I am honored to recognize the members of MOCERT1 for their outstanding and commendable efforts in providing assistance to local and regional communities.

HONORING BERRY GORDY, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize "Berry Gordy Day" in Oakland, California, honoring Mr. Berry Gordy Jr.'s many contributions to the music and film industry. Known as the founder of Motown Records, Mr. Gordy has paved the way for many artists and played an inspiring role in breaking racial barriers.

Born on November 28, 1929, Mr. Berry Gordy Jr. was raised in Detroit, Michigan as the seventh of eight children. Before working in the entertainment industry, Mr. Gordy pursued a career in boxing and was later drafted into the United States Army to serve in the Korean War.

In 1959, Mr. Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records, making his record company the first African American owned music company in the United States. His record company was the epicenter of one of the most popular and influential musical movements of the 20th century, the Motown Sound, which combines African American gospel singing with rock and roll.

The Motown Sound helped to desegregate America's music industry and the social climate of the nation. Mr. Gordy's vision introduced the world to the soul of the streets of Black America, which included recording artists such as Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, the Temptations, and many more.

Motown Records later expanded to incorporate other sectors of the entertainment industry. Motown's Black Forum label gave voice to the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements through recording the speeches and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Amiri Baraka, Elaine Brown and many other influential leaders. In addition, Motown Records began producing films to share the stories of African American life and the deplorable inequality of racial segregation, including Lady Sings the Blues and The Bingo Long Traveling All Star.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Gordy has been the recipient of numerous awards. In 1988, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Mr. Gordy has also been honored with a Star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame and received the Songwriter's Hall of Fame Pioneer Award in 2013.

I grew up listening to the music of Motown, and my fondest memories of my teen years are learning to dance to the beat of Motown, day dreaming about love and life, and discussing the genius of African American artists and musicians. Berry Gordy captured my imagination and, to this day, Motown lifts my spirit and brings joy into my life.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Berry Gordy, I salute you. As we join together on August 18 to celebrate "Berry Gordy Day" in the East Bay, I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you all the best as your musical contributions and work continue to inspire future generations in our country and around the world.

HONORING CHEF DURIO

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the ninth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I rise to recognize the resilience demonstrated by many Louisianans in the years following that tragic event. While we are all familiar with the tragedy of this horrific event, I am reminded of the triumph of the people of New Orleans, who worked side by side to overcome the devastation and rebuild our great city. I remember all of us working to help our fellow New Orleanians, to feed the displaced and support our first responders.

Today, I would like to recognize the contributions of Chef Durio. Chef Durio is a true hero. Not only did he not abandon New Orleans in her time of need, but doubled down on his efforts to help her get through this difficult time. At one point during the aftermath of the hurricane, he would spend days traveling from New Orleans to Biloxi, Houston, and Lafayette to prepare meals for first responders and those in need. There are not enough words to truly thank him for playing his part in this story.

Louisiana Chef of the year for 2007, and a lifelong New Orleanian, Chef Durio started out as a barber. I am pleased and honored to know him and glad to introduce everyone in America to a true American hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY AND JUNE HUNT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hunt who have been married 66 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Jerry and June Hunt were married in Atlanta, Georgia on October 24, 1948. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt both grew up with a father who served as a pastor. Pastor Hunt served as the associate pastor with his grandson of the church where his father and his wife's father served as pastors. This church was Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia founded in 1829 in Tucker, Georgia.

Pastor Hunt owned a business and was pastor of a church in Atlanta before moving to Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church in Lee County, Alabama in 2008.

Jerry and June have three children including: Frances June Hunt, mother of seven; Jerry M. Hunt, Jr., father of three; and Virginia Ann Hunt Corley, mother of three. The Hunts have 13 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Jerry and June Hunt for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

IN HONOR OF TOM VIDMAR

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of the late Tom Vidmar.

Tom took on major responsibilities at an early age, becoming the primary caretaker for himself and his two younger brothers when he was fourteen. He quit high school to work jobs at a corner grocery store and at a gas station

At the age of seventeen he joined the U.S. Navy, working as a jet mechanic and later patrolling the coast of Vietnam. After completing his military service, he worked various jobs while simultaneously earning a high school diploma, a degree from Fresno City College, and eventually a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology and a minor in Business from California State University, Fresno.

