EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAYOR MARIAN DELEON GUERRERO TUDELA

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, June 8, 2014 marked a pivotal moment in the history of the Northern Mariana Islands, when Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela was sworn in not only as the first female mayor of Saipan, but the first female mayor of any of our municipalities. Mayor Tudela assumed this position by operation of law upon the untimely death of Mayor Donald Glenn Flores. Though residing at the time in the mainland United States, she honorably agreed to serve her community through the remainder of his term, and returned to Saipan.

With over 21 years in the private sector and over 10 years in government service, Mayor Tudela has a long and rich professional history. And this is not her first time to answer to the people directly. From 1994 to 1998 and from 2006 to 2008, Mayor Tudela was a member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. She has also served on the boards of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

As mayor, Ms. Tudela oversees a staff of approximately 40 hard-working members of our community. Her office undertakes programs and projects that range from improving local infrastructure to fostering better relations with our tourism partner countries. For example, each year, the mayor's office sponsors exchange programs among our high school students and students from Japan and Korea. And on any given day, you can find her employees trimming trees to make our beautiful lagoon more visible to tourists traveling on Beach Road, patching potholes on secondary roads or catching stray dogs that roam the streets. Couples intending to wed visit the mayor's office to obtain their marriage license, and those who do not drive but desire identification cards can receive those through her office. The mayor's office also spearheads the annual Liberation Day festivities on Saipan, which celebrates the freeing of our islands from occupying Japanese forces by the American military in 1944.

Mayor Tudela is now one of the highest-ranking female officials ever to hold office in the Northern Mariana Islands. And as such, she serves as a role model and a reminder to all women that they have come of age in our local political arena. But championing women's issues is nothing new to Mayor Tudela. She formerly served as a Governor's Special Assistant for Women's Affairs, and over the years has participated in numerous symposia addressing issues of import to women in the Pacific region.

Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela's willingness to step into this position so unexpectedly, serve so unassumingly and carry on the fine tradition not only of her predecessor but of the mayors of all our islands should serve as an inspiration for women, but more, should serve as a model for all people who aspire to serve their communities.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES DEREK HILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Brigadier General James Derek Hill of the Iowa Air National Guard and to congratulate him on his illustrious 29-year military career.

General Hill began his military service in 1985 upon receiving his commission through Direct Appointment. Eighteen years later, General Hill joined the Iowa Air National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel and has faithfully devoted the following decade to guiding our state's men and women in uniform. General Hill retired as the Iowa Air National Guard's Deputy Adjutant General where he served as principal advisor to Iowa's Adjutant General while organizing, manning, equipping, and training more than 1,800 airmen to accomplish missions assigned at both the state and national level. General Hill's unfailing leadership has proven to be instrumental in preparing the men and women of the Iowa Air National Guard for numerous successful deployments in an often chaotic and unpredictable environment.

Throughout nearly three decades of selfless service, General Hill has earned numerous decorations for his consistent leadership and uncompromising standards. Most recently, General Hill was nominated by Iowa's Adjutant General Timothy Orr to receive the hallowed Legion of Merit for his ''exceptionally meritorious conduct'' as Iowa's Assistant Adjutant General over the past four years. I believe it goes without saying that the Iowa Air National Guard's world-renowned 21st century capabilities would not be possible without the positive and professional guidance expertly offered by General Hill over the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, our country owes Brigadier General James Derek Hill a great debt of gratitude for his decades of selfless service and sacrifice. His unwavering commitment to his country and fellow Americans is a testament to our nation's service members and our great state. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in thanking General Hill and congratulating him on a truly stellar career. In retirement, General Hill leaves behind a grateful state and nation and I wish him, and his wife Rhonda, the very best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY DANNY OLIVER

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative AMI BERA, Representative DORIS MATSUI, and Representative DOUG LAMALFA, in honor of the service and sacrifice of Sacramento County, California, Sheriff Deputy Danny Oliver.

Danny Oliver grew up in the Del Paso Heights neighborhood of Sacramento, where he graduated from Grant High School. During his youth, Danny experienced parts of the community that he was determined to improve. This drove his desire to work in law enforcement, even though he came from a family of firefighters.

Danny finished the academy at the top of his class and served with the Sheriff's Department for fifteen years. In keeping with the lifelong goal of cleaning up his community, Deputy Oliver worked on a highly competitive team of problem-oriented policing officers.

Tragically, Deputy Oliver was killed in the line of duty on October 24, 2014, during a violent crime spree that would later take the life of another officer, Detective Michael David Davis, Jr. Deputy Oliver died for his love of and devotion to his community.

Danny loved going into his job an hour early every morning, knowing he was putting his life on the line to make a difference in Sacramento County. While his sacrifice is to be honored, this is not his legacy. Rather, Danny's legacy is the memory of the man he lived his life as: a devoted husband to his wife Susan, a father who guided and supported his two children, and a dedicated officer.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Danny Oliver will be deeply and sorely missed not only by his family, but also by the community that he tirelessly worked to better. The State of California is particularly blessed to have such men of character and heroism protecting our citizens.

Danny was known for influencing his children to do what they love, just as he did. We can all learn from his heart and strength of character. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his sacrifice and to honor his memory.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXIS HARDRICK—RECIPIENT OF THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexis Hardrick of Girl Scout Cadette Troop #1677, who recently earned the Girl Scout's prestigious Silver Award.

The Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can earn and was presented to

Alexis for her project on raising awareness about Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Additionally, Alexis also earned the Girl Scout Journey Award and completed over 50 hours of work and planning devoted to this cause.

In the spring of 2013, Alexis began to research CF, a disease her sister has been diagnosed with. Shortly thereafter, she compiled a learning board exhibit which detailed the effects caused by CF.

Over the next several months, Miss Hardrick traveled to various events around Lewisburg, Tennessee, discussing her learning board and arranging activities to promote a greater understanding of CF. Moreover, during the fall of 2013, Alexis enlisted the help of her Girl Scout Troop to host CF Awareness Day and from all accounts was a great success.

On behalf of the people of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, I want to congratulate Alexis on receiving the Silver Award and thank her for her dedication and hard work in raising awareness for Cystic Fibrosis.

CONGRATULATING THE JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE CHICAGO CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John F. Kennedy High School Girls Volleyball team. On October 17, the Crusaders won the Chicago Public League Championship and became the first non-selective enrollment school to win in nearly a decade. I appreciate all of the incredibly hard work and dedication everyone on the team puts into their sport and would like to congratulate them on this tremendous achievement.

The 25–21, 22–25, 25–20 win over Whitney Young Magnet School was a monumental victory for neighborhood schools. Coached by Tim Laughlin and Kimberly Thinnes, the Crusaders finished the season with a 16–1 record, securing the top seed in the tournament. To get to the championship, the Crusaders had to get through Young High School and Payton High School, who between them have won 7 city championships. The Crusaders are composed of seniors Grace Jurevis, Nebal Algoleh, Dana Majerczy, Sydney McCarthy, Melissa Mazur, and Morgan Paske, along with freshman Johanna Hoefling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this impressive accomplishment made by the John F. Kennedy High School Girls Volleyball team and to congratulate them on their city championship win.

RECOGNIZING DR. SHAFI AHMED FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Shafi Ahmed, President of the Genesee County Medical Society, for his outstanding service and unwavering commitment to community.

Dr. Ahmed lived in several countries before moving to the United States of America, where he now practices internal medicine at Court Street Family Medicine. Dr. Ahmed is a kind-hearted individual who has lived a broad life.

After graduation from medical school, he worked in the capital of Bangladesh and completed two years of surgical residency. He then went to Algeria to practice in a government clinic for four years. He was recruited to Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iran but political chaos eventually landed him in Algeria.

Dr. Ahmed's wife, Ruqsana, became pregnant while the Ahmeds were living in Algeria. She returned to Bangladesh to stay with his parents and joined Dr. Ahmed eight months later in the United States where he had begun studying for Masters in Public Health in Dallas. Dr. Ahmed then switched to a research associate position in a cancer research institute in Dallas for three years. His ''big break,'' as he refers to it, occurred when Dr. Norwood Hill took him under his wing along with a Pakistani oncologist, Dr. Amanullah Khan, helped him get a permanent visa and a residency at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI.

Dr. Ahmed decided to stay in Michigan to raise his family and make a living practicing medicine. He is honored to be a resident of Genesee County, and we are grateful to have him. Our community is made better because of people such as him.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Shafi Ahmed for his resilience, strong leadership, and unwavering commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HENRY ERNEST LOWENSTEIN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Colorado's most respected and honorable residents, Mr. Henry Ernest Lowenstein, who passed away October 7 at age 89. This remarkable man merits both our recognition for decades of work in the theater and gratitude for his unwavering efforts to improve our community. He leaves behind an impressive body of theatrical work as well as his legacy of encouragement and mentorship not just in the arts, but for social justice as well. He made an enormous impact on scores of lives and is widely considered one of the most important people in the shaping of Denver.

Henry Lowenstein was born in Berlin on the 4th of July in 1925, to parents Max and Maria Lowenstein, whose home became a magnet for that city's arts scene. In fact, Henry often told the story of listening to Kurt Weill compose the now classic Three Penny Opera in his parent's apartment. But Berlin in the 1930's was no place to raise a Jewish family. Fearing for the safety of their son following the harrowing Kristallnacht in 1938, Henry would become part of history himself as a child of the Kindertransport program, which saved the lives of thousands of children before the outbreak of World War II. Miraculously, the Lowenstein family was reunited after the war and was able to immigrate to America in 1947. Consistently fighting against discrimination in any form, Henry held a deep compassion for artists and outcasts. This passion, born from the horrors of Nazi Germany, would shape the artist he would become.

After working for years as a foundry man and a gravedigger, Henry joined the U.S. Air Force, where he worked as an illustrator before attending Yale University. While at Yale he studied theatrical design and worked as a stagehand on Broadway. It was during that time he received a call from the Denver Post publisher, Mrs. Helen Bonfils, who was the wife of theater producer George Somnes. That 1956 request to run what would become the nationally recognized Bonfils Theatre changed not only Henry's life but the lives of hundreds of artists over the next five decades. Henry earned the nickname ''Father of Denver Theater.'' The Bonfils Theatre produced more than 400 plays, operas, ballet, children's theater, and touring productions until it closed in 1986 by which time it had been renamed the Lowenstein Theater. It was then that Mr. Lowenstein retired—for the first time. The next stage in Mr. Lowenstein's theatrical life was to found the Denver Civic Theater which he ran until his second retirement in 1995, although Henry never fully retired. He was a prolific scenic and costume designer and contributed designs into the early 2000's.

Mr. Lowenstein's passion for theater was equaled by his commitment to human rights. Henry was a prolific mentor, particularly for women and people of color. His hiring practices, like his theatrical productions, consistently broke down racial and societal barriers. His work was so important to the theatrical community that the Colorado Theater Guild's annual theater awards were renamed ''The Henry's'' in his honor in 2008. In his later years, Mr. Lowenstein was also actively involved in the historical preservation of personal artifacts related to his family's experience in Nazi Germany.

Mr. Lowenstein is survived by his wife, Deborah Goodman Lowenstein and sons David, Daniel and Joshua by his late wife, Doris Brewer, and his granddaughters Sarah and Nyssa.

Please join me in commending Mr. Henry Lowenstein for his leadership in the search for justice, equality and beauty through the vehicle called theater; which dares to show us our humanity. Henry's generosity of spirit, kindness and compassion continues to enhance our lives and builds a better future for us all.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. VERNON H. HUKLE JR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Vernon H. Hukle Jr. of Winchester, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Mr. Hukle served our nation in uniform from October 20, 1942 to November 20, 1945.

As a young man, Mr. Hukle began his service in the United States Marine Corps as a

Corporal within the 2nd Marine Division—8th Regiment—1st Battalion—Company C 182. He entered the war against the Axis Powers by storming the deadly beaches of Okinawa and fought valiantly, sustaining serious injuries during combat.

On June 20, 1945, Mr. Hukle received two separate bullet wounds to his arm and leg. Throughout the heated battle, Mr. Hukle witnessed many of his comrades killed in action including the 10th Army Commander, Lieutenant General Simon Bolivor Buckner Jr. The battled raged on for two more days until Allied Forces were able claim victory in controlling the island on June 22, 1945. Mr. Hukle received two Purple Hearts for being wounded in action by an enemy of the United States.

Mr. Hukle embodies the best of America's ideals, values, and work ethic. He served this nation proudly, answering the call to prevent the Axis Powers threat from arriving on our shores.

Mr. Hukle's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform protected our American freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING CORETHA MACK

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Coretha Mack of Clermont, Florida as she celebrates her 90th birthday on November 14, 2014.

Ms. Mack was born in Orlando where she spent her childhood and graduated from Jones High School in 1946. She then moved to Hartford, Connecticut where she lived and worked for more than 50 years. In Hartford, she was a member of Faith Congregational Church and served on the church's Diaconate Board and Board of Trustees. Ms. Mack returned to Florida in 2002 and has been an active member of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Her faith and dedication to service have been an inspiration to others, and she continues to cherish her relationships with God, her family and her friends.

I wish Ms. Mack a very happy birthday, and all the best in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Since its founding in 1889, Holy Trinity has been at the center of the religious life in Delaware County, and the congregation lives its faith of love and charity every day. Members of the Holy Trinity family are well known for their commitment to their community through charitable fundraising and volunteer projects to provide meals to the homeless and clothing to the disadvantaged. Under the leadership of Pastor Gordon Simmons, Holy Trinity's membership has grown and the church community has been strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, its leadership and its congregants for 125 years of faithful service to our community, and wish them good health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING ST. JANE DE CHANTAL PARISH ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Jane de Chantal Parish on its 60th anniversary as a Catholic community of faith in Chicago, Illinois. St. Jane de Chantal embodies the core pillars of the Roman Catholic Church and its congregation upholds the values and practices of Catholicism through their devotion to charity and spiritual development. From humble beginnings in 1954, Father John Ward organized the first Mass at the Mark Twain Public School, which he rented for $96 on a Sunday. Today, the parish celebrates 60 years of faithful service to God and to the Garfield Ridge community and to the 3rd District of Illinois.

St. Jane de Chantal Parish is currently led by Fr. Ed Cronin, with Fr. Joe Mol in residence and Fr. John Wachala as the Polish Associate. As part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the parish offers daily masses, community-building events, and countless fundraising and community-outreach events. The Parish hosts blood drives on Saturdays and food drives on the weekends. In November, they run a Hungry and Homeless Turkey Tree program in which families from the Parish sponsor needy families from the community and provide them with Thanksgiving meals.

The Polish Ministry of St. Jane de Chantal supports the Polish community by offering five services a week as well as other special Masses and events. The school, led by Principal Nancy Andrasco, provides a Catholic education for children starting in pre-school up to the eighth grade. Children are taught the Catholic ideals of love, sacrifice, and charity while receiving an outstanding education in a compassionate and supportive environment.

I am happy to join with St. Jane de Chantal Parish and help commemorate its 60th anniversary. I am confident that they will continue to perpetuate Catholic ideals by providing spiritual nourishment through worship and service to their community. Mr. Speaker, St. Jane de Chantal is an exemplary Catholic parish and I ask my colleagues to join me as I extend my blessings to all the parishioners on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDGEWATER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Edgewater Behavioral Health Services as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the organization is hosting a celebratory event on Friday, October 17, 2014, at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, in Merrillville, Indiana.

The growing need for quality mental health care in the United States led to Congress passing the Community Mental Health Act of 1963. The Gary Community Mental Health Center was one of the original facilities set up in Indiana after the passage of this bill. In 1974, due to the hard work of many leaders in Gary at the time, the center was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. Over the years, the organization continued to grow, expanding its range of services and leadership. Under the direction of current president and chief executive officer, Dr. Danita Johnson Hughes, the center's name was changed to Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living, Inc. and, in 2014, began doing business under the name Edgewater Behavioral Health Services. Edgewater provides services ranging from crisis intervention and addiction services to day treatment, out-patient programs, and residential services, to name a few. Due to the outstanding leadership of Dr. Johnson Hughes and the entire staff, Edgewater currently provides services for over 30,000 clients each year. The organization also provides over $3 million in services to charity cases.

Edgewater partners with other service providers, groups, and organizations in order to meet the needs of each person that walks through its doors. This year, Edgewater is honoring Dr. Daniel Lowery, Ph.D., president of Calumet College of Saint Joseph, with the Commonweal Award for Personal and Professional Leadership. This award recognizes distinctive contributions made by individuals who hold the value of the common good over personal gain. The Sojourner Truth House, a ministry for women and children in Gary, will be honored with the Commonweal Award for Institutional Leadership. This award recognizes institutional and organizational leadership that promotes the common good within communities faced with long-term, difficult challenges. For their exceptional commitment to the community of Northwest Indiana, and for touching the lives of countless individuals, each recipient is worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Edgewater Behavioral Health Services as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary. Edgewater has played an important role in enriching the quality of life in Northwest Indiana. As a community we are grateful and proud to have had its support during the past 40 years. For its remarkable leadership, devotion, and compassion shown in its service to so many in need, Edgewater is worthy of the highest praise.

CONGRATULATING JASMINE BABERS FOR RECEIVING USA NETWORK'S CHARACTERS UNITE AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jasmine Babers of Rock Island, Illinois, who is one of ten individuals nationwide to receive the USA Network's Characters Unite award this year.

Jasmine Babers, at a very young age, has shown an amazing amount of dedication, hard work, and drive. She is the founder and publisher of Love, GIRLS, a magazine that strives to build confidence and self-esteem in teenage girls. Jasmine's hard work has paid off as she was able to publish the first issue in 2012. Love, GIRLS has expanded its distribution over the past two years from Illinois to include Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, as well as the District of Columbia, reaching more than 5,000 young girls. Jasmine also has led local events, in conjunction with her magazine, that help bring attention to bullying and the dangerous effects that it can have on our youth.

The Characters Unite award is presented annually to ten individuals who through extraordinary efforts are able to combat hate, intolerance, and discrimination, as well as make significant contributions towards promoting greater tolerance, respect, and acceptance in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to know that individuals like Jasmine Babers are making a difference in our communities. Once again I would like to congratulate her on her momentous achievement and wish her luck with her ongoing efforts, as well as her upcoming collegiate career.

HONORING PARK LABREA NEWS AND BEVERLY PRESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press.

Park Labrea News and Beverly Press has been a local paper and critical presence in Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Hollywood and West Hollywood since 1946. Park Labrea news and Beverly Press have a long and important history in our community. Residents of Park Labrea began distributing a newsletter throughout the apartment complex in 1946 and within a few months ''Parklabrea News'' was born.

In 1948, Joseph Duplain took over the newsletter and converted it into a newspaper. In the 1950s, Nan Dayhoff became editor and ran the paper for the next twenty years, publishing twice a month. In the 1970s veteran TV newsman Charles ''Chuck'' Riley acquired the paper.

In 1990, the newspaper was sold to the current publishers, Michael and Karen Villalpando. By June 1990, the Villalpandos had expanded the paper to a weekly installation that reaches more than 5,000 homes in neighborhoods in Los Angeles. In 1991, the circulation was expanded again and the name Beverly Press was added to the original Park Labrea News masthead.

Michael and Karen Villalpando have been the publishers for the last twenty-five years and have transformed the paper from a 3,000 circulation, bi-weekly newspaper, to a 13,000 paid circulation newspaper, delivered weekly with the Los Angeles Times. The Villalpando's goal has been to provide the best local news coverage to the residents of Park Labrea, Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, the Fairfax District, Hollywood and West Hollywood. They have proved extremely successful in their goal. Local community members look forward to receiving the paper every Thursday and rely on it to get global news and community happenings.

Michael and Karen Villalpando, through the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press, play a key role in sharing national, state, and local news within the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing Michael and Karen and the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH LESLIE BUDDY COLE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ralph Leslie Buddy Cole, Jr. for a noteworthy life dedicated to public service. Mr. Cole passed away at the age of 80, having lived a selfless life as a veteran of the Texas Air National Guard, public servant, and civic leader.

Buddy was born on August 19th, 1934 and grew up picking cotton in Krum, Texas. His commitment to public service and civic leadership started at a young age, notably when he founded the Krum Young Citizens Club and subsequently served as its first president. Buddy's public service career included serving on Pilot Point's City Council, first by election in 1981 and again by appointment in 1986. Additionally, he served as Denton County Judge for 4 years after being elected in 1982 and then served as Denton County Commissioner for Precinct 1 after winning election in 1986. Buddy is deserving of recognition not only for his continuous dedication to civic leadership and public service, but also for the example he demonstrated in his personal life and character. Buddy was regarded throughout the community as a pragmatic problem solver, something that no doubt contributed to his success in public office.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Norma, his sons Alan and Leslie, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. I join his family and the community of lives he touched in celebrating the accomplishments of Buddy Cole. It is my privilege to represent the 26th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Monday, November 3, 2014, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the community in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council honored Michael and Jill Schrage.

Michael Schrage, president and chief executive officer of Centier Bank, is a truly innovative business leader. Mike became the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the First Bank of Whiting, which was renamed Centier Bank years later. This family-owned bank has grown throughout the years, and today Centier includes over fifty branches in Indiana. Under Mr. Schrage's leadership, an award winning lender division was established, a financial literacy program was introduced, and the company has been named one of Indiana's best places to work for the past eight years. This is unquestionably due to Mike's value-based work ethic, and the importance he places on Centier's most important resource: its employees. Additionally, Mike gives much of his time and efforts to charitable endeavors, including the Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few.

Jill Schrage is a true humanitarian in every sense of the word. She gives selflessly and passionately of her time and efforts to various organizations and civic activities throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond, including the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, TradeWinds, Speaking of Women's Health, the Girl Scouts of America, the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, Opportunity Enterprises, and the Valparaiso Art Advisory Committee, among others. For her truly exceptional devotion to such worthy causes, Jill serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council and its 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Michael and Jill Schrage. For their lifetime of leadership and outstanding dedication to serving those in need, Mike and Jill are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE CLASS OF 1964 FROM WINTERS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty veterans of the Class of 1964 from Winters High School as they celebrate their 50th class reunion this year.

These twenty men embody a spirit that echoes throughout Texas, a spirit that has made America strong. Their decision to join and serve is a reflection of their love for country and the understanding that everyone has a part to play in making our nation great. Winters High School wishes to honor these proud Blizzards: Kenneth Adams, United States Army; Adolfo Arroyo, United States Air Force (ret.); Glynn Awalt, National Guard; Dickie Bellis, United States Army; Alan Benson, United States Marine Corps; Ricky Boles, United States Army; Ronald Colburn, United States Army; Lynn Cornelius, United States Navy; Earl Green, United States Air Force; William Green, United States Army (ret.); B.M. Grenwelge, Jr., National Guard; Steve Grissom, United States Army; Gary Hester, United States Army and National Guard (ret.); Mike Hill, National Guard; Johnney Hopper, United States Army; Charles Nitsch, United States Army; Mike Mitchell, United States Army; Louis Simpson, United States Marine Corps; Arnold Thormeyer, United States Air Force; Marcelo Torres, United States Army.

These veterans embody the qualities that are necessary to serve a greater good, without which, our nation could not secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Today, we show our debt of gratitude for these men and women and the displays of greatness that have defined us as a nation.

Colleagues, please join me in honoring these veterans and their families for their dedication and service to our great nation.

IN HONOR OF BEVERLY ANN NEWELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Beverly Ann Newell, a truly remarkable woman who enriched us all. Beverly's recent death has left her family and friends with a deep sense of grief, though the memory of her life still shines brightly.

Beverly was born in December, 1936 in Albuquerque N.M., the descendant of New Mexico and Colorado pioneers. She moved with her family to Seattle where she grew into a vibrant young woman. Beverly attended the University of Washington where she began her lifetime career in physical therapy. She quickly followed with a masters degree in physical therapy from Stanford University. Then in 1961, she found herself in Switzerland where she met a young traveling American student named Roger Newell.

In 1965, Beverly and Roger married and began a long honeymoon on the Newell family ranch in Big Sur. After living in the San Francisco Bay Area for a few years, they returned to Big Sur to raise their children Mark, Jonathan, and Annika. At the same time, Beverly became an integral part of the Big Sur community. She took active roles with the Big Sur Volunteer Ambulance Service and the Big Sur Historical Society. And in an effort that has had tremendous long term value, Beverly helped co-found the Big Sur Land Trust, which has played a pivotal role in the intervening years in preserving Big Sur's incomparable natural landscape.

As their children entered high school, Beverly and Roger moved up the coast to the Monterey Peninsula. Beverly became active with her church, Mayflower Presbyterian, where her deep faith helped her serve many years as a deacon. As her children grew and moved away, Beverly returned to her professional life as a physical therapist working with elderly patients in local nursing homes as well as people suffering from cerebral palsy. She also devoted herself to the lives of her grandchildren: Kyler, Micaela, Ohanapecosh, and Tole.

Beverly was the sort of person who had a tremendous influence on the lives of the people around her. She was invariably kind and loving. People's lives were enriched from the simple joy of being with her. She was also inexhaustibly creative. She was a phenomenal pianist who could play just about anything from ear. She also loved creating beauty with her hands whether through weaving, sewing, ceramics, gardening, or many other ways.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our condolences to Beverly's family and friends. While we mourn her death, we celebrate the gift that her life was to all of us. The world is a far better place because Beverly lived her life with her own particular style of love and joy.

HONORING DR. FRANCIS X. VAN LIESHOUT

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Francis X. Van Lieshout on his 87th birthday, which he celebrated on October 11, 2014. Dr. Van Lieshout has been an integral member of the Fox Valley community and I am proud to recognize his dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin.

Dr. Van Lieshout was born in Kimberly, Wisconsin on October 11, 1927. After graduating from Kimberly High School in 1945, Dr. Van Lieshout served for three years overseas in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning to the United States, he received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Marquette University.

Dr. Van Lieshout returned to Little Chute with his wife Josephine after graduating from medical school. There, he and his wife raised seven children. He practiced family medicine in Little Chute for 42 years, working long hours at the hospital and making house calls following work. After retiring from medicine, he dedicated his time to volunteering in the community, working at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Bernadette's parish in Appleton, WI.

He has received multiple awards for his service to the community, dedication to Catholic education, and service to the poor. In 1999, Van Lieshout Park was named in his honor in Little Chute.

Today, Dr. Van Lieshout and his wife live in Appleton, where he enjoys volunteering, spending time with his family and friends, and fishing. It is truly an honor to represent an extraordinary citizen who has dedicated his life to serving the people of the Fox River Valley in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 8th district of Wisconsin, I congratulate Dr. Van Lieshout on his 87th birthday and sincerely thank him for his service to Wisconsin.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF JUDGE JEAN BOYD

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Judge Jean Boyd, who has been a proven leader in Fort Worth, Texas.

Judge Jean Boyd is the presiding judge of the 323rd Family District Court, which serves Tarrant County as its Juvenile Court. Judge Boyd has presided in this Court since 1995, having previously served as its Associate Judge since 1987. She is retiring from the bench in December 2014 after 27 years of judicial service.

Throughout her career, Judge Boyd has worked to serve her community and her profession as a whole. She is the Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, and she has previously served as Chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. She served on the Board of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission from 2005 to 2011. In January 2014, she was appointed by Governor Perry to the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families.

Judge Boyd is a past board member of the Tarrant County Bar Association and a past president of the Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court, the Tarrant County Young Lawyers' Association and the Tarrant County Women Lawyers' Association. Judge Boyd was honored as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Tarrant County in 1988 and received The Professionalism Award from the Tarrant County Bar Association in 2001. In 2011, Judge Boyd became the first woman to receive the Tarrant County Bar Association's prestigious Silver Gavel Award, which is given to jurists who have made a substantial contribution to the bench by exemplifying ability, integrity and courage.

In 2000, Judge Boyd spearheaded the implementation of National Adoption Day in Tarrant County and has participated in every National Adoption Day event since then. She was selected as Judge of the Year by Texas CASA in 1999. In 2002, Judge Boyd received the Judge Scott Moore Award from Child Advocates of Tarrant County. In 2003, she was the recipient of the Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. She served on the founding boards of CASA of Tarrant County and the Alliance for Children and is currently a member of the board of Gill Children's Services.

Judge Boyd has dedicated her career to making Tarrant County a better place to live, and her contributions to our community are undeniable. I join in congratulating her on her outstanding service and retirement.

HONORING JERRY HANAS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor Jerry Hanas and to wish him well upon his retirement as General Manager of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Mr. Hanas's many years of service and expertise in his field have been a remarkable asset to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. In honor of Jerry's retirement, a celebratory reception was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Indiana.

Northwest Indiana's extensive transportation network earns this region's reputation for being the crossroads of America. Interstates 80, 94, 90, and 65 traverse our landscape, as do the railroad tracks servicing the Norfolk Southern, Canadian National, and CSX rail lines, connecting travelers and business interests alike from the East to West Coasts. Most notably, the South Shore Rail Line, a passenger rail service offered by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), provides riders access to the environs of Chicago and its $500 billion economy. Under Mr. Hanas's direction, NICTD and the South Shore Rail Line have flourished.

Established in 1908, the South Shore Rail Line provided passenger service to the city of Chicago as well as to the recreational opportunities found in Northwest Indiana, given its proximity to Lake Michigan and South Bend. With the advent of the interstate system, and the newfound ability to travel between neighboring communities with ease, ridership along the South Shore Rail Line began to decline. In order to prevent the complete loss of this asset, the state of Indiana created NICTD for the sole purpose of maintaining and operating the passenger line. Jerry Hanas was hired as the General Manager of NICTD upon its creation in June 1977, and it is here where he has served the railroad for 37 years.

NICTD's success is due to Jerry's competence, hard work, and dedication to a long-term vision in which passenger rail service is improved and expanded throughout the region. He effectively coordinated NICTD's purchase of the South Shore railroad and passenger assets, resulting in a stable and reliable relationship between the passenger and freight services. This acquisition required a steadfast commitment to a series of strategic investments to ensure the line's continuation. To that end, under Jerry's leadership, since 1977, over $500 million has been dedicated to upgrading the rolling stock, stations, track, catenary, bridges, and signals associated with the line in order to enhance safety and to make much needed capacity-related track improvements.

Currently, NICTD is in the process of conducting the appropriate environmental studies as part of its effort to expand services to the suburban areas in Northwest Indiana. This expansion is a key component to capitalizing upon our region's transportation network and maximizing economic development opportunities. Although Jerry Hanas retires this fall, he leaves a completely rebuilt and vibrant South Shore Rail Line to serve as his legacy and a well-established corporate vision to keep the momentum going for future generations.

Jerry's commitment to his career and to the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his family. He and his wonderful wife, Nancy, have a daughter, Melissa, son-in-law, Tom, and one beloved grandson, Donovan. They also have one son, Roger, whose fiancée, Annie, will be joining Jerry's exceptional family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Jerry Hanas for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Jerry's impact on the region will be evident for generations to come, and he is worthy of the highest praise. I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF DETECTIVE MICHAEL DAVID DAVIS, JR.

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOUG LAMALFA, in honor of the service and sacrifice of Placer County, California, Sheriff Detective Michael David Davis, Jr.

A long-time resident of Roseville, Detective Davis was a man of integrity and compassion. He cared about the community and took initiative to protect and better it. Such an example would be when Michael organized a funeral for an abandoned baby.

On October 24th, Detective Davis displayed immense courage and gallantry during a manhunt for the murderer of a fellow officer, Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff Danny Oliver. Detective Davis was killed in the line of duty, just as his father was struck down 26 years prior to the day.

Detective Davis faithfully and honorably served the Placer County community, joining the Sheriff's office in 1996. For the past fifteen years, Michael contributed to his family's legacy of law enforcement, just as his father did before him. Michael tirelessly worked as a homicide investigator, but he will be remembered for much more.

His bravery and kind soul will never be forgotten. He was a family man, devoted to his loving wife and four children. Michael is also survived by his four siblings, mother and stepfather.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Michael David Davis, Jr. will be deeply and sorely missed not only by his family, but also by his community. The State of California, and particularly the Fourth Congressional District, was blessed to have had such a man of character and heroism protecting our citizens.

Michael's legacy will live on in the lives that he touched. Just as he served, he died embodying the virtues that form the foundation of this great nation. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his sacrifice for Placer County and to honor his memory.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA T. WOOD ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Virginia T. Wood on her 100th birthday. Ms. Wood has led a remarkable life as a lifelong resident of Chicago and has lived in my district for over 60 years.

Virginia Wood has devoted much of her time as a High School Physical Education Teacher for the Chicago Board of Education, teaching at several schools including South Shore High School and Bogan High School. Ms. Wood was then promoted to Coordinator of girl's athletics for the Chicago Board of Education, eventually retiring with over 26 years of service. Even after retirement, she remained an active supporter of girls high school sports.

Ms. Wood has enjoyed a very active life, continuing to swim and bowl until she reached the age of 96. She has never missed voting in an election, and became involved with the neighborhood watch program for the Chicago Police Department. She is a model participant in her community, and we should all try to emulate her outstanding service.

Ms. Wood has led an extraordinary life that has given so much to others. I join her many family members and friends in celebrating this event and I wish her more years of happiness, fulfillment, and health. Congratulations to Ms. Wood on her centennial birthday milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate another stellar achievement by the Marcus High School Marching Band. This is the fifth time the Marcus High School Band has won first place in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Marching competition and been crowned state champions! The Marcus High School Marching Band has furthered their already impressive record of four consecutive state marching finals victories, cementing their UIL record.

The Marcus High School Marching Band has a talented and dedicated leadership team, headed by Amanda Drinkwater, Director of Bands, and Associate Directors: Kennan Wylie, Chase Howard, and David Simon as well as Color Guard Director, John Leonard. The student members of the Marauder Band have worked long hours over many months to bring their winning performance ''Imperial Treasures'' to fruition. They have been capably led by Drum Majors Amanda Elmendorf, Hannah Hadden, and Nicholas Kohn. Edward S. Marcus High School is located in Flower Mound, Texas within the Lewisville Independent School District. The school's administrators, teachers and students as well as its

committed booster organization have wholeheartedly supported the band's endeavors and should also be recognized and commended for their contributions to its great success.

I am pleased to join the community in congratulating the Marcus High School Band, winner of the 2014 Class 6A Texas UIL State Marching Band Contest. They have been excellent ambassadors for Flower Mound and the 26th District of Texas. It is my privilege to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REGIS GROFF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Denver's most respected residents, former Colorado State Senator Regis Groff, who passed away on October 5 at age 79. This remarkable man merits both our recognition and gratitude for his unwavering efforts to stand for what's right. He leaves behind an impressive record of leadership in social justice and education, and he made an enormous impact on many lives.

Regis Groff wasn't afraid to fight the tough battles when he knew he was standing up for others. He worked to strengthen education and to ensure a fair system for everyone. He was an educator, a state senator and a community servant. We in Colorado are fortunate to have had Mr. Groff laboring for equality in our community. The legacy that he leaves behind should inspire us all to continue his fight with a measure of dedication with which he worked.

Born in a small town in Illinois, Regis Groff first came to Denver while serving in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base for several months. He returned to Illinois and attended Western Illinois University earning a BA in 1962. When it came time to settle down and raise a family, he chose to make Denver home. He taught at Smiley and Lake Junior High Schools before starting an African-American history class at East High School. Later he earned a master's in Education from the University of Denver in 1972.

A long-standing interest in politics led him to run for the Colorado State Senate. He was successful in his bid and served from 1974 to 1994. During those twenty years, he demonstrated time and again his willingness to fight for fairness and justice, including an effort to divest Colorado from South Africa's apartheid government. He cites the highlight of his time in the Senate as passing legislation that established a holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. in Colorado. His colleagues recognized his leadership and elected him the first African-American Minority Leader of the Colorado State Senate. His efforts were also rewarded with numerous awards from the community, including Legislator of the Year from the Associated Press.