After working as a representative of Ford Motor Co., Mr. Vidmar established Anlin Window Systems in Fresno, moving the company to Clovis in 1999. The company grew to encompass 350 employees and earned many accolades, including its designation by this very House as an ''Industrial Business of the Year.'' It is well known not only for being a successful company, but also for the icons of Americana and the U.S. flags that adorn its building, as well as its Fourth of July military tributes and Christmas displays.

These characteristics reflected the qualities of the company's founder. Mr. Vidmar was a deeply religious man and an altruistic member of the community who supported a wide array of local charitable activities. He was a great patriot and proud family man whose sons, both of whom were among Anlin's very first employees, now help run the family business. He leaves behind his wife Linda, two sons, eight grandchildren, and a community that is grateful for all his contributions.

SAN BRUNO 4TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, four years ago today, a massive explosion killed eight of my constituents, injured 66, and destroyed 38 homes, and scarred a San Bruno neighborhood.

The fire roared for 90 minutes until PG&E finally located the gas line's manual shut-off valve. Last week the California Public Utilities Commission recommended a $1.4 billion fine. Their punishment must send a message to all utilities across the country: putting profits before safety has serious consequences.

We're good at passing legislation that doesn't solve problems and patting ourselves on the back. The fact that there have been ten more explosions since then shows we must do more. That's why I'll be introducing legislation that will adopt recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board including requiring auto and remote shut off valves and hydrostatic testing.

Please join me in honoring the families of the Crestmoor neighborhood and the first responders. I also ask you to join me in remembering the lives of Jacqueline Greig [Greg], Janessa Greig [Greg], Jessica Morales, Elizabeth Torres, Lavonne Bullis, Greg Bullis, Will Bullis, and James Emil Franco.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Green Schools Caucus to highlight the important contributions of the Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program and to congratulate all the schools recognized as 2014 Green Ribbon Schools. This program began in 2011, and seeks to encourage schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education to adopt practices focused on sustainability, health, and environmental education.

The Green Ribbon Schools Program offers awards for outstanding performance based on three categories of achievement. Schools and districts are first evaluated on the basis of success in reducing their overall environmental impact. The award also evaluates school and district strategies to improve the health and wellness of students and staff. Lastly, the Green Ribbon Schools Program examines the extent to which environmental education is offered, and whether those programs incorporate STEM subjects, civics, and green career counseling. All those recognized this year have made exceptional strides in each of these areas.

Those recognized are invited to Washington, DC each year to share their experiences and discuss best practices with other leaders in the field. This process of sharing information and highlighting the achievements of individual schools and districts offers an incentive for others to work toward a common goal of a more sustainable future. It also offers the chance for school officials to compare and contrast strategies for improving curriculums, engage on ways to implement these strategies, and share their successes with others.

At a time when we seek to reduce our carbon footprint, initiatives such as the Green Ribbon Schools Program are a valuable step toward lessening our impact on the environment and educating others as how best to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment. Our schools are well positioned to be leaders in the effort to combat climate change and I commend those schools and districts who have chosen to participate.

Congratulations again to those who have been recognized as 2014 Green Ribbon Schools.

HONORING THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Bay Regional Park District upon its 80th anniversary. Since its founding in 1934, the District has provided Alameda County and Contra Costa County residents with healthy recreation and environmental education. Encompassing over 65 parks and 114,000 acres of land, the East Bay Regional Park District is the largest regional park district in the United States.

The East Bay Regional Park District emerged from a popular movement during the Great Depression that sought to provide residents with recreational opportunities and employment. The District began by developing parks within the region, including Temescal, Tilden and Sibley Regional Parks. By 1939, it started the process of acquiring land for Redwood Regional Park.

Today, over 25 million people visit East Bay parks annually to walk, hike, bicycle and jog on the parks' 1,200 miles of trails. In addition, visitors have the opportunity to swim, boat and fish at the District's nine park lakes and twelve beaches. The District also hosts nine interpretive centers that educate visitors about the region's cultural history, wildlife and natural features.