Roy Romer appointed Regis as the first Director of the new Youthful Offenders System. His dedication to community service then continued in his role as Executive Director of the Metro Black Church Initiative. He was selfless to the end. As a teacher, Mr. Groff had an impact on countless students. I hope some of them are as inspired by him as I am and will carry on his work to fight the good fight. His talents and perseverance are an example for us all.

Please join me in commending Regis Groff. His leadership in the search for justice and equality enriches our lives and builds a better future for everyone living in Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ROSCOE R. CASSIDY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of an outstanding individual, Mr. Roscoe R. Cassidy of Preston, Kentucky. Mr. Cassidy served our nation in military uniform from June 3, 1942 to October 9, 1945 and recently passed-away at the age of 107.

As a young man, Mr. Cassidy began his service in the United States Army as a Private First Class assigned to Company E, 335th Engineering Regiment, Duty Soldier 188. During the United States' campaign to achieve victory over the Axis Powers, Mr. Cassidy fought his way from Tunisia, Africa, up through southern France, across Italy and did not stop until the Allies achieved victory in Germany.

Mr. Cassidy's valiant performance fighting in four major campaigns earned him great distinction, and for his actions he received the European Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, four Bonze Stars, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After victoriously returning to his home in Preston, Kentucky, Mr. Cassidy began his career of farming and working for the Bath County Road Department. Mr. Cassidy enjoyed life and loved to dance while listening to country and bluegrass music.

Mr. Cassidy's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform protected our American freedoms for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING MS. CLARA I. SISSEL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Clara I. Sissel of Odessa, Texas. Since 2002, Ms. Sissel has sent more than 1,200 care packages to our armed services members stationed overseas. For her efforts, she is being honored by her family, friends, and the members of the Omni Club for her tireless and selfless service to our armed forces.

Ms. Sissel has made her care packages, or love boxes as she prefers to call them, a personal mission to show each service member that someone back home is thinking of them and cares about their well being. Although fourteen years is a long time, her service did not start in 2002. Ms. Sissel started her mission during the Vietnam War. Through the years, she has sent at least one package per week at her own expense. As a token of remembrance, Ms. Sissel has created scrap books containing every letter that she has received from recipients of her care packages.

However, her efforts did not stop at her front door. Ms. Sissel has also led many Odessa organizations to join her mission in showing our armed service members that they are in our thoughts and prayers back home. She has brought together the VFW and local churches to help in running community care package drives. These care package drives allow people to donate goods or their time to help fill care packages for our veterans.

Clara Sissel's selflessness and determined dedication embody the American spirit and has lifted the hearts of thousands of service members worldwide. Her weekly token of appreciation reminds our service members that their daily sacrifices are not taken for granted, and I am sure they are thankful for Ms. Sissel's support. I am honored to recognize her as a true patriot in our community and to share her story with you all today.

IN HONOR OF BOB LEE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Lee, a champion for justice who committed his life to public service and worked tirelessly to assure that the Central Coast of California is a safe place to live for all.

Bob launched his career in 1985 as a prosecutor in Monterey County before joining the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office in 1988, where he served as Assistant District Attorney for fourteen years. Bob was a notably gifted trial attorney, having never lost a case in Santa Cruz County.

Bob was elected Santa Cruz District Attorney in 2002. As District Attorney, he made significant structural improvements to the District Attorney's Office. He led efforts in developing and strengthening specialized units that prosecuted gang members, violent criminals, sex offenders, and cases involving environment and consumer protection abuses. Bob also played a pivotal role in establishing the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force, which centered on the containment of gang activity and prosecution of gang members.

A native of Santa Cruz, Bob was the youngest of four brothers. He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from California State University of Sacramento in 1980. His Juris Doctorate was obtained only four years later from the University of Santa Clara.

After a long and brave battle with cancer, the Central Coast of California mourns the loss of one of its strongest leaders. Bob will be remembered for his incredible achievements in building a safer and more thriving environment in Santa Cruz County. He gave his life to his service and his fervor for justice will forever remain unmatched. The District Attorney's office will certainly cherish Bob's unforgettable dedication and will continue to carry out his resolute spirit in future pursuits. Bob was also an amazing family man, and is survived by his wife, Barbara Lee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an accomplished seeker of justice and loving husband, District Attorney Bob Lee. His life, legacy, and service to Santa Cruz County will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF PALOS PARK ON THE VILLAGE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of the Village of Palos Park as they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the village's incorporation on October 31, 2014.

European settlers first came to the area around the village in 1834. Not long after, the building of the Illinois-Michigan Canal—completed in 1848—brought an influx of laborers, blacksmiths, and woodcutters to join the local farmers. A township was organized in 1850 and named Trenton, but that name was soon changed to Palos by the recommendation of the first Postmaster, M.S. Powell.

In the late 1800s the Wabash Railroad was extended into the area, allowing people to live in along the rail route and commute to work in Chicago. The resulting increase in population led to the incorporation of the Village of Palos Park in 1914. The village attracted many artists, writers, and intellectuals and became known as a country retreat outside of Chicago.

Today, Palos Park, under the leadership of Mayor John Mahoney, has a little over 4800 residents who enjoy a residential area nestled within beautiful forest preserves. One of the special places in Palos Park is the McCord Gallery & Cultural Center, which is a learning center for the arts and cultural history which also showcases artworks of local and regional artists. Among the many special events that occur in the village every year, I especially enjoy participating in the Autumn in the Park Festival and Parade in September.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the residents of Palos Park as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of their village and to wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Argyle High School Band from Argyle, Texas for their recent outstanding achievement in winning the 2014 Class 4A UIL Texas State Marching Band Championship.

Argyle High School's Band decisively won the Class 4A crown for the fourth consecutive time. The band's stellar performance of ''Alleluia'' earned the top award and allowed them to retain the state title they have held since 2008. The accomplished members of the Argyle High School Band deserve praise for their hard work and commitment.

I commend the staff and students of Argyle High School for their tremendous support of the Eagle Band under the dedicated leadership of Band Director Kathy Johnson, Associate Band Director Michael Lemish, Superintendent Telena Wright, and Principal Jeff Butts. It is my privilege to represent the administrators, teachers, staff and students that comprise the Argyle Independent School District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND HONOREE BETH WROBEL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will host its 38th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 15, 2014, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at the annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have generously devoted themselves to providing superior medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, academic and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Beth Wrobel. Mrs. Wrobel is to be commended for her exceptional contributions to her field and her community.

In 1979, Beth graduated from Valparaiso University where she majored in Mechanical Engineering. Mrs. Wrobel's engineering career includes twenty years of service with NiSource, Inc. Subsequently, in 2007, she also earned her Healthcare Executive Certificate from the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Business.

Beth has been the chief executive officer of HealthLinc, Incorporated since 2002. She has since advanced the organization from a free medical clinic serving only adults to a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical services to over 4,000 uninsured or underinsured patients, through all life cycles, from prenatal to seniors. HealthLinc provides comprehensive, quality and affordable care that includes medical, dental, optometry and behavioral health services at six locations and one mobile van in Northern Indiana.

In 2013, Beth was honored by Northwest Indiana Business Quarterly as top not-for-profit chief executive officer in Northern Indiana due to her success improving and expanding HealthLinc from a one-location, small organization, known as Hilltop Community Health Center, with a budget of less than $350,000 in 2001, to the multi-location organization that is known today, with a budget of $20 million and a staff of more than 200 employees. Beth has also earned distinction as Porter County Community Foundation's 2012 Outstanding Executive and was honored by Porter County United Way as an Outstanding Agency Professional in 2014.

Among her many accomplishments, Beth is a member of the Indiana Primary Healthcare Association Board and has previously held the position of president. She also serves as an adviser to many medical groups, including Indiana University Northwest Medical School, and has presented at many conferences, both at the national and state level.

Additionally, Beth selflessly gives of her time through her involvement in various organizations and civic activities, such as the Porter County Reading Foundation Board and the City of Valparaiso Human Relations Council. She also serves as president-elect of the Valparaiso Rotary Club and is an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Beth's compassion and dedication to her field and her commitment to charitable endeavors exemplifies the self-driven person that she is and is exceeded only by her devotion to her wonderful family. Beth and her husband, Joe, have three amazing sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Beth Wrobel, for their outstanding contributions to their community and beyond. Their unwavering commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational.

HONORING THE CAREER OF REAR ADMIRAL GARY W. ROSHOLT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Rear Admiral Gary W. Rosholt, who has served in the United States Navy for over thirty-four years and, though with the U.S. Embassy at the United Arab Emirates at this time, resides in Irving, Texas.

Rear Admiral Rosholt's decades of service to our nation were notably preceded by his own father's career with the U.S. Air Force. Rosholt himself was commissioned during his years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned a degree in electrical engineering and was enrolled in the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC). In February 1980, he completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training with Class 106.

In his commendable career, Rosholt served multiple tours in Naval Special Warfare, including assigmnents with Underwater Demolition Team 12, SEAL Team One, and Special Boat Unit 20. He also earned his masters of science degree in operations management at the University of Arkansas while on a shore duty assignment with the Chief of Naval Technical Training.

Rosholt served valuable roles in the Reserve component as well. He held a staff position in the Naval Surface Warfare Center,

White Oak, and was a Navy emergency preparedness liaison officer with the Director of Military Support and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense. He also commanded five units in the Navy Reserve: Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Norfolk Detachment 406, Special Boat Unit 20, Naval Special Warfare Unit 4, U.S. Special Operations Command Detachment 108, and Naval Special Warfare Command headquarters.

In October 2008, Gary W. Rosholt earned his promotion to Rear Admiral and returned to active duty in the U.S. Navy. He then served as the deputy commanding general for Special Operations Command in U.S. Central Command. Currently, he serves as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Rosholt is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and, in a civilian setting, was also a consultant with a focus on Special Operations, particularly with regard to research, development, and acquisition programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in marking the retirement of Rear Admiral Gary W. Rosholt and thanking him for his long career of honorable service to the United States Navy.

HONORING DIGNITY & MERCY ADULT DAYCARE SERVICES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dignity & Mercy Adult Daycare Services.

Tamekia Renix Jackson was born on September 18, 1974 to Albert Black III and Fannie Renix Johnson. Tamekia is the oldest of her seven siblings. She is a graduate of the North Panola High School Class of 1992. She currently resides in Como, MS, where she was born and raised. She attends the First Baptist Church in Como, where she serves faithfully as associate minister, choir president, and youth advisor. She serves on the Board of Directors for Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center and as President of the Mississippi Association of Adult Day Services.

In 1995 Tamekia graduated from the Licensed Practical Nursing Course at Northwest Community College in Senatobia, MS. She decided to further her education by enrolling in the Registered Nurse Curriculum in Senatobia, MS. She graduated in 2005 and passed her NCLEX as a RN.

Tamekia began working at the age of 15 at Wendy's in Senatobia, MS. After passing her LPN NCLEX, she became employed with Golden Living Center in Batesville, MS and remained with the company for three years learning that she really desired the role of RN. After becoming an RN she was gainfully employed with Baptist Desoto Hospital, where she remained for 2 years working in critical care. She later moved on to the position of travel nurse where she traveled extensively and enhanced her skills, gained friends, and encountered remarkable experiences. After becoming home sick, she accepted a position as Director of Nursing for Monette Hospice until it closed in 2009. She was then led to open Dignity & Mercy Adult Day Services, LLC.

During her first year as an entrepreneur, she also gave birth to her first born, Mckenzie Janae Jackson on July 2, 2009. On September 6, 2010 she gave birth to her 2nd born, Cayden Allen Jackson. They are outgoing, intelligent, inquisitive children. She also has a son, Alex Shaw, 17 years old, whom she adopted from a prior marriage.

While working at Monette Hospice, the owner opened an Adult Daycare next door. Tamekia found herself drawn to the participants of this center. She also realized there was no such program at home for the elderly and disabled. She began to research adult daycare and sought information in the community regarding funding, transportation, and other services needed in Panola and the 8 surrounding counties. In August of 2010, Dignity & Mercy Adult Day Services received a provider number for Adult Daycare in the state of MS. Later Dignity & Mercy also received a provider number for Respite and Homemaker Services. In January of 2014 Tamekia felt lead to open a facility in Oxford, MS. On July 1, 2014 Dignity & Mercy received a contract for Non Emergency Transportation with Division of Medicaid via MTM.

Dignity & Mercy is located at 569 Hwy 6 West in Batesville, MS. Dignity & Mercy recently purchased and renovated a 13,000 sq. ft. facility located at 405 Hwy 51 south in Batesville, MS. The date for occupancy is set for Oct. 1, 2014. They are excited about the grace of God affording them such an opportunity.

Dignity & Mercy services 50 to 60 clients per day at the Batesville location and 10 to 15 clients at the Oxford location. Their participants range from 21 years of age to 99 and provide the transportation to and from the center along with breakfast, lunch and a snack before they leave. The participants attend movies monthly, visit schools and nursing homes. The Adult Day Care offers exercise class daily and other activities including shooting pool, reading, cooking, quilting, gardening, basketball, checkers, bowling, wii sports, ring toss, crocheting, coloring, and various arts and crafts.

Dignity & Mercy has faced numerous challenges but God has delivered them from them all. When Tamekia is faced with struggles she takes comfort in the scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dignity & Mercy Adult Daycare Services for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Brunswick Fire Department as it celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. Since its formation, the New Brunswick Fire Department has upheld its duty to protect and serve the community.

Organized in 1764, the New Brunswick Fire Department has seen many changes and much growth throughout its history. Its equipment has advanced as new technology became available, from buckets to various engines and wagons. During its first 100 years, more than ten companies were organized. Throughout the 1900s, 493 volunteered to serve in the department. On July 1, 1914, the New Brunswick Fire Department was officially installed as a paid department.

Over its long history, a number of qualified leaders have served the New Brunswick Fire Department. Staasts Van Dursen was the first head of the department. James M. Carman served as the first Fire Director over 200 years later. Today, the New Brunswick Fire Department is led by a Director, five Deputy Chiefs, eight Captains, eight Lieutenants, fifty-six firefighters and a secretary and operates out of three companies and its headquarters. Seventy-five percent of the force are also trained Emergency Medical Technicians and certified in defibrillation, a result of a requirement begun in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the New Brunswick Fire Department on this milestone. Its outstanding service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH NELSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the valiant effort of a friend and colleague, 2nd Lt. Joshua "Josh" Nelson, West Virginia Air National Guard. I have come to know Josh through his service in the West Virginia Legislature, and feel that it is most fitting to acknowledge a recent good deed.

Earlier this year, Josh stopped by his local Wal-Mart, near Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, to pick up some fish hooks for a family trip. This small stop would soon turn out to be an experience that he will, likely, never forget.

The following account is taken from the U.S. Air Force News, written by Joel Langton, 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs, published October 24, 2014:

> The West Virginia Air National Guardsman was walking to the Hunting and Fishing section when he heard a woman say, "Stop, put it down!"
>
> "I could tell she was stressed and she sounded frightened," said Nelson. "I looked into the aisle, and this young man had a knife to a woman's stomach."
>
> According to police reports, the young man was mad at his mother, who he had a knife to, because she wouldn't buy him a gun. Nelson told his wife Brittany to go alert the store manager and call the police.
>
> Nelson, who has a concealed weapons permit stepped up beside the woman.
>
> "I put my hand on my pistol where he'd notice, and then I stepped in between them," said Nelson. "I kept demanding he hand me the knife. I wanted him to see only one option. As I was standing beside that lady, I felt like I was responsible for her life. I was going to do whatever I had to do to protect her."

Then, according to the police report, Nelson went from trying to stop a murder to trying to stop a suicide when the assailant turned the knife on himself.

Nelson pointed to his training and the Air National Guard and previously in the Marine Corp as helping him talk the young man down.

By this time, several Wal-Mart employees had joined Nelson's effort. ''When he handed me the knife, he turned like he was going to just leave,'' said Nelson. ''We told him he needed to have a seat and wait for the police to arrive.''

''It was the most surreal five minutes of my life while waiting for the police,'' said Nelson. He added that throughout the entire event, he was never scared.

''I just relied on all of the training I've had,'' he said.

This event was just another storied chapter in an almost Hollywoodesque life for Nelson. He's gone from working in coal mines, to the Marine Corp, back to the mines, and today, when he's not refining his flying skills, he serves in the West Virginia legislature as a delegate.

The former Liberty University student body president points to his grandfather for his love of flying and the Founding Fathers for his passion to serve his nation and state . . . When Nelson graduates Oct. 24, he will be serving like the Founding Fathers never dreamed as he flies C–130s around the globe for the WVANG's 130th Airlift Wing.''

The first time I met Josh, I knew he was a smart, caring and capable young man. This is just one instance of Josh's outstanding service to the citizens of this country, whether in uniform or civilian clothes.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize the heroism and selflessness exhibited by 2nd Lt. Joshua "Josh" Nelson, WVANG. He could have easily turned away, but he chose to become involved and save two lives, instead of one. I would also like to thank him for his service to the State of West Virginia and the United States of America. It is indeed an honor to call him friend and fellow West Virginian.

HONORING KIM BENNETT ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my Director of Constituent Services, Kim Bennett, as she prepares to retire from her two decades of public service.

Kim has served the State of Indiana and our country very capably throughout her career. She has headed our team's constituent services operation since my election last year. Kim helped get our district offices up and running so that residents of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District continued to receive the assistance they needed with the federal government, even during the congressional transition. I have heard from many of my constituents about how caring and professionally Kim has served them in matters involving a myriad of federal agencies.

She worked for my predecessor in Congress, Governor Mike Pence, for more than a decade, serving in various roles, including Deputy District Director, Director of Grants, and Director of Economic and Rural Development. She also has coordinated the Sixth District Job Fair since 1997, an event which continues to this day. Kim also worked for Congressman David McIntosh as his Social Security caseworker from 1995 to 2001. Kim always went above and beyond in these various roles. She produced positive results to improve people's lives in a caring and compassionate manner.

Mr. Speaker, hiring Kim was one of the best decisions I made after my election to Congress. I learned very quickly that her stellar reputation among Hoosiers in the Sixth District was well-deserved after watching how diligently she worked on their behalf. I hope she knows how much she has meant to them and to me. I wish her and her husband, Robert, all the best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION HONORING KAILASH SATYARTHI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating and Honoring Kailash Satyarthi, Recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives MCGOVERN, BROWN, WILSON, MEEKS, RANGEL, COHEN, SCOTT, and GABBARD in honoring 2014 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Kailash Satyarthi for his tireless efforts to combat child labor, forced servitude and human trafficking. In his 34 years as a children's rights advocate and social activist, Mr. Satyarthi has saved over 80,000 children from forced labor, has vigorously worked to call international attention to the scourge of same by spearheading global initiatives, and has been instrumental in launching local programs to teach trades to Indian youth and rescue girls sold into abusive forced marriages. His contributions to the protection of children's rights and the promotion of peace are deserving of recognition.

I welcome my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and congratulating Kailash Satyarthi on receiving the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize by becoming a co-sponsor of this resolution.

HONORING THE STAFF OF MERRICK, INC.

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the staff of Merrick Incorporated, past and present, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since this private, non-profit organization was founded in 1964, it has served as a shining example of leadership and progressive commitment to advancing the quality of life of those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Merrick Community Center first opened to serve fifteen young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to supplement the services provided by public schools. As the center grew in size, the volunteers and staff members recognized that these young adults had an interest in working and many skills to offer employers. Merrick Community Center began working tirelessly to partner with businesses and clients to provide valuable employment opportunities for these young adults.

Since it was founded, Merrick Community Center and Daytime Activity Center has grown into a non-profit charitable corporation with two program sites. More than one hundred professional staff are dedicated to providing necessary support for over 375 adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. As Merrick, Inc. has expanded, the community around them has also seen great advances and growth. Through day training and habilitation, adult day services and the Ticket-to-Work program, young adults at Merrick, Inc. build personal and professional relationships, actively engage in their communities, and lead more self-determined lives.

Mr. Speaker, during the last 50 years, Merrick, Inc. has worked towards improving the quality of life for every person who passes through their doors. The families and communities of Minnesota have been empowered and advanced as a result of this remarkable organization. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Merrick, it is a privilege to recognize the great work of the many dedicated employees, as well as those whose lives have been enriched through job skills and career training.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SUE LANDSKE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous gratitude and the highest respect that I take this time to honor a dear friend and one of Indiana's finest citizens, the Honorable Sue Landske, Indiana State Senator. During her many years of public service and because of her countless efforts toward improving the lives of her fellow Hoosiers, Sue has left an indelible mark as an outstanding public servant, and for this, she is to be commended. Senator Landske will be retiring at the end of this year.

Sue Landske pursued her education at Saint Joseph's College and Indiana University, followed by graduate studies at the University of Chicago. In the years to follow, Sue, through hard work and a spirit for public service, was elected Center Township Assessor in 1978. She was also elected Lake County Republican Vice Chair the same year and maintained that position until 1989, then again from 2001 to 2007. Senator Landske was first elected to the Indiana Legislature in 1984 and has selflessly represented the people of Indiana Senate District 6 for the last thirty years. Throughout her tenure as State Senator, Sue has consistently fought for the rights of the residents of her district and throughout Indiana. In particular, Senator Landske's legislative achievements include authoring Indiana's lemon law, which guards Hoosiers against the sale of defective vehicles, creating living will legislation, which gives Indiana residents better control over their future medical decisions, and spearheading the passage of a bill requiring all Indiana nursing homes to have fire

sprinklers throughout their facilities and smoke detectors in every patient's room. Senator Landske's record speaks for itself. She has passionately devoted herself to improving the lives of Hoosiers and to protecting the interests and well-being of Indiana's most vulnerable citizens. Highlighting her leadership in Northwest Indiana and the Indiana General Assembly, Sue has distinguished herself by serving as the Assistant Pro Tempore in the Indiana State Senate. She has also served on numerous legislative committees including the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, as a ranking member of the Civil Law Committee, and as chair of the Elections Committee. Along with her career as a State Senator, Sue is also a retired colonel in the Indiana National Guard and president and owner of All Golfcar, Incorporated.

Senator Landske's exemplary service has been rightfully recognized numerous times during her legislative career. In both 1980 and 1983, she was honored with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash for her service to the people of Indiana. Following this honor, Sue was awarded the title of Outstanding Republican Senator, as well as the accolade of Business and Professional Woman of the Year. Sue was also recognized as Lake County Republican of the Year in 1988, the Jaycees' Citizen of the Year in 1991, and was named Small Business Champion in 2000 by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Senator Landske's remarkable career is exceeded only by her devotion to her amazing family. Sue and her loving husband of fifty-seven years, Bill, have five children and seven grandchildren.

I have been truly fortunate to call Sue Landske my friend. Throughout the years, she has been an outstanding advocate for the community of Northwest Indiana, as well as for all Hoosiers. She epitomizes what it means to be a public servant, and for her selfless, lifelong commitment to the people of Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Senator Sue Landske for her lifetime of leadership and exceptional service to the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the state. Senator Landske's impact will be evident for generations to come, and she serves as an inspiration to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT HUGHES

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert Hughes, a man who broke incredible records in basketball while simultaneously overcoming tremendous obstacles. Robert Hughes paved the way for African American students to have the same opportunities as their counterparts and bridged the divides of a segregated community.

Robert Hughes was born on May 15, 1928, in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He was the youngest of five brothers with a successful high school basketball career. After a tour in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Hughes played college basketball at Texas Southern University. In 1955, he was drafted to the Boston Celtics, but ended up playing for Marques Haynes' barnstorming team, the Harlem Magicians. During his time with the Harlem Magicians, he ruptured his Achilles tendon and began his legendary coaching career.

From 1958 to 1973, Hughes coached the Fort Worth I.M. Terrell High School basketball team, with an astonishing record of 378–84. During this time, I.M. Terrell was a segregated high school, placing the team in a specific division called the Prairie View Interscholastic League. The PVIL governed the Texas African American high schools. Hughes won three PVIL championships and came second in two more during his time at Terrell. In 1973, the desegregation of public schools would lead to the closing of Terrell and the beginning of Hughes career at Fort Worth Dunbar High School.

Hughes remained at Fort Worth Dunbar until he retired in 2005 with an astonishing overall career record of 1,333–264. He had the most wins in the entire nation until recently when Leta Andrews passed his record. During his 47 seasons at Dunbar, Hughes brought his team to victory while changing the lives of thousands of students. As a coach, he broke the racial divide and bridged the gap between communities. For 50 years, the Southwest Conference denied entry to black high school athletes. Hughes navigated his way around these policies and created relationships with the Big Ten, Pacific 8 and Missouri Valley Conferences so that all of his players could be offered the same opportunities.

Dallas cinematographer, Ronald Nance and Lindell Singleton, producer of major feature films such as Lone Star and Holy War, are partnering to bring Robert Hughes' story to life in a feature-length documentary called Relentless, which will premiere in February 2015. The film will capture the incredible feats of Hughes and the impact that he had on the Texas basketball community.

In honor of Coach Robert Hughes, a pillar of the Fort Worth and Texas athletic community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

HONORING DR. GERALDINE B. CHANEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Geraldine B. Chaney, M.D., who is a native of Mississippi. She was born into a family of nine children (six girls and three boys), with parents who stressed the importance of strong religious beliefs. Dr. Chaney's parents were not formally educated, but possessed a wealth of knowledge. They taught God first, family and education next.

Dr. Chaney chose to attend Tougaloo College and major in Biology and Chemistry. As tradition would have it, Dr. Chaney's brothers and sisters who had gone to college before her, went to school to become school teachers. All of that changed when she heard some of her classmates talking about going to medical school. At that moment without telling anyone, Dr. Chaney closeted in her mind that she wanted to become a physician. She thought that her idea was a bit farfetched. She had never seen or known a black or white female physician.

However, Tougaloo offered unique experience. Dr. Chaney excelled in her studies and took the exam for entry into medical school. Her score was good enough to get her into her choice of four schools. She chose the University of Mississippi, because she wanted to practice in Mississippi.

Dr. Chaney entered medical school with only five other African Americans. There were five black males, and she was the only black female. It was a very grueling experience, but they all managed to finish. Dr. Chaney admits that she did better in medical school than in college. Probably because she really wanted to be a doctor. It was also important to her that the medical community get to know her and see what she was capable of doing.

When Dr. Chaney completed her residency in 1977, there was only one other black pediatrician in the Jackson area. She knew that she couldn't start a private practice right out of school, because she would be swamped by those looking for a black physician to care for their children. So, she spent the first ten years working at the clinic, the University Medical Center, with another physician, and volunteering. She also worked part-time in public health and consulting.

Dr. Chaney is one of the most prominent pediatricians in the state of Mississippi, serving patients of all races and nationalities.

Dr. Chaney is quick to point out that her husband played a huge part in her success. She left her salaried position at the Health Center to start her own business, and he stood with her 100%. When she began the practice, her earnings were only half of what she had made from the clinic and consulting. But, she knew that was only temporary. In her own words, ''To build a business, there has to be some sacrifice.'' She and her family decided that they could make the sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr Geraldine B. Chaney for her dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN H. ELMORE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stephen H. Elmore who was posthumously selected as the 2014 Farmer of the Year by the Imperial County Farm Bureau and will be presented with the Tenth Annual Jim Kuhn Memorial Farmer of the Year Award as a tribute to his exemplary record of agricultural and community leadership.

Before passing away in 1999, Mr. Elmore was a distinguished agriculturalist who had half a century of experience in agriculture with The Elmore Company, Stephen H. Elmore Company, Desert Sky Farms and Echo II. Under his leadership, they grew numerous amounts of crops of all shapes and sizes such as sweet corn, sugar beets, tomatoes, wheat, onions, melons, potatoes and many more.

Throughout his life, Mr. Elmore was highly respected by his community, employees and family. He was known for his innovative water management practices and active participation with well-regarded organizations such as Imperial County Farm Bureau, Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, and the Western Growers Association, among others.

Furthermore, Mr. Elmore never hesitated to support local youth activities such as Brawley and Westmorland Little League, Brawley Parks and Recreation Youth Sports, and the Boys and Girls Club of Brawley. He will always be remembered by all those that were lucky enough to experience his goodwill.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUTH HYMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ruth Hyman on the occasion of her 95th birthday this year. I would like to join with her family and friends in honoring her remarkable accomplishments and philanthropy.

Born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey, Ruth Hyman continues to give back to the community. At a young age, Ms. Hyman recognized the meaning of generosity and has spent her life working to make a difference in the world. Her achievements are numerous, wide-ranging and noteworthy, from serving in the federal government to opening her own small business. She has been actively involved with various organizations, including the Long Branch Hadassah, Deborah Hospital, Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Jewish Community Center, and Congregation of Brothers of Israel. She is also a life member of Daughters of Miriam and the Central Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged. Ms. Hyman is an esteemed member of the Jewish community and a passionate philanthropist.

Ms. Hyman's impact on the community has not gone unnoticed. The Chabad House at Rutgers University presented her with the Kesser Shem Tov (Crown of a Good Name) award and she was named Philanthropist of the Year from Generations ElderCare Charity, among many other honors.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ruth Hyman on her 95th birthday. I know that I join with all those who know her in expressing my sincere gratitude for her warm and giving nature and immeasurable contributions to our community. Her leadership and spirit of generosity are truly admirable.

HONORING MR. JOHN P. SINDONI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow Holy Cross alumnus, Mr. John P. Sindoni, Esq., class of 1967. John has served with distinction as a highly effective class chair and co-chair of the Holy Cross Alumni Association since graduation.

Through his dedicated efforts, he has kept his classmates informed, energized and supportive of the Holy Cross mission. He has maintained a strong bond with the College for 47 years since graduation. Since 1967, his engaging and informative class letters to his fellow Crusaders has added to the cohesiveness of our class.

The esprit de corps John has sustained among his classmates and the strong ties he has helped them to maintain with their Alma Mater have led to record levels of participation in annual giving to the Holy Cross Fund from the Class of 1967. Thanks to his work, a majority of our classmates have donated generously for the past thirty years. During reunion years, that number hovers closer to 70 percent.

John has also been a driving force in the Holy Cross Club of Central New York and a leader among a core group of dedicated alumni in the Syracuse area. A frequent organizer, sponsor and host of alumni activities in his hometown, John is a prominent alumnus whose dedication to the College is widely known. John has mentored many young Holy Cross graduates over the years and has fostered interest in Holy Cross among students at the Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, where his decades of work has earned him recognition for distinguished service.

After college, John graduated from Cornell University Law School and is now a partner in the law firm Hiscock & Barclay, LLP He and his lovely wife, Cecilia, live in Cicero, NY, and have six children, including Laura, Holy Cross Class of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, John deserves the recognition of this body for a job well done. His years of service have made our class, college, and our country ever more deserving of our respect and our pride.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 375

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 375 and to acknowledge their persistent endeavor to fairly represent their members.

On February 3, 1914, a dedicated group of seventeen electricians organized into the Local Union 375. Their goal was to obtain better wages and better working conditions. In 1947, LU 375 initiated an apprenticeship program. Now seen as a key function, the apprenticeship program meets the demand for high quality electricians highly skilled in fiber-optics and advanced technologies as well as the traditional delivery modes. That same year, LU 375 joined the National Electrical Contractors Association, which leveraged their bargaining power. The benefits afforded members increased again in 1961, when the Health and Welfare Plan was put in place to provide healthcare and other benefits. Another milestone was reached on June 1, 1990, when LU 375 began to train Telecommunication Technicians as part of the Telephone Interconnect Communications system agreement.

On December 19, 1998, LU 375 moved to their new office and training center at what is now their current headquarters in Allentown. A short eleven years later, in 2009, they hired their first full-time Training Director and expanded the apprenticeship program. Today, they serve up to 150 apprentices in their training center and offer programs to keep veteran members current on the newest techniques and technologies. Although hit by the economic downturn in 2008, they have since seen new opportunities, including those generated by the redevelopment of downtown Allentown through the Neighborhood Improvement Zone awarded in 2013.

As one of the oldest unions in the region, LU 375 has grown to a membership approaching 1100, with ranks continuing to expand thanks to well-planned organizing. After 100 years, the IBEW Local Union 375 has remained true to their mission to provide strong, fair representation and open communication for members, fellow unions, contractors, and the community. It is an honor for me to recognize their 100 years of service and fraternity.

HONORING MR. EUGENE HICKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

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

Clarksdale business owner, Eugene Hicks, Sr., continues to receive recognition for his world famous hot tamales. He has been featured on the Food Networks television show, Rachel Ray's, Chile Pepper, Southern Living, Esquire magazines and other national magazines. He has also been featured in the local and national newspapers.

Mr. Hicks has hosted and served quite a few famous people and celebrities from the late, John F. Kennedy Jr., and John Amos, Blues entertainers, Bobbie Rush, Rufus Thomas, Tyrone Davis, and many worldwide tourist travelers. The most exciting historical event hosting and serving President Bill Clinton, Rev. Jessie Jackson, and several Mississippi governors including Governor Ray Mabus, Governor Ronnie Musgrove, and Governor Haley Barbour, and many more distinguished customers.

Mr. Hicks, who is now 70 years old, has been making tamales since age 16 when he was introduced to the cooking craft by the late Angelo Thompson who was the owner of Liberty Super Market in Clarksdale. Mr. Thompson instructed him on how to properly cut meat and how to manage a store and a restaurant. Mr. Hicks started working at the Liberty Super Market at the age of 12 years. He would work after school and worked at local stores doing various types jobs.

During the same time around the age of 12, an older black gentleman named Acy Ware befriended him. Mr. Ware made and sold tamales to the public by push cart and Mr. Hicks would go back and forth to the local grocery stores on his bike to pick up the different spices and shucks that Mr. Ware needed to make his tamales. A couple of years later, Mr. Ware taught Mr. Hicks how to make tamales

and informed him that the skill of making tamales can assist in him becoming an entrepreneur.

Mr. Hicks was drafted into the military at the age of 21 and worked in the mess hall preparing and cooking for the officers and his fellow soldiers. His ability to cook afforded him the opportunity to stay state side and be shipped off to Vietnam. After his military service he went back to work at Liberty Super Market, and at the federal building before opening his own grocery store. He opened Hicks' Superette in 1973, on 109–5th Street at the age of 26 with $52 dollars where he sold groceries and his tamales.

Business was booming and people from all over the world came to eat his tamales. Customers liked his tamales and the word spread that he had the best tamales in the Mississippi Delta and they would request orders to be shipped to them in various parts of the United States and foreign countries.

''The mid–90s were really tough,'' Hicks said. However, he had to close down Hicks' Superette. In 2000 because of high crime and drug usage in that area of down town, people began to move out.

Mr. Hicks moved and opened a restaurant/banquet hall, called Hicks' World Famous Hot Tamales & More on 305 South State Street. He has independently own his business for 41 years now. Hicks is one of the oldest independent black business in Clarksdale.

Mr. Hicks is amazed that these years his business still attracts people from all over the world.

So, what is the secret to Mr. Hick's success? It is the shucks he uses to wrap the tamales in before cooking. Many people use wax paper which is cheaper. It's kind of expensive the way he does it, but it is the way he was taught 50 years ago and it has paid off. He does not believe in cutting comers like most people may.

His wife, Betty, of 44 years has worked in the business for the last 11 years after retiring from the Clarksdale Public School System. She said, ''Eugene has recently contemplated retirement.''

Mr. Hicks stated that his career has been a blessed one, because he has had a chance to meet a lot of people due to his tamales. Mr. Hicks lives by the motto of: ''What you do—do it well.''

Mr. Hicks and his wife are the proud parents of 3 children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur for his dedication and service to his profession.

IN HONOR OF CLARENCE D. BROCKLEBANK, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I join with the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in Oceanport, New Jersey in recognizing Clarence D. ''Buddy'' Brocklebank for his 50 years of continuous, active service to the company. Mr. Brocklebank's outstanding record will be honored at the fire company's 37th Annual ''Old Timer's Night'' on October 20, 2014.