The East Bay Regional Park District has received numerous accolades for its dedication to natural preservation and East Bay recreation. It has received the California Parks and Recreation Society's Award for Excellence for Creating Community for its exceptional community-building efforts through park-related events, one of five awards it has received from the Society in the past six years.

I personally appreciate the impact that the East Bay Regional Park District has on our youth. When I was a girl growing up in El Paso, Texas, my sister and I broke barriers by being the only African Americans in our Girl Scout troop. We were fortunate to have access to nature through the Girl Scouts, and it impressed upon me at an early age the need to preserve outdoor open spaces where young children can learn about nature, the importance of our ecosystem and environment, and to have a natural environment in which to play. For the youth who grow up in highly urbanized East Bay cities, East Bay parks represent an environment that can broaden a child's perspectives of space and coexistence with nature.

I commend the East Bay Regional Park District for providing our community with a wellspring of recreational and educational opportunity for the past 80 years. The District's continual efforts to foster community and learning benefit all Bay Area residents and visitors.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the people who have contributed to the success of the East Bay Regional Park District throughout the years. I wish the District continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD AND MARY BRYANT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bryant who have been married 57 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Leonard and Mary Bryant met in Sunday School at Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. They attended Southern Union and Selma University graduating with a degree in Theology. They were married on October 6, 1957.

The Bryants have lived in Opelika their entire lives and have been pastor at three churches in Waverly, Dadeville and Fort Davis, all in Alabama.

Leonard and Mary raised four daughters including: Lindie Bryant-Payne, Carmella Bryant-McGhee, Dale Bryant-Williams and Janyce Bryant. They have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Leonard and Mary Bryant for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 12, 2014 as National School Spirit Day, which was created to recognize the great efforts of cheerleaders on behalf of their schools and communities. On this day, cheer teams nationwide will galvanize their schools to perform community service projects.

Varsity Brands began National School Spirit Day in 2009 in order to highlight all of the ways our nation's cheerleaders and dancers make a difference in their schools and communities as mentors, community service leaders, and positive role models. As part of National School Spirit Day, cheerleaders and dancers will hold pep rallies, and invite all students to volunteer with local charities and perform at least four hours of community service.

Students have volunteered in a number of ways including by visiting community nursing homes, cleaning school facilities and grounds, fundraising for charities, getting involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and holding car washes for charity. Since 2009, cheerleaders and dancers have pledged more than 500,000 community service hours as a result of National School Spirit Day efforts. National School Spirit Day is an opportunity for America's future leaders to stand out and have a positive impact in their communities.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing September 12, 2014 as National School Spirit Day.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON'S EXTINCTION AND THE PASSENGER PIGEON PROJECT

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas; the Passenger Pigeon, Ectopistes Migratorius, was once the most abundant bird in North America with a population exceeding 3 billion; and

Whereas; due to unregulated market hunting in the 19th century, the population plummeted towards extinction; and

Whereas; the death of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, on September 1, 1914, and the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon helped assemble the American conservation movement of the early 20th century; and

Whereas; the story of the Passenger Pigeon can serve as a cautionary tale and raise awareness of current issues related to human-caused extinction, explore connections between humans and nature, and inspire the building of sustainable relationships with other species; and

Whereas; the history of the Passenger Pigeon is relevant today due to the fact more than 30 percent of amphibians are threatened with extinction, many species of birds, bats and honeybees are in rapid decline and when it is projected that 25 percent of the U.S.'s native plant species may go extinct by mid-century; and

Whereas; Project Passenger Pigeon, a consortium of over 150 institutions, scientists, conservationists, educators, artists, musicians, filmmakers and others throughout the nation is using the centenary of the species extinction to tell the story of the Passenger Pigeon; and

Whereas; the story of the Passenger Pigeon, once an example of nature's abundance, and its subsequent extinction is unique to American history;

Now Therefore, be it known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois, hereby recognizes the anniversary of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction and its importance in remembering our natural heritage and nation's wildlife and the role we can play in conserving them.