As the only member to accomplish this record in the company's 98 year history, Mr. Brocklebank's achievement is truly commendable. At 80 years of age, Mr. Brocklebank continues to maintain active duty at the fire company, fulfilling the Emergency Services Volunteer Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) requirement to make 50 percent of the company fire calls, meetings and borough functions listed in the program. Mr. Brocklebank has served as Captain, Chief, President and Trustee of the company, and became a life member in 1989.

In addition to his service to Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1, Mr. Brocklebank also joined the Oceanport, Monmouth County and State Relief and Exempt Fireman's Association, the Oceanport Ex-Chiefs Association, the Port-Au-Peck Benevolent Association and the Oceanport Fire Police Unit. He is also a life member of the New Jersey State Fireman's Association.

Mr. Brocklebank was born on July 14, 1934 and has been a resident of Oceanport since 1964, joining the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in April of the same year. He and his wife, Patricia, are the parents of Donald, Jr. and Matt and grandparents of 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Clarence D. Brocklebank, Sr. for his 50 years of continuous, active service to Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1. His remarkable dedication and duty to his community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY'S PLAYGROUND

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 2014 a community in my district teamed up to show that together we can overcome heartbreak.

Over 100 volunteers, local businesses and community leaders worked to complete Bobby's Playground—a new park area at the Lower Bucks Family YMCA's Holland Campground. The playground is named in honor of Robert Edward Osterhout IV of Holland who tragically passed away at just 14 months.

The project, a Kaboom Playground, was completed by the hands of volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to remember the life of Bobby and ensure that generations of kids to come would have a safe place to play, laugh and learn.

It was a pleasure to participate in the event and offer a few words about the amazing work being done in my district by those I represent.

While Bobby's passing is a tragedy, the completion of this playground serves both as a reminder of his memory and a point of community pride.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY NGUYEN QUOC CUONG, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, His Excellency Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States. Ambassador Cuong is more than a friend. He is my brother and, for historical purposes, I wish to pay tribute to him as he completes his term in the United States and returns to Vietnam.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was appointed by President Nguyen Minh Triet as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States of America in early 2011. He has been accredited to the title of Senior Ambassador—the highest rank for a Vietnamese career diplomat. He presented his Credentials to President Barack Obama in July 2011.

From 2008 to 2011, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of relations of Vietnam with European countries. He was also the chief negotiator in charge of relations between Vietnam and the Vatican.

From 2007 to 2008, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was Director-General, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was later appointed as the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From 2005 to 2007, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong served as Deputy Director-General, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Head of Political and Security Section of the APEC Vietnam Secretariat when Vietnam was host of APEC in 2006.

From 1981 to 2005, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was an officer at the China Department and researcher at the Institute of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During this time, he also served in the Vietnam People's Army from 1983 to 1985.

During his 30 year career, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was posted twice to Vietnam's missions abroad, as Minister Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Vietnam in Ottawa, Canada from 2002 to 2005 and as Second Secretary at the Embassy of Vietnam in Beijing, the People's Republic of China from 1990 to 1993.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong graduated from the University of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam (1976–1981) and earned an MA in International Relations at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA (1996–1997). Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong also conducted studies on public administration at the Maxwell School of Public Administration, Syracuse University in 1998. He also participated in the Vietnam Executive Leadership Program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2009.

On November 7, 2014, the U.S. Department of State honored Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong by hosting a farewell reception for him

at Blair House, the President's Guest House which serves as a site for American diplomacy in action. Blair House is the official state guest house for the President of the United States and is maintained by the Department of State. An invitation to be hosted at Blair House is an honor of the highest significance. Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong is the first Ambassador from Vietnam to be honored with a farewell reception at the Blair House and this speaks to the significance of his work for and on behalf of strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations.

As Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, it has been my distinct privilege to work side by side with Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong. Together, we created the first Friends of Vietnam Caucus in the U.S. Congress, and I have every hope that it will grow in importance. We have also worked to improve economic and trade relations and I am pleased that during Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong's service in the United States, the U.S. and Vietnam celebrated 20 years of trade relations.

I commend Vietnam's leadership on the matter of maritime territorial and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) disputes in the South and East China Seas. Vietnam has demonstrated restraint and strength in dealing with China by adopting a strategy that promotes peace and stability in the region and, going forward, I have every reason to believe that Vietnam's influence in the region will be pivotal in resolving further disputes.

On a personal note, I want to publicly thank Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong for all he did on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which I am a member. For as long as I live, I will never be able to thank Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong for giving his all to bring about recognition of the interim representative committee of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam.

For their love, support and prayers, I especially express my deepest gratitude to Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong and his very talented and beautiful wife, Madam Hoang Minh Ha. When I was ill, they prayed over me and when I returned to work they stood beside me. They are more than friends. They are family to me, and I hope I am family to them.

We have walked together with faith in every footstep and it is only fitting that I conclude my service in Washington, D.C. at the same time Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong and Madam Ha conclude their service. I wish for the Ambassador and his wife life's sweetest blessings. I wish the same for the Ambassador's daughter and son—Nguyen Huong Chi and Nguyen Quoc Anh—and Madam Ha's niece Mai Hoang Anh. I pray God will be with them, until we meet again.

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY EARL (ROBIN) HUDSON, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 3, 2014, funeral services for Bobby Earl (Robin) Hudson, Jr., were held at Lexington Baptist Church, in Lexington, South Carolina. Mr. Hudson, 60, was the founder and owner of Hudson's Smokehouse in Lexington, South Carolina, and is remembered as a kind and generous gentleman of character who dedicated himself to supporting the local civic groups and his fellow citizens.

His obituary in The Lexington County Chronicle of Lexington, South Carolina, contained this tribute:

BOBBY EARL (ROBIN) HUDSON, JR.

LEXINGTON.—Robin Hudson, age 60, died on Thursday, October 30, 2014. Born August 16, 1954 in San Marcos, Texas, Robin was the son of Bobby Earl (Bob) Hudson and Stella H. Kyzer. He moved back to South Carolina in 1958. Robin graduated from Airport High School in 1972 and attended Massey Fashion Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. Shortly thereafter Robin moved to Clemson, South Carolina, and opened up a successful Foosball Parlor/Bar Business. This would prove to be his initial first step into business ownership. From there he went to work for Explorer Van Sales, where he served as the Southeastern Sales Representative. After many successful years with Explorer he went on to open his own Van Business in Columbia, which was known as Buddy Baker Boat and Van World. He later joined his brothers, Darrell and Chuck, opening up Hudson Brothers Truck Accessory Center where he headed up the Truck Accessory Department. Along the way he began cooking BBQ using the recipe from his family heritage back in Warsaw, North Carolina. He began catering on the side and eventually bought a trailer and did mobile catering. From then he went on to open what we all know and love today, Hudson's Smokehouse in 2002, with the help of his wife, Barbara and sons, Clint and Clay. Robin was a creative genius in marketing and he made Hudson's Smokehouse what it is today. He is known for his dependability, his enormous heart and strong work ethic. Robin worked tireless, endless hours to serve the community with whatever need they had. It was truly his heart's desire to serve others.

In addition to his successful restaurant business, he was a beloved son, admired brother, loving husband and devoted father. Robin is survived by his wife, Barbara Kice Hudson, and 4 children, Clinton Garrett Hudson, Clayton Windham Hudson, Jessica Lauren Brown Hudson and Cody Arthur Hudson; father, Bobby Earl (Bob) Hudson and his wife Laura Slade Hudson; mother, Stella H. Kyzer; brothers, Darrell Craig Hudson and his wife, Gay Jewell Hudson, Charles Alan Hudson and his wife, Cindy Momand Hudson; sister, Melinda Hudson Dailey and her husband Gregory Scott Dailey. Robin is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and many, many dear friends who will all miss him terribly.

A Drop-in Celebration was held at 5 p.m., Sunday, November 2, 2014 at Hudson's Smokehouse, 4948 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC. A memorial service was held at noon on Monday, November 3, 2014 at Lexington Baptist Church, 308 E. Main Street, Lexington, SC. The service was officiated by Pastor Mike Turner and longtime friend, Pastor R. V. Brown.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity, 209 S Sumter Street, Columbia, SC 29201, and/or Oliver Gospel Mission, 1100 Taylor Street, Columbia, SC 29202.

ANTHONY F. WIENERS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Wieners' leadership and dedication to the law enforcement community and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor his years of commitment, his friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate his amazing career.

Anthony F. Wieners is a life-long resident of Belleville, New Jersey. A veteran of the United States Navy, Anthony began his law enforcement career in January of 1980 as a patrolman with the East Orange Police Department, transferring to the Belleville Police Department in September of 1980, where he held the position of Detective until his retirement in July 2014. In 1991, Anthony was elected State Delegate of Belleville Police Benevolent Association (PBA), a position he held until his retirement. Anthony also held the offices of Belleville PBA Local President and Vice President. In addition to holding local offices, Anthony is a past chairman and co-chairman of the Essex County PBA Conference.

Anthony was appointed to the New Jersey State PBA Executive Board in 1993 and on May 1, 1997, he was appointed to the position of Executive Vice President. In 2007, Anthony was elected State President of the New Jersey PBA with a membership of over 33,000 officers. Anthony served as PBA President with distinction until earlier this year when he stepped down to allow for new leadership.

As PBA President, Anthony instituted many new programs within the organization including the NJ PBA COP SHOT program that provides automatic reward money whenever any NJ law enforcement officer is killed or wounded in the line of duty. On the national level, Anthony was a Vice President of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), which represents over 254,000 law enforcement officers from more than 4,000 organizations throughout the United States. Anthony has also been involved in the Police Unity Bike Tour for many years. In 1998, 2006 and 2014, he participated in rides from NJ to Washington, DC and helped raise over $2 million in funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I was proud to have Anthony as a partner on many efforts including our fight to protect the COPS program from budget cuts that would have decimated the program.

Anthony holds memberships in many organizations, including the NJ Police Honor Legion, the Belleville Kiwanis Club, the Asian American Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, and the Knights of Columbus in Belleville.

Anthony is married to Julia, and they have two children, Michael and Kaitlin.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Anthony F. Wieners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Wieners' family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in

recognizing Anthony Wieners for his dedication to his family and his nation.

TRIBUTE TO ED WALKER AND ''THE BIG BROADCAST''

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to congratulate WAMU 88.5's ''The Big Broadcast'' on its 50th anniversary and to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments and career of my constituent, Ed Walker, one of the most respected radio broadcasters in generations. Mr. Walker's distinguished career spans over 50 years as a broadcaster, most recently as the outstanding host since 1990 of The Big Broadcast.

Through The Big Broadcast, Mr. Walker has kept alive and shared with new generations the classic radio shows of a bygone era—shows like ''The Lone Ranger,'' ''Gunsmoke'' and ''Fibber McGee.'' The art form in these broadcasts was magnificent, of the highest quality, and truly innovative. In addition to entertaining us, they served a unique role in American society by uniting us with imagery that one finds only in radio, featuring the great writing and talent of the performers, and sharing unique perspectives. Families would crowd around the radio listening for the latest episodes and waiting to learn of the latest heroics or antics of their favorite characters. In the Big Broadcast, Mr. Walker not only brought all of this extraordinary material to us week after week, but put it in context and served as our tour guide through decades of American history as portrayed through the wonderful radio broadcasts.

Mr. Walker was appropriately recognized in 2009 by the Radio Hall of Fame for his lifetime of achievements, placed alongside the greats that include Bob Hope and Abbott & Costello. I am pleased and honored to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Walker on his distinguished contributions to radio and to our cultural heritage.

HONORING MR. TIMOTHY CRUDUP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Mr. Timothy Crudup. Mr. Crudup has shown what can be done through hand work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Timothy Crudup, the fourth child of Mr. Jonas Crudup and Mrs. Tommie Lyles Crudup, was born in Scott County, Forest, Mississippi. He lived in Forest all of his childhood and young adult life, where he attended elementary school and the ninth and tenth grades of high school. While in high school, he was drafted in 1943, to serve in the United States Navy, during WWII. After his tour of duty, Mr. Crudup received an honorable discharge from the United States Navy in January 1946.

In the fall of 1946, having a desire to complete his high school education, he enrolled in the Alcorn Laboratory High School in Lorman, MS. With an interest in furthering his education, after graduating from high school, he enrolled in Alcorn College, with a major in education. Later, he received the Master's degree from Jackson State University in Administration and Supervision.

In 1952, Mr. Crudup began his teaching career in the Madison County School System and remained with this school system until his retirement in 1985. His first position was as a high school teacher at the Farmhaven High School in Farmhaven, MS. After teaching for one year, his leadership abilities were recognized, and he was offered the position of principal of that school. Later the school was relocated to a new school building with the name changed to Luther Branson. He continued to serve as principal in that community for 14 years. Then he was asked to accept the principal position at Rosa Scott High School, in Madison, MS, where he served in that position for 19 years, retiring in 1985.

He married his college sweetheart, Miss Annie Camille Jefferson of Yazoo City, Mississippi. They have one child, Linda Crudup Gladney, and one grandchild, Brian Timothy Gladney.

Although Mr. Crudup's career as an educator was in the Madison County School System, he and his wife made their home in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He was active in both communities. Upon his retirement, he was recognized by the Madison Ridgeland branch of the NAACP for his dedicated service in the field of education and his pivotal role in school desegregation in Mississippi, specifically, in Madison County. Also, he was recognized by Rosa Scott Parent/Teacher Association for his leadership and unceasing efforts to provide quality education for all students of Madison County Schools.

A strong spiritual foundation has always been central in Mr. Crudup's personal and family life. He has been very active in Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church where he served as Deacon, Superintendent of the Sunday School and Church Treasurer. He dedicated much of his time in service through his church, in whatever capacity needed. The church formally recognized his many years of service in 2005.

In the Yazoo City community, he served on the Board of Trustees for the King's Daughter's Hospital from October, 2002 through March, 2005. Other organizations he was affiliated with are: Masons, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, Yazoo County Alcorn Alumni Club, American Legion, the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc. On March 26, 2006, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi and Senator Joseph Thomas, commended the civic and charitable accomplishments of Mr. Crudup and designated that day as ''Timothy Crudup Day'' in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Mr. Crudup has been a role model to many and is spoken highly of by so many citizens of various segments of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Timothy Crudup for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHERINE GRANT-DAVIS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Katherine Grant-Davis as she retires as President and CEO of the New Jersey Primary Care Association. Her contributions to the health care field are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Ms. Grant-Davis brought a wealth of experience to the New Jersey Primary Care Association. Prior to joining the New Jersey Primary Care Association, Ms. Grant-Davis served as the New Jersey Department of Health Chief of Staff. She also held positions as Director of Payment and Health Care Delivery for the Health Industry Manufacturers Association in Washington, D.C., Assistant Director and Acting Director of the New Jersey DRG Hospital Reimbursement Program, Director of the New Jersey WIC Program and Project Director for Title XX Implementation. She also served on Governor Jon Corzine's Department of Health and Senior Services Transition Team and Governor James McGreevey's Department of Human Services Transition Team.

In addition to her professional work, Ms. Grant-Davis is an active member of the community, working with Jack and Jill of America, The Links, Inc., the National Association of Community Health Centers, Capital Link, Inc. and the United States Swimming Association. She has been named one of the 100 Most Influential New Jerseyans by City News and one of the Power 50 in Health Care by NJ Biz. She has also received numerous awards her service and accomplishments, including the National Association of Community Health Centers Leadership Award, the New Jersey Citizen Action Community Service Award and the Shirley Chisholm Catalyst for Change Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Katherine Grant-Davis on her retirement and thanking her for her service to the residents of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS OF KENNA OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT/PLAYGROUND

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the citizens of Jackson County, and the Friends of Kenna on an exciting community development project that has taken place in my district. Kenna Elementary School is the first new school construction in the county in 40 years. The unincorporated community of Kenna, illustrates what is best about America and the State of West Virginia. It is a rural area that believes in hard work and helping ones' neighbor. The geography of the area physically separates its residents, but that does not deter it from making an extra effort at creating community. That's why I think it is

important to recognize the work of the Friends of Kenna, a group of residents, whose work has resulted in a state-of-the-art outdoor learning environment, playground and walking track in Jackson County, as a part of the new Kenna Elementary School. The new school playground and track is available for all of the residents of Jackson County to use and should serve as a shining example of the importance of fitness and health. I would like to applaud all of those who rallied together to bring about this substantive change.

I would like to recognize The Friends of Kenna Association and local residents who are responsible for this extremely worthy project. Special recognition for the effort behind the project should go to Kerynn Sovic, Sonya White, Deanna Cunningham, Jessie Cox, Jessie Thompson, and Melissa Donelson. I would also like to salute the following: Mike Gwinn, John Zimmer, Corky McCorkle, John & Gina Myers family, Larry Thompsons, State Senator Mitch Carmichael, State Delegate Steve Westfall, Steve Wedge, Steve Chancey, Jim & Sally Laine, Amy Mellace, Larry & Terry Hersman, Paul & Aiden Barnette, Erin & Michael Sovic, Lisa Quisenberry, Gale Donelson, Robert & Terri McCloy, Tanna Craigo, Kam Barnette, Patrick Anderson, Robert, Rachel & Sarah White; Christian Walker, John & Patsy Stanley, Lori, Mack & Daney Brookover; Greg, Shannon & Ace Eagle; Jason & Tucker Landis, Steve, Brock & Luke Matson; Steve, Melissa, Michael & Jarrett Lough; Luke Lopez, Brenda & Sammy Brown, Jimmy, Hilary & Joyce Groves; Janice Stump, Mike & Rita Casdorph, Raymon Cunningham, Eduardo & Ellen Goff, Jessie Cox, Dr. Tom Layne, Arden Lantz, Bill Barnette, Donna Spencer, Toby & Christy Scholl, Mrs. Rucker & Children, Jill & Mike McFee, Vernon & Paul Holstine, Todd Games, Tabitha Martin, Dylan Martin, Toby & Denise Hershey, Josie & Clay Eisenhard, Bill Shanklin, Karen Barnette, Crystal, Paige & Johnny Harrison; Karen, Patrick, Everett & Garnet Kish; Sherry Dillard, Rylan & Erin Petry & Grandpa Bird; Krista Baker, Heather, Elliot & Hailey Baria; Juanita Wimmer, Michelle Brotherton, Bob, Terri & Ellie McCloy; Brandi, Trey & Kieren Poff; Kenneth, Kendall & Lucas Allison, Dave Miller, Leslie & Mark Stover; Cardinal Concrete, Atlas Poured Walls, BBU Service, CJ Enterprises, TomKat Construction, Ben's Bobcat & Backhoe Service, Life Tite Metal Products, Dougherty Company, Bobby Bostic Masonry, Jackson County Community Foundation, Highmark Foundation, Action for Healthy Kids, Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Funds, McDonough Foundation, Little Kanawha Resources Conservation & Development, Jackson County Home Builders Association, Sayre Excavating, Dairy Queen of Ripley, Blosser Concrete, Francis Brothers, Alpha Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, EQT, Boy Scout Pack 419, Floyd Bowlby, Brickstreet Insurance and to all who donated and volunteered, for their generous contribution to the construction.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge Blaine Hess, Superintendent of Jackson County Schools for his oversight and commitment to the Friends of Kenna and this very important project.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to congratulate the Friends of Kenna for their investment in the next generation through the construction of the new Kenna Elementary School and its Outdoor Environmental Learning playground and track. Community effort, such as this, makes me proud of my state and proud to be a West Virginian.

HONORING LAUREN HILL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lauren Hill for her athletic accomplishments and continued strength in her fight against Pediatric Brain Cancer.

Last year, Lauren was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, an incurable form of Brain Cancer. The disease has made it increasingly difficult for Lauren to fulfill her dream of playing college basketball. Yet, this college freshman at Mount St. Joseph University persevered and scored four points in her college debut earlier this month to help her team defeat Hiram College. Lauren was named Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week for her performance.

Lauren is a remarkable young woman, not just because of her athletic ability, but for her passion and dedication to live her life to the fullest while raising awareness about Pediatric Brain Cancer. Her grace and dignity has been a source of strength for children and families facing this terrible disease. Lauren has chosen to donate all proceeds from the basketball game to The Cure Starts Now, an organization working to find a cure for Pediatric Brain Cancer. Though Lauren's story has made national headlines, she has remained the same humble and tenacious young woman whose story has inspired our nation.

During the game against Hiram, Lauren said ''I've never felt so good in my entire life. Let's not call it my last game. This is my first collegiate game.'' This positive attitude should serve as a reminder about what we can accomplish even against the most insurmountable odds.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in honoring this outstanding young woman for the way she has lived her life and the courage with which she has bravely fought this disease.

MARGIE SEMLER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margie Semler's leadership and dedication to the community of Passaic and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor her years of commitment, her friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate her amazing career.

Margie Semler, daughter of Max and Riva Orlin, a life-long resident of Passaic, New Jersey, was born on June 22, 1923. In 1941, she moved to Passaic with her husband Mac and for the next eleven years began her career in government, where she took a part-time job at a junkyard run by the city's public works department.

While raising and tending to her two young children along with her fun loving, good natured husband Mac, she decided to run for a seat on the Passaic Board of Education. For the next 6 years while on the Board of Education she began her illustrious career as a public servant in which she earned the respect of the residents in the City of Passaic.

Margie decided to further her career and passion for serving the people of Passaic. For the next sixteen years, she was able to serve the residents while on the Passaic City Council. Her passion to being a public servant drove her ambitions when she was elected as the Mayor of the City of Passaic in 1993. She became the first and only female mayor to serve for eight years during her term from 1993–2001.

In 2005, Margie was indicted into the New Jersey Elected Officials Hall of Fame. She has been and remains to be a vital asset to the City of Passaic. Margie is an active participant in various public and civic organizations. She has a great love for animals and an even greater affection for the city in which she has called her home for nearly her entire life.

Margie continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Passaic Head Start and remains an avid supporter of the families and children in the City of Passaic. As a result of her tireless dedication and commitment to the people of Passaic, the staff, policy council, and the Board of Directors of the Passaic Head Start have renamed their building to the Margie Semler Education Center in her honor.

Margie is married to the late Mac Semler and have two children, Lorrie and Marc.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Ms. Semler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Ms. Semler's family, friends, and all those whose lives she has touched, and me, in recognizing Margie Semler for her dedication to her family and her nation.

THANKING PATRICK MILLIGAN

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a retiring leader of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Patrick Milligan. Patrick Milligan was born in San Bernardino in 1937. His family started one of the original citrus farms in Rialto. He fondly recalls memories of growing up in Rialto during a time when he and his friends could walk through vacant land shooting bb guns. In 1955, he graduated with honors from San Bernardino High School and later graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law. He returned to his hometown and began practicing trial law in 1961, starting a law firm in San Bernardino where he continues to practice law. Pat is married to Jean Miller Milligan and has four children, two of whom have followed in his footsteps as attorneys.

In 1964, at the age of 28, Pat was elected to the Board of Directors for the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District). He has served on the Board for over 41 years and has served as President

of the Board for 19 of those years, almost half of his tenure. When Pat was elected, Valley District was only 10 years old. So, Pat has been involved in building this new agency from the ground up. He ''hit the ground running'' helping Valley District settle two lawsuits with Orange County Water District and Western Municipal Water District, respectively. The settlements fairly divide water resources providing the downstream agencies with the guaranteed amounts they desired while providing the upstream, Valley District service area, the flexibility they desired. The resulting court judgments are still used to this day to manage water resources. To help reduce the possibility of costly lawsuits in the future by providing a forum where water issues could be discussed, Valley District along with Orange County Water District, Chino Basin Municipal Water District (now Inland Empire Utilities Agency), and Western Municipal Water District formed the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

Pat was also instrumental in settling a 40-year legal dispute that involved both the Department of Water Resources and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). He directed the effort to negotiate with MWDSC which led to a cooperative agreement. Under that agreement, MWDSC has purchased some of Valley District's unused imported water from the State Water Project resulting in substantial revenues used to build facilities and purchase water for storage locally. The agreement also benefited MWDSC when their partially completed Inland Feeder Pipeline was connected to Valley District's Foothill Pipeline allowing MWDSC to fill their newly constructed Diamond Valley Reservoir before their pipeline was complete.

When Pat took office, Valley District had a contract with the State of California to receive up to 98,000 acre-feet of water from the State Water Project but Valley District had no facilities in place to distribute the water. Under his leadership, Valley District built a regional pipeline system that began with the 84,000 foot long, 6.5 foot diameter Foothill Pipeline. The system now spans from Rialto in the west to Yucaipa in the east. To save money, these facilities were built in partnership with other water agencies. Pat shepherded this ambitious project through good and bad economic times, and never lost the vision to complete these regional facilities. Later, Valley District had the foresight to purchase an additional 4,600 acre-feet of entitlement water raising the total annual amount to 102,600 acre-feet. Pat was the innovator and force behind using ''Super Wells'' to lower high groundwater conditions in South San Bernardino to help prevent liquefaction, a new term at that time, during earthquakes. The super wells and accompanying pipeline, known as the Baseline Feeder, pumped the nuisance high groundwater to meet needs in Rialto. On the east end of the valley, additional facilities were added that enabled the transport of local storm water. These facilities, in combination with other local facilities, were used in a creative arrangement to meet supplemental water needs in the Yucaipa area without construction of a pipeline to Yucaipa. The agreement, known as the ''Exchange Plan'', enabled Mill Creek water to be delivered to Yucaipa in exchange for State Water Project (SWP) water.

Pat has always looked out for the Valley in which he grew up. In the early 1970's the United States Army Corps of Engineers unveiled an ambitious flood control plan on the Santa Ana River that included the proposed Mentone Dam that would capture both the Santa Ana River and Mill Creek. While the Mentone Dam made sense as a flood control facility, it did not make sense to people that lived in the valley. The dam would have created an eyesore on the east end of the valley and covered over most of the community of East Highland! Valley District took the lead in encouraging alternate proposals and in 1986, the Army Corps agreed to an alterative that moved the dam into the foothills where it stands today. Under Pat's leadership, the Seven Oaks Dam is being used not only for flood control but also for water supply. Valley District, on behalf of water customers throughout the valley, partnered with the Western Municipal Water District and secured Water Right Permits to capture the newly detained water made available by the construction of the Dam. The capture of this water, which would have historically flowed into the Pacific Ocean, will save the people of the valley hundreds of millions of dollars.

Pat has always understood the value of the investment in the State Water Project. When that value was threatened by the Department of Water Resources and other State Water Contractors, Pat directed litigation to protect the District's contract right to sell any unused imported water at a fair price. Valley District prevailed and the resulting revenue has been used over the years to help fund regional facilities, reducing local costs.

Pat has always believed in good planning backed by solid science. Valley District has been a leader in studying the valley's resources to determine the opportunities and constraints. Through a relationship with the United States Geological Survey that has lasted decades, a groundwater flow model was produced which has proven invaluable to analyze water management scenarios and new projects. This model continues to be enhanced and is used every year to develop a management plan for the valley.

This year, Pat announced that he would be retiring from the Valley District Board. His vision and leadership will be dearly missed by both the Board and the Staff. I commend Pat for his years of leadership and service and wish him all the best.

HONORING MRS. RUBY HUNT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Ruby Hunt. Mrs. Hunt has dedicated her life to working for the public good. Her efforts were instrumental in leading good governance efforts in both the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, Minnesota.

Ruby was introduced to the world of public service as a long time and highly active member of the League of Women Voters. Her work with the League led to a leadership position on the Charter Commission where she was instrumental in crafting and passing the Saint Paul City Charter. The new Charter created a strong mayoral form of government, increased accountability for the city budget, and professionalized the operation of city departments. Mrs. Hunt was only the third woman elected to the Saint Paul City Council, serving from 1972 to 1982. During that time, she continued to improve the functions of city government including moving the Housing and Redevelopment Authority under the control of the City Council. In 1983, Mrs. Hunt was elected to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and served until 1995. As a Commissioner, she played a vital role in the establishment of the Ramsey County manager position and the privatization of Regions Hospital through Health Partners. She also had an early role in the development of the Central Corridor/Green Line Light Rail Transit corridor.

Ruby is a quiet leader with a passion for building alliances across lines and working toward social justice. She has dedicated her lifework to the common good and even in retirement continues to make the world a better place. She is committed to mentoring women as public servants and encouraging them to become government leaders.

In recognition of her lifelong commitment to public service and achievements as an elected official for over 20 years, Ruby Hunt was selected by Hamline University as the first recipient of the Women in Public Service Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. As a former Saint Paul City Council Member and Ramsey County Commissioner with a passion for good governance and social justice, Mrs. Hunt truly exemplifies the spirit of the award. On November 14, 2014, Hamline University is celebrating the establishment of the Ruby Hunt Endowed Scholarship in Public Administration. Establishing a scholarship devoted to women in Mrs. Hunt's honor is a fitting recognition of her contributions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ruby Hunt's many substantive and impressive contributions to Minnesota's Capitol City and Ramsey County. Our nation is grateful for the selfless commitment she has made throughout her life supporting and encouraging others.

ON INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION HONORING MALALA YOUSAFZAI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating and Honoring Malala Yousafzai, Recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives MCGOVERN, BROWN, WILSON, MEEKS, RANGEL, COHEN, SCOTT, GABBARD, FRANKEL, LOWENTHAL, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, CLAWSON, and CASTOR in honoring 2014 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai for her outstanding contributions to global education equality. As the youngest Nobel laureate in history, Ms. Yousafzai has distinguished herself as a courageous and tireless activist for gender equality in education despite being met with great adversity. After surviving an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen she has emerged as a leading advocate for gender equality in education in a time when approximately 13 million school age girls in her home country of Pakistan remain deprived of an education and where girls'

schools continue to be targeted by militants. Her strength, determination and accomplishments are deserving of recognition.

I welcome my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and congratulating Malala Yousafzai on receiving the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize by becoming a co-sponsor of this resolution.

HONORING MS. CARLA ROSS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

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

Ms. Carla Ross is an effective, skilled and professional community developer. Carla has used her education and work experience to transform her community. She is a native of the Mississippi Delta, having been born and raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She has worked for Mound Bayou Public School District and St. Gabriel Mercy Center. As the Parent Center Coordinator, she supervised daily operations of the center, conducted workshops and seminars, provided educational materials and equipments, and served as a link between home and school to improve parental involvement in the education of their children.

During her time at St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Carla served as the Assistant Director supervising all educational programs, coordinated community service group activities and worked independently to develop methods and procedures to enhance existing programs. She is presently serving on the Board of Trustees for St. Gabriel Mercy Center. Carla previously served as the Regional Coordinator for America Reads Mississippi, the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Mississippi for the Mississippi Delta Region at Delta State University. During that time she was instrumental in placing individuals from the community in various school districts to tutor students in the area of reading.

Carla is presently employed with Southern Bancorp Community Partners as an Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program Coordinator. She is helping the Mississippi Delta residents save funds to purchase a home, start a small business or further their education.

Also, teaching financial literacy classes to program participants. Carla has earned a Masters Degree in Community Development from Delta State University and a Bachelors Degree in Family Human and Development from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi.

Carla is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated and serves as the Vice President of the Theta Phi Zeta Chapter located in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. The organization focuses on community service, academic achievement and mentorship. Serving to educate the public, assist youth, provide scholarship, support charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Supporting such projects as Breast Cancer Awareness, Prematurity Awareness, Highway Cleanup and Youth Literacy Rallies.

Carla is the daughter of Ms. Carolyn Ross and sister to Mr. Chance Ross of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Carla is the niece to Ms. Portia Burton of Mound Bayou, Mr. Carlton Ross of Conyers, Georgia, Mr. Stanley Burton of Memphis, Tennessee and Mr. Ozzie Ross of Waco, Texas. Carla is the grand-daughter of the late Dorothy Ross Grady and niece to the late Brenda J. Grady and Bruce K. Burton of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Professional for her dedication and service to her profession.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF COMER COTTRELL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Comer Cottrell, one of Texas' leading African American entrepreneurs and an education philanthropist in the Dallas community. His passing on October 3, 2014, leaves a void in the city of Dallas, and I join with the Texas community in giving our condolences to the Cottrell family.

Comer Cottrell was born on December 7, 1931, in Mobile, Alabama. He was 15 when he graduated from a private high school in 1946 and attended the University of Detroit, a Jesuit college. At age seventeen, Mr. Cottrell joined the United States Air Force and excelled to the the rank of First Sergeant at a very young age. After completing his military service, Cottrell returned to Alabama, where he worked part time for his father's insurance company.

In 1968, Mr. Cottrell recalled his time serving in the U.S. Air Force and the lack of ethnic hair-care products, which sparked his interest in the black hair care business. In 1970, Mr. Cottrell and his brother James Cottrell founded Pro-Line Corporation, an African-American hair care products company in Los Angeles, California. The company's success grew and prompted his move to Dallas, Texas in 1979.

In 1990, Mr. Cottrell purchased and restored the former Bishop College land in southern Dallas to persuade Paul Quinn College to move its campus from Waco to Dallas, Texas. Today, the historically black college continues to provide educational opportunities for the entrepreneurs of tomorrow. In addition to his interest in education philanthropy, Mr. Cottrell became the first African-American to hold a major stake in a professional baseball team. In 1989, he became a part owner, with George W. Bush, of the Texas Rangers.

Mr. Cottrell is survived by his wife, Felisha Starks Cottrell of Dallas; a daughter, Renee Cottrell-Brown of Arlington; four sons, Comer Cottrell III of Dallas, Aaron Cottrell of New York, Bryce Cottrell, a University of Texas at Austin student, and Lance Cottrell, a University of Colorado student; a brother, James Cottrell of Dallas; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

In honor of Mr. Comer Cottrell, a pillar of the Dallas business community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

RECOGNIZING THE HOUSE GERMAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the House German-American Caucus and the work it has done to maintain and strengthen the economic and cultural relationship between the United States and Germany.

The German-American Caucus is an informal, bipartisan group of House Members that was established in 2011. The idea of the Caucus originated with one of my constituents in Pennsylvania's 6th District, Thomas Siedenbuehl, who is a native of Germany and now a proud U.S. citizen. Given the countless contributions that early and recent German émigrés have made to our nation, the formation of a caucus to bridge the historical, cultural and economic ties of the U.S. and Germany was most appropriate.

In total, over 50 million American citizens claim German ancestry. Additionally, Germany is not only the largest economy in the European Union and third largest in the world, but the largest market for U.S. goods in Europe, importing more than $50 billion each year. German-owned companies are investing in America and have created approximately one million jobs in the U.S. Because of these strong economic and cultural ties, the Caucus has worked to build a closer relationship with our European ally to encourage further investment in America.

In addition to the numerous roundtable discussions and dinners between Members of Congress and the German Bundestag, as well as with the German Ambassador and U.S. Ambassador to Germany, the Caucus has helped facilitate various other events that highlight and strengthen German-American ties. These include the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange, the Maifest Dinner, and the annual Oktoberfest celebration. The Caucus also works closely with the German-American Business Council and its executive committee chairman, Uli Gamerdinger, who provides outstanding advice and support for Caucus activity.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the work the Caucus has done to maintain and strengthen the relationship between the United States and Germany, and with the hope of continuing the work it has begun, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the efforts of the German-American Caucus of the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS LIONS CLUB

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club as its members gather to celebrate its 90th anniversary this year. This milestone and its commitment to service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Founded by local businessmen, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club was chartered on December 14, 1924. Over its 90 years, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club has grown in outreach and in membership. Today, its 42 members continue to carry out the mission of Lions Club International, serving its local community, the State of New Jersey, our nation and the world. Its efforts provide a range of assistance, including heath programs, youth programs, environmental programs, and disaster relief. It has also sponsored Lions Clubs in nearby New Jersey communities as well as the local Leo Club, which was one of the first Leo Clubs established in New Jersey.