HONORING GARY LESSER

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Gary Lesser, who has received the 2014 American Jewish Committee Judge Learned Hand award for his outstanding accomplishments in the legal profession and exemplary service to the community. Gary is an individual dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical legal standards and has displayed a level of commitment to his clients and profession that can be admired by all.

Gary Lesser is the Managing Partner of Lesser, Lesser, Landy, & Smith, PLLC, and concentrates in general personal injury matters. As a member of the Florida Bar Board of Governors and past chair of the Florida Bar Professional Ethics Committee, Gary has demonstrated an incredible commitment to the ethical practice of law. Highly regarded in the legal community, he is frequently called upon to lecture on personal injury law and various ethics issues and has been interviewed by local and national media regarding cases, important ethical and legal issues, and his service to the community. Aside from his successes in the legal profession, Gary is also a devoted member of the Jewish community. He has served as Chair of the Jewish Federation Business & Professions Cabinet and as Legal and Fundraising Vice President of the Arthur Meyer Jewish Academy, where he has been a member of the Board of Directors for over twenty years.

It is a privilege to represent a district with citizens who not only work tirelessly to help those in need but strive to achieve a higher professional standard. His passion and dedication is an inspiration to the Jewish community, and I have no doubt that we will continue to see great things from Gary in the future.

HONORING DEREK JETER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of history's most distinguished New York Yankees, Derek Jeter. Derek has spent the last 20 years thrilling Bronx residents and Yankees fans across the nation with his unparalleled performances on the field. He has been one of the greatest shortstops in the modern game, and as his final season comes to a close, he has received many accolades and messages of thanks for his dedication to this illustrious franchise.

Derek Jeter has spent his entire career with the Yankees organization, from the time he was drafted as an 18-year-old out of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He has excelled at whatever he was asked to do for the organization, and has led the Yankees during one of their most successful eras. During his time as a Yankee, the organization has won 5 World Series, and Derek played an important part in those victories. His incredible baseball skills are only surpassed by the maturity and leadership he has shown on the field. In almost every aspect, he has earned the nickname bestowed upon him: The Captain.

His statistics show what an influence he has had on the field, and his hard work and success has been recognized by baseball fans, writers, and peers. He won the Rookie of the Year award in his first full season in the American League, and went on to become a 14-time All-Star and a 5-time Golden Glove winner. He has a lifetime average of .310, and has amassed an astounding 3,448 hits as of Friday, September 5th, a total surpassed by only 5 other players in baseball history. He has been even more vital when the Yankees have needed it most—during his seven World Series appearances, he batted .321, and was named MVP of the 2000 World Series.

Derek has also led in his actions off the field. Through the Turn 2 Foundation, a charity he founded in 1996, Derek has helped children in Western Michigan, New York City, and the Tampa-St. Petersburg area to live healthier lives and to turn away from drugs and alcohol. In New York City, the foundation has partnered with the New York City Parks and Recreation Department to create four free after-school programs that serve more than 300 children.

Derek Jeter will be retiring at the end of this season, ending an illustrious, Hall of Fame-worthy career. He has become a part of the fabric of the Yankees and of the Bronx. Although we will get used to seeing him succeed in other endeavors, for Yankees fans it will be difficult to imagine the shortstop position without number 2 there. I congratulate Derek on an outstanding career, thank him for his contributions to the Yankees and to the

Bronx, and wish him well in whatever the future brings.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD AND MARY SYKES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Mary Sykes who have been married 59 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Gerald and Mary Sykes met in Lanett, Alabama, while attending a birthday party in August of 1952. They dated for three years and married June 3, 1955.

Gerald entered the ministry in 1968 in Atlanta, Georgia and has served five churches as the full-time pastor. He retired in 2012 and served three churches as interim pastor and is currently serving as full-time pastor at Waverly Baptist Church in Waverly, Alabama.

The Sykes raised two daughters and have two grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Gerald and Mary Sykes for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 481, 482, and 483 I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes,'' ''yes,'' and ''yes.''