The Atlantic Highlands Lions Club has been providing active community volunteer work since its inception. Its members promote the Lions Club International mission to improve eye health and sight, providing free eye exams, eye treatments and surgery to local residents. They also uphold the mission to provide disaster relief, supporting recovery efforts in Indonesia, Haiti, Honduras and the United States, including New Jersey and its own community in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Among many other community service efforts, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club provides scholarships to local students, has taken part in the Lions Club International project to plant one million trees globally, honored our nation's veterans through the purchase of a state highway construction project that would become a median in their honor (which the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club still maintains and enhances), helped develop the Atlantic Highlands Harbor, and provided evacuation assistance from New York City after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Atlantic Highlands Lions Club also pays the club membership dues of a member of the United States Coast Guard and encouraged Lions Club International to offer membership discounts to members of the military.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club on its 90th anniversary and thanking its members for their dedication to local, statewide, national and international community service.

GREG KOMESHOK

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Komeshok's leadership and dedication to the community of Passaic and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor his years of commitment, his friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate his amazing career.

Greg Komeshok son of John and Emily Komeshok, a life-long resident of Passaic, New Jersey was born on March 23, 1947. A product of the Passaic School District, Greg graduated from Holy Rosary grammar school and Passaic High School where he played on both the basketball and baseball teams. After high school, Greg went on to further his education where he earned his Bachelor's in Industrial Arts and a Master's in Administration and Supervision from Montclair State University. Upon achieving both of his degrees, Greg became a teacher at Passaic High School, later becoming the Principal at the Learning Center Elementary School in Passaic. Greg also held various administrative positions throughout the Passaic Board of Education, before becoming the Supervisor of Physical Education and Health, and later appointed to become the Director of Athletics.

Greg's achievements and passion in serving his community has led him to hold various leadership roles within his community. After being a lifetime member of the Holy Rosary Young Men's Club, he became its President. Later, he went on to serve as the President of the Passaic Boys and Girls Club. Through his leadership and dedication, he was able to establish the annual outdoor Jimmy Sturr Concert in Passaic which is now in its eleventh year. Greg's devotion to the community and to the youth led him to the Clifton Little League and Babe Ruth League where he served as Coach. Later, he went on to become the General Manager/Coach of the Wayne Post 174 American Legion Baseball League, then becoming the President of the Bergen Area American Legion Baseball League.

His service to his community even led him to pursue public office. In 1968, he became a Member of the Passaic Redevelopment Agency; later in his career in 1972 he was selected to become the Chairman of the Democratic Party in the City of Passaic. Then in 1976, he was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in New York City. In 1978, Greg was given the opportunity to serve his State when he was appointed to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, where he served as Commissioner. In 1983 he was elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders and later in 1985 was selected to become the Freeholder Director. In 1984 Greg became a member of the Camp Hope Commission and the Passaic County Community College-Board of School Estimates.

Greg is married to his wife Susan, and they have two sons Kevin and Christopher.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Greg Komeshok.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Komeshok's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Greg Komeshok for his dedication to his family and his nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE ''JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD POST OFFICE''

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as you know, here in Washington we have the unique opportunity to work for the citizens of this great nation and provide positive change in the lives of many. Together we work for the good of our communities, and in the process we cross paths with some remarkable leaders.

Today I am introducing a bill that will recognize the life of one of those very special leaders of our time, the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating a facility of the United States Postal Service in my district as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.

Rep. Millender-McDonald was a pillar in many of the communities I represent. She was a resilient public servant who was deeply loved by her community first as an educator, then as program coordinator for a nonprofit fighting gender issues, and finally as a beloved elected official. Undaunted by the work to be done, Rep. Millender-McDonald took charge of her opportunity to serve and became the first African American woman to be named Chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration. She was also an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus and served over a decade in the House of Representatives.

An exemplary piece of her legacy was her work to better the lives of not just those here at home but internationally as well. Her work to aid victims of genocide and human trafficking serves a testament to her dedication to creating a better world. Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office,'' we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record that I hope will further serve as inspiration for the community which I serve—the same community which so revered her.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLUMBIA CLUB

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute an extraordinary Hoosier institution, The Columbia Club, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. I wish to express my admiration and appreciation for the Club and its members' service to our community, state, and country.

The Columbia Club was originally formed in 1889 by local prominent Republicans as the Harrison Marching Society to support the presidential campaign of the last Hoosier president, Benjamin Harrison. After the election, the Society moved into a clubhouse on Monument Circle and changed its name to the Columbia Club to continue operating as a private club. As its membership grew, the Columbia Club became the premier private club in Indianapolis. No longer a partisan club; the Columbia Club welcomes Hoosiers of all political stripes and affiliations as members to share in fellowship.

The Columbia Club's members can also join associations within the Club. It hosts the Columbian Business Network, Columbian Veteran's Association, Columbia Club Devine Dames—a chapter of the National Red Hat Society, and the Harrison Society—the Club's premier group for young professionals.

In 1925, the current home of the Columbia Club was built on Indianapolis' famed Monument Circle on the very location that the original building was once located. In 1983, the current structure was added to the National

Register of Historic Places. Legend indicates that the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, met at the club to discuss construction of the famed track. It also served as host to discussions that eventually brought the NFL's Colts to Indianapolis.

The Columbia Club has hosted every Republican President since Benjamin Harrison while in office or as a candidate. Thousands of business leaders and politicians have been members of the Club as have famous Hoosiers like musician Hoagy Carmichael and Impressionist T.C. Steele. Each year the Club holds its annual Beefsteak Dinner, of which I had the honor to keynote on October 7, of this year.

Congratulations to the Columbia Club and all of its current and former members for the 125 years of excellence in our Indianapolis community.

HONORING MR. ALBERT A. CURTIS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character and determination, Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County. He is the son of Lucille and Albert Curtis, Sr.

As a child: Like his father, Albert A. Curtis, Sr., he was a shrewd manager of a few assets. But here is how he got started. This was during a time when racism was considered acceptable. Albert, Sr. saw no racism in money. And as a little boy Albert, Jr. learned that as he watched his father conduct business with Blacks, Whites and everyone else. Albert Sr. had several mantra's his son would often hear him say like, ''A lil negotiation don't hurt, but don't compromise your beliefs and dignity.'' or ''A bicycle of your own is better than someone else's Cadillac . . . always work hard cause nobody is going to give you anything'' and ''Sometimes you got to lose to win.''

Time to grow-up: Albert, Jr.'s mother, Lucille died suddenly when he was eight (8) years old. But because of his strong belief in family and deep love for his wife, Albert, Sr. felt that was all gone when she died. He was broken hearted and turned to alcohol to escape the reality of that inevitable change. Albert, Jr. saw his father lose his will to live and began losing the businesses he had worked so hard to build. Those businesses also provided the financial support for the family. The family began moving around from place to place until Mattie Curtis took the family in, which is Albert Jr.'s grandmother. The family began to hire out, young Albert, Jr. to work on other farms for money and to work odd jobs. Unfortunately, young Albert remembers how his father would take the money from him to buy alcohol instead of support the family. Rather than defy his father in any way, he simply quit school to increase his work hours, believing he could continue giving his father the ''little'' money and the extra money he would make by increasing his hours, he thought some money would go to the family. This was a life changing decision for a young boy—who didn't truly understand.

His schoolmates started seeing him around and they began to make fun of Albert, Jr. with words like ''He done quit school and ain't gon' mount to nothin' . . . plus he smells like horses and mules.'' Well, Albert just kept on because his father's words and work ethics were deep inside of him, ''Never give up and make people's ideas of you a lie!'' As he grew older, people began to notice him never wavering, never quitting, steadfast, and focused, but they just didn't see anything—material that is.

Time to start a family: In 1964, Albert, Jr. met and married Alma ''Emma'' Jean Blackburn. She was his soul-mate and helpmate—heaven sent. She was strong in areas he was weak. He was hard working and could make money while she was strong minded and book smart (as they called it). Emma managed the books, opened up bank accounts, paid the bills . . . she took care of the family business. Soon the couple had acquired enough money and assets that they were able to purchase their own home and leave Grandma Curtis' home.

Albert, Jr. then with the support of this wife, set out to re-acquire all the land and holding his father had lost. He began buying land back from his family members (e.g., aunts and uncles and anyone who had his daddy's land). He was the only one who had the money to do this. Eventually Albert, Jr. was able to buy back all the property and land his father had owned but two (2) pieces of property.—Now, it's not known of anyone else accomplishing this, but Albert deserves being recognized and applauded.

But wait, this story is not over . . . Remember, Albert, Jr. was never wavering, never quitting, always steadfast and focused, and didn't understand because they just didn't see anything—material that is. Well, by now he managed to acquire a wife, home of his own, money in the bank, all his daddy's previously owned property (but 2 pieces) and now property of his own. Albert continued until he was able to acquire 52 residential properties, commercial properties, more acres of land, several types of businesses of his own (e.g., plumbing, and financing for other small business owners) and work a full-time job for the City of Public Works in the community he lived.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the legacy of Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBRA SIPERSTEIN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbra ''Babs'' Siperstein as she is honored with the Stonewall Legacy Award by The Pride Network at their New Jersey Leadership Awards Dinner. It is truly a fitting tribute to recognize Ms. Siperstein as we celebrate LGBT History Month as she has played such a vital role in the LGBT movement.

Born Barry Siperstein, Barbra Siperstein acknowledged her true identity when she was nearly 50 years old. In 2007, she legally changed her name and the following year changed her Hebrew name to Baila Chaya in a ceremony at her synagogue, Congregation Beth Mordecai in Perth Amboy.

Through her own journey, Ms. Siperstein became a pioneer of transgender equality. She is a political activist and a staunch advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) causes. In 2009 she became the first openly transgender member confirmed to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Additionally, she was appointed to the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission and served as Vice Chair of Garden State Equality. She has also been a member of the DNC's executive committee, deputy vice chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and president of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats.

Ms. Siperstein was married for 34 years to the late Carol Siperstein, who stayed by her side until she lost a sudden battle with cancer in 2001. Together, they had a daughter and two sons. In addition to her activism, Barbra is a United States Army Veteran and a small-business owner.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbra Siperstein on receiving the prestigious Stonewall Legacy Award and thanking her for her continuous efforts on behalf of the LGBT community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDUARDO POSADA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Eduardo Posada. Born in Puerto Rico on February 8, 1929, his father was a Colombian native and his mother was Puerto Rican. He spent his early years in New York City until 1935, when his family moved back to Puerto Rico. Except for two brief stints back in New York, Ed stayed in Puerto Rico where he obtained his BA from the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico (now Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico) in 1949.

Ed worked for two years in Puerto Rico as a secondary school teacher. He married Urania Feliciano and had a son, Luis. The family then moved to New York, where Ed joined the U.S. Air Force. While serving at Governor's Island, New York, Ed and his wife had a second son, Danny. In June, 1955 Ed was separated from the Air Force as a sergeant and assigned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In 1956, he was found unfit for active duty and discharged from the service due to disabilities.

Ed went to work as a secondary school teacher and completed his MA at Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1959. Ed eventually became Assistant Dean for Boys at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

The family next moved to Miami where Ed continued to teach until 1987, when he retired. While in Miami, he had the honor of being part of the newly formed United Teachers of Dade and served as vice president for the group. In 1987, Ed retired from teaching and moved to Orlando with his wife.

Ed has since been an active member of the American Legion, Korean War Veterans, and

the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). He has held leadership positions in all three organizations and, at present, he is a member of the executive board and legislative officer for the local chapter of the DAV. He also volunteers at the VA Medical Center and runs the Bingo event once a month at the VA nursing home in Lake Nona.

I am happy to recognize Eduardo Posada, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to our country and the Central Florida community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 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 $17,937,617,036,693.09. We've added $7,310,739,987,780.01 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BERGEN 350TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding achievement of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood. Furthermore, I am proud to celebrate the historic tradition of Bergen County and its many important contributions to the history of New Jersey as part of the Bergen 350 Gala. As one of the first four original counties of New Jersey, I have the honor of being its Representative in the U.S. Congress.

Founded by Dutch settlers in the 17th century, the area of Bergen County was settled as part of the New Netherlands, the 17th century North American colonial province of the Dutch Republic. In 1683, Bergen County received official recognition as an independent county by New Jersey's provincial assembly.

It is clear that Bergen County has played a crucial role in shaping the proud history of the Garden State.

In the Revolutionary War, Bergen County demonstrated its commitment to American independence. In fact, Fort Lee served as a key strategic asset to General Washington and his army.

In the Civil War, Company K of the 22nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment trained at the Civil War Drill Hall Theatre, which still stands in Leonia today. In World War I, Bergen County made use of innovative agricultural knowledge to support the war effort, canning fruits and vegetables and sending them to where they were needed.

After the nation fell into the Great Depression, Bergen County hosted numerous Work Projects Administration projects like the murals that decorate the County Courthouse in Hackensack. At the onset of World War II, Bergen County once again demonstrated its commitment to the nation, with more than 26,000 of its residents enlisting to serve.

In the Civil Rights Era, Teaneck became one of the earliest towns to voluntarily integrate its public schools by busing, doing so in 1964.

I am truly honored to represent Bergen County as part of New Jersey's 9th Congressional District in the United States Congress. As such, I was proud to cosponsor H. Res. 624, to honor the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey and recognize the valuable contributions of people of the Garden State.

As we move forward, I would like to recognize the Bergen County Historical Society and the Bergen 350 Gala on October 15th, 2014 to commemorate the role of Bergen County in light of the state of New Jersey's 350th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the state of New Jersey in recognizing the historic contributions of Bergen County in honor of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood.

CONGRATULATING COACH JOHN GILLEN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my former coach and dear friend, Mr. John Gillen, for his over 50 years of incredible work at my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. His titles were athletic director, coach, and teacher, but those were just labels. Coach Gillen was a role model for me and many other student athletes. He was fair, dedicated, and had a great sense of humor. But most importantly he was able to give us the tough love that was so often needed to instill discipline and resiliency. He would spend countless hours at our school and would ask for so little in return. His joy and fulfillment comes from shaping the minds and spirits of the young people at our school.

I will never forget watching daily as a high school student Mr. G quietly stepping into the school chapel. He took time to pray, meditate, and to thank God for all of his blessings. That stuck with me as I walked my own personal spiritual journey. I have him to thank for, through his modeling and leadership the encouragement to pursue my own personal journey. For that I will be forever grateful as it is the best gift he could have given to me. I treasure my experiences on and off the field with Coach Gillen. He represents the best of Kennedy High School and the best example of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. If those who know him could measure up to be half the person he is we would vastly improve our schools, our community, and our nation in countless ways.

I would like to also submit the following article that appeared in the Tribune Chronicle on August 9, 2014 in his honor.

STILL GOING STRONG GILLEN A LEGEND IN KENNDY HISTORY

WARREN.—John Gillen likes to keep things simple and understated. Nothing displays that more than the tiny office Gillen occupies as the Athletic Director at John F. Kennedy High School. Tucked in behind the ticket office next to the gymnasium that's named after him, the work space can best be described as a cubicle. With a desk, chair and some filing cabinets in place, there's no more than 50 square feet of walking space. To get a view of the outside world, Gillen has to step from the office and peek through the ticket office towards a set of doors. To some it might seem a bit claustrophobic, but to Gillen it's served with the comfort a tree house would to a young boy for decades.

John F. Kennedy athletic director John Gillen is shown in his office at the high school. Gillen has been AD since 1971 and was a part of the first staff when Kennedy opened its doors in 1964. ''I never wanted to move,'' Gillen said as he took a break from work on a late July day. ''They asked me if I wanted to move down close to the main offices. I like it here. It would probably make a great bomb shelter if we ever get attacked; or a hurricane or earthquake; this would be the place to come.'' Gillen moved to the office from a nearby work space that was even smaller. To the best of his recollection, he's been in the current office about 35 years, which was about seven years into what is now his 42nd year as athletic director.

It probably seems like only yesterday to Gillen, who is living proof that the love of work and an active mind can keep a person young at heart. Gillen doesn't show much of his 81 years other than the usual gray hair and perhaps slower walk that are inevitable with the aging process. His mind is sharp, which it has to be to deal with the demands of a job that can be thankless and rewarding at the same time. How he does it when most people his age have given in to retirement or infirmity is remarkable. The phone calls from parents upset about a child's lack of playing time. The constant demands of scheduling at a time when it's become impossible to find an area conference willing to extend JFK an invitation to the club. The secret for Gillen is to keep physically active and tap into the energy of those around him, including his wife Gloria, and an unwavering faith in God. It starts with a workout with light weights every morning. ''Dealing with the kids,'' Gillen said. ''They keep you young. They'll keep you on your toes, I'll tell you.''

Another key to Gillen's longevity is his humility and the accommodating manner in which he's treated those he's worked with all these years. Ask any JFK coach that's had dealings with Gillen, and you won't find one that will say a bad word about him. ''John is a very calm, easy-going guy,'' said Dennis Zolciak, who coached the Eagles' football team from 1977–90. ''The thing is his heart is totally into the school. He wants what's best for the school.'' There are generally two types of athletic directors—ones that want control of everything, including calling a few plays, and ones that take a back seat and try to make life as easy as possible for the coaches. Gillen fits the latter category to the max, always being careful to meet the demands of every coach, even if he might not agree with all the requests. ''He couldn't do enough for you, and then some,'' said Tony Napolet, the football coach from 1970–72 and 1991–2010.

Few people know Gillen better than Napolet, whom Gillen coached in football at St. Mary's Junior High School more than 60 years ago. The two are as much a part of the athletic fabric at JFK as any person ever associated with the school. ''He's the best part of that place,'' Napolet said. ''He's been there 50 years. Since before they opened. He loves it. That place is his life.'' Gillen was raised here and graduated from St. Mary's

High School in 1950. He coached basketball and served as the school's athletic director before moving to JFK High School when it opened in 1964. He taught and coached before replacing Jim McQuaide as athletic director in 1972. Gillen has worked closely with each of JFK's six football coaches prior to this season. From George Landis in 1964 to McQuaide (1965–69), followed by Napolet, Gene Nara (1973–76), Zolciak, Napolet again and Dave Pappada (2011–12). He's begun working this year with first-year coach Jeff Bayuk. Add the coaches of other sports, boys and girls, and you can begin to understand how many lives Gillen has touched.

''When the bricks for the school came together, John was there,'' said Dennis Jasinski, basketball coach from 1978–89. ''He's a solid part of the whole thing. We always got along. He was a pleasure to work with. He's a gentleman and a friend.'' Jasinski recalls a time when Gillen was set to scout a future basketball opponent but at the last minute had to cancel. Jasinski assumed the task of driving to Akron, which led to a surprising moment when he settled into his seat to begin taking notes. ''I went with an assistant coach and a minute before the game started, who comes walking in? I said, 'John, I thought you couldn't scout,' '' Jasinski said. ''He said, 'I told my wife I was going out for a loaf of bread.' That's the type of guy he was. He was always willing to help.'' Gillen doesn't like to talk about himself. He's more comfortable in the background, where he can let others accept the laurels of victory. He allows himself a moment of boastful pride when pointing out that each of his four sons—John, Brian, the late Tom and Jim—played on JFK football teams that made the playoffs. Brian and Tom were on the 1991 team that won the only state championship in school history. All Gillen needs these days to remain happy is morning exercise, daily prayer, the love of friends and family and a cozy seat in his tiny office. The one that sits a few strides from the gymnasium that bears his name.

It will seem strange when the day arrives that Gillen is no longer the athletic director. Life will go on, but not quite the same. ''You're only one part in a machine,'' Zolciak said. ''I've seen guys go, and the wheels keep turning. The great thing about John is he's healthy, he can do things, and he's glad he can do it. When the day comes and he leaves, the place will keep on going. I think he's left a great legacy there.'' Retirement can be a lonely place for those that thrived on work for lengthy periods of time. Some don't handle it well but find a way to cope. Others give in to time and fade away quickly. Gillen has no fears when he contemplates retirement.

''A gentleman told me at one time, and I'll never forget it,'' he said. ''When you retire, you know what you're retiring from, but do you know what you're retiring to? I've thought about that often. What would I do after I retire?'' Exactly how will Gillen live life when that day arrives? ''I won't lay on the couch; I know that,'' he said.

TRIBUTE TO KEN SHAW

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Kenneth ''Ken'' Alden Shaw (Ret.) who passed away Oct. 19, 2014 following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 80 years old and will be missed by many who he touched through his various professional, military and civic affiliations throughout his life.

Ken was a native of my hometown, Charleston and graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Kansas State University in 1957. Following graduation, Ken moved to Ravenswood and was employed by Kaiser Aluminum as a chemical engineer. Ken worked for Kaiser for 28 years, including his role as Carbon Plant Superintendent with his final post as Environmental Services Superintendent. In this role, he managed the air, water, solid and hazardous waste environmental systems and procedures at the aluminum plant. In 1976, Ken also served as Carbon Plant Superintendent for the Kaiser Aluminum Smelter in Ghana, Africa.

Ken had a long and distinguished military career in the West Virginia Army National Guard. He served in various line, staff and command positions with the Engineer Units of the State, which included Battalion Commander of the 1092nd Engineer Battalion. He further served as the Operations Officer and Commander of the 111th Engineer Group. In 1963 he completed flight training, becoming a fixed wing, rotary wing and instrument qualified pilot. He served on continuous flight status until 1980 and was awarded the Master Aviator badge. Colonel Shaw's military training included 34 specialty schools, including the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Colonel Shaw was placed on active duty in 1986 and appointed the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for West Virginia in Buckhannon.

Ken was an active member of the community and held positions on many organizations in Jackson County, as well as national organizations such as Rotary International, Toastmasters International and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Ken was a longtime member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Ravenswood.

Ken is survived by his wife, Gayle Twigger-Shaw; his sisters, Katherine Bowns of Tampa, Fla., and Nancy Burns of Ashville, N.C.; his children: daughters, Janie Frist (Moe) of Morgantown, Juli Seaman (Steve) of Leesburg, Va., and Carolyn Yost (Brian) of Clarksburg; and sons, Jim Spano (Beverly) of Ravenswood, Joe Spano (Donna) of Charleston and Mike Twigger of Charleston. Ken had six grandchildren, Joseph Spano Jr., Samantha Spano, Jessica Spano, Ian Frist, Jillian Frist and Hunter Yost.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, our communities, and indeed, the United States of America owe Colonel Shaw a debt of gratitude for his many years of distinguished service in his professional, military and personal life. I am honored to have known him and call him a fellow West Virginian.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALEX GORSKY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. Alex Gorsky for his dedication and leadership to CADCA, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. CADCA has honored Mr. Gorsky with the Humanitarian of the Year Award for his advocacy on behalf of CADCA's Drug-Free Kids Campaign.

Mr. Gorsky's efforts with CADCA have had a profound impact on drug abuse prevention efforts in my district. Bucks Promise for Youth and Communities is comprised of a number of Drug Free Communities whose outstanding work to combat the rise of teen drug abuse in our community was recognized last year by CADCA. One of the success stories from the district is the Prescription Drug Take Back Program which has captured more than 19 tons of unused medication since the program began just 4 years ago. The potential for these drugs to harm, addict, and take lives has been extinguished due to the vision and commitment of individuals like Alex Gorsky.

On behalf of the constituents of the Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Alex for his unrelenting support for CADCA's mission—building safe, healthy and drug-free communities around the country and in my home state of Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KENNETH D. MCCLINTOCK

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Kenneth D. McClintock. McClintock served as the 22nd Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. As Secretary of State, he fulfilled two roles, serving as the head of Puerto Rico's Department of State and, perhaps even more important, serving as lieutenant governor. McClintock also served as Acting Governor whenever the Governor was away from Puerto Rico.

As Secretary of State, he digitalized his department, reducing backlogs and speeding up services, in spite of having lost 60 percent of his employees through early retirements, attrition and involuntary layoffs triggered by the fiscal crisis of 2008 to 2009. Governor Fortuño delegated multiple additional responsibilities to McClintock, such as chairing the Advisory Council on Government Reform and Reorganization. McClintock's government reorganization plans resulted in the streamlining of government services and agencies, the creation of new agencies, such as the Financial Education Institute, and multi-million dollar savings.

McClintock capped a 16-year career as a member of the Puerto Rico Senate, serving as the 13th President of the Senate of Puerto Rico from 2005 to 2009. He also served as the youngest and the first Hispanic chairman of the nationwide Council of State Governments in 1999. In 2000, McClintock served as the second president of the hemispheric-wide Parliamentary Conference of the Americas (COPA).

McClintock is the author of Puerto Rico's Telecommunications Reform Law of 1996 as well as over 100 other laws.

McClintock is an adjunct professor of US Government and Government Management at

Interamerican University's San Juan campus. He coauthored a book with Puerto Rico's State Democratic Chair, Roberto Prats, about the 2008 Clinton presidential campaign in Puerto Rico, which they co-chaired.

The founder of a congressional internship program that has been replicated by nineteen states and territories, he is a longtime board member of a DC-based nonprofit, The Washington Center for Academic Internships and Scholarships. In his spare time, McClintock is an avid coin collector and an active member of the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico.

Born in London, England in 1957, his father, a native of Texas, was an architect, while his mother, born in Puerto Rico, was a college professor. McClintock is the proud father of a Georgetown University sophomore and aspiring actor, Kevin Davison, and a high school senior, Stephanie Marie.

I am happy to honor Kenneth McClintock, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his contributions to the Puerto Rican community.

COMMEMORATING THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all of the men and women who have worn the uniform of country and risked their lives to keep our nation free and safe.

We come together to celebrate our veterans who have courageously defended our freedom, and honor the memory of those who have borne the battle, including the more than 4,400 American servicemen and women who have died in Iraq and more than 2,200 who have died in Afghanistan.

We also honor the sacrifices of over 50,000 brave troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Let us pay tribute to those currently serving around the globe as well as veterans and service men and women who are with us today as they have served our nation with honor and distinction.

Today, I reaffirm my commitment to the nation's more than 2 million troops and reservists, their families, and 22 million veterans, including 32,477 in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, that they will be provided the quality job opportunities they have earned.

A grateful nation cares for its soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, not only when they're abroad, but also upon their return home.

Congress must communicate its wholehearted support for the security of the nation and build upon the historic improvements made in strengthening quality health care for veterans and offering the promise of college to those returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it is our duty to leave no veteran behind.

This day and every day, let us honor their service with actions that fulfill our commitment to our troops, their families, and our veterans—and that are worthy of our grateful nation.

HELPING ENCOURAGE REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS

I introduced H.R. 4110, the Transitioning Heroes Act, which amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers a business-related $1,000 tax credit for each veteran hired.

ENSURING JOBS IN ENERGY FOR VETERANS

I am proud to have authored legislation amending the Innovation Act (H.R. 3309) to include a provision requiring the PTO Director to evaluate the economic impact of the Innovation Act on the ability of veteran-owned small businesses to secure their right to their inventions and discoveries.

This amendment was critical to our community of veterans and to the strength of our economy because historically veterans have struggled to adjust to life upon returning home.

HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS

The House of Representatives unanimously adopted an amendment I offered to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriation Act for FY 2015, which expresses the sense of Congress that programs designed to assist homeless veterans should receive priority consideration by the Department.

Reducing and eliminating homelessness among veterans, those who risked their lives to protect our freedom, should be one of the nation's highest priorities. My amendment will help ensure that the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

The Jackson Lee Amendment helps remind us of our obligation to provide our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequate funding for Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) programs that provide case-management services, adequate housing facilities, mental health support, and address other areas that contribute to veteran homelessness.

GUARANTEEING MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS TO MEET THE LONG TERM NEEDS OF OUR ARMED FORCES, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

I am also proud to have succeeded in amending H.R. 1960, the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act to include my amendment providing qualified and professional mental health care to serve our armed forces members, veterans, and their families.

Without proper mental health services veterans will fall short of full recovery and be less able to function as productive citizens.

INCREASING PTSD FUNDING BY $5,000,000

I succeeded in amending National Defense Appropriations Acts for FY2014 and FY2015 to include my amendments providing $10 million in increased funding to treat veterans suffering from PTSD.

The additional funding is necessary to identify the research needed to combat these diseases that are crippling our men and women in our Armed Services and their respective families.

As we look to PTSD, some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye, for these are wounds that should be properly treated.

One of the best ways to increase access to treatment is to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the needs of men and women currently serving and those who have become veterans.

MAKING SURE OUR DISABLED VETERANS RECEIVE THE HEALTHCARE AND DISABILITY COMPENSATION THEY HAVE EARNED

I co-sponsored the H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act, which increases veteran's pay and disability compensation and maintains secure, dependable and reliable veterans' programs, especially for disabled veterans is very important.

I also strongly supported and voted to pass H.R. 3202, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, which expands access to health care for veterans and addresses the shortage of health professionals in the VA.

This legislation also ensures access to care for rural veterans and provides funding to establish 27 new VA clinics, including a new research facility in Houston.

The law also expands access to education for veterans and their families and extends a community-based housing program for veterans.

From 2007 through 2010, when Democrats were the majority in both the House and the Senate, there was no government shutdown—the Congress made historic gains for America's troops, veterans and military families.

That is why the American Legion said "111th Congress Achieves Banner Year on Veterans Legislation."

The real successes were the passage of bills that affected nearly every veteran in America.

For example, the Democratically-led Congress:

Enacted the new Post 9–11 GI Bill to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education, that has already allowed over 700,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars to afford college, just like after World War II, along with tax incentives for hiring to expand job opportunities for returning soldiers.

Strengthened health care for more than 5 million veterans, with a historic commitment—including the largest single increase in the history of the VA—for more doctors and nurses, better access for rural veterans, and expanded efforts to treat the signature injuries of the war, PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury, while enacting a law to guarantee timely and predictable funding for veterans' health care and to address the health care needs of our nearly 2 million female veterans.

Provided troops and veterans the benefits they have earned and resources they need, giving troops a pay raise, restoring military readiness, providing the best training and equipment for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, taking steps to reduce the backlog and wait for veterans trying to access their earned benefits, providing special payments for service members and veterans who were forced to serve under stop-loss orders since 2001, and making headway in ending the Disabled Veterans Tax and the Military Families' Tax.

Strengthened support for military families, building more military child care centers and better military family housing, and enacting landmark legislation to provide much-needed support for family members and other caregivers for wounded veterans.

Added $23 billion for veteran's health care and services, and accomplished a 60% increase in VA discretionary spending between 2007 and 2010.

Secured advance appropriations for the Veterans Administration for the first time—creating an uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act helped veteran caregivers with training, access to mental health counseling, and 24-hour respite care in veteran's homes.

1. The law helped veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom by allowing them to select a caregiver who would receive a financial stipend along with travel and lodging expenses associated with the veteran's care.

2. This law also expanded and improved services for the then 1.8 million women veterans, and provided for the expected increased number of veterans that would transition from active duty to civilian life.

3. The law authorized the VA to provide healthcare for newborn infants of women veterans.

It is important that we preserve and build upon this record of achievement.

Veteran homelessness was addressed in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 by increasing the VA loan limit which helped veterans with refinancing their homes by making low-interest home loans more available to veterans.

Mr. Speaker, all members of this body were deeply concerned over the troubling disclosures reported in the media regarding conditions as some of the nation's VA facilities.

I am pleased to report that the Department of Veterans Affairs, at the direction of President Obama and mandated by Congress, has made substantial progress in improving the performance of VHA healthcare now, developing a positive service culture, transitioning from ''sick care'' to ''health care'' in the broadest sense, and developing agile business systems and management processes that are efficient, transparent and accountable.

For example, The ''Road to Veterans Day'' initiative, launched on September 8, 2014 by Secretary Robert A. McDonald, has resulted in significant progress for Veterans over the past 3 months

During that time, DVA has taken deliberate actions to improve service delivery for Veterans, rebuild trust, increase accountability and transparency and put the department on the path to long-term excellence and reform.

Secretary McDonald has traveled extensively during his first few months in office, visiting 41 DVA facilities in 21 cities while also making 11 recruiting visits to medical schools.

To improve service delivery, VA has prioritized efforts to accelerate Veterans off of wait lists and into clinics through the Accelerated Care Initiative begun by Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson this summer.

Through this initiative, VA medical centers have increased access to care inside and outside of VA, added more clinic hours and work days, deployed mobile medical units, and shared their best practices from VA's high-performing facilities throughout the organization.

Significant improvements have resulted nationally:

1. Scheduling more than 1.2 million more appointments in the past four months than in the same period last year.

2. In total, VA medical centers have scheduled over 19 million Veteran appointments from June to October 1, 2014.

3. Reducing the national new patient Primary Care wait time by 18 percent.

4. Completing 98 percent of appointments within 30 days of the Veterans' preferred date, or the date determined to be medically necessary by a physician.

5. Authorizing 1.1 million non-VA care authorizations, a 47 percent increase over the same period last year.

Secretary McDonald addressed all employees via Video Teleconference, where he directed each employee to reaffirm the mission and core values of the Department.

A new award program has been initiated to highlight employees who truly embody DVA's ICARE values—Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The first nominations for this new incentive program will be accepted in January 2015.

Since June 2014, DVA has proposed disciplinary action against more than 40 employees nationwide related to data manipulation or patient care.

DVA is also working diligently to cooperate with the over 100 investigations currently being undertaken by the VA Inspector General, the Justice Department, and the Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

On October 3, OSC certified DVA under their Whistleblower Protection Certification Program after DVA worked to achieve compliance and protect employees who identify or report problems from unlawful retaliation.

DVA also worked closely with OSC to successfully resolve whistleblower retaliation complaints filed by three individuals from the DVA Phoenix Health Care System.

DVA has posted data online on a regular basis since the beginning of June showing the number of appointments on waiting lists and the average wait times at each medical center across the country.

Additionally, each medical center and benefits office has conducted a town hall with Veterans and the public to collect feedback. These town halls will continue at each facility every three months.

DVA is reviewing options to reorganize the department for success, guided by ideas and initiatives from Veterans, employees, and all of our stakeholders.

This reorganization will be known as ''MyVA'' and is designed to provide Veterans with a seamless, integrated, and responsive customer service experience—whether they arrive at VA digitally, by phone, or in person.

Long-term reform of DVA also means making sure DVA has the medical professionals we need to best care for our patients, which is why Secretary McDonald launched a national recruiting effort in August, visiting medical schools in an effort to bring the best and brightest to work at DVA.

On September 17, DVA announced an increase in the salary pay scale for DVA doctors and dentists to aid in recruiting and retention.

As part of the ''Road to Veterans Day,'' Secretary McDonald has reaffirmed DVA's homelessness program and the Veterans Benefits Administration's Claims Transformation Strategy.

DVA remains committed to working with its federal, state and local partners to end homelessness among Veterans, which has been reduced by 33% since 2010.

With the backlog of disability claims reduced by 60% since its peak in March of 2013, DVA is also on track to eliminate the backlog in 2015 and will continue to expand online claim-submission capability in all programs.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor and remember the sacrifices of the millions of veterans who have served our country throughout its history, let us always remember that the first obligation of a grateful is, as President Lincoln reminded us long ago, ''to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.''

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN VALOR AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE AND THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATTON PRAYER CARDS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the bravery of American troops who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and to recall the unique prayer cards General George Patton distributed to his Third Army in December 1944. The prayer, which asked for favorable weather, was printed on the back of a Christmas greeting from General Patton. The troops received these prayer cards prior to the Battle of the Bulge.

The incident of the now famous Patton Prayer commenced with a telephone call to the Third Army Chaplain on the morning of December 8, 1944. After weeks of severe rains that threatened the prospects of victory, General Patton called to ask Msgr. James H. O'Neill if he knew a prayer for good weather. While looking out on the steadily falling rain, the chaplain wrote an original prayer alongside a Christmas greeting, and then had it circulated it to all 250,000 Third Army troops on the eve of the Battle of the Bulge.

The prayer, in part, read: ''Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory . . .''

The Battle of the Bulge, one of World War II's most critical battles, started when Nazi forces launched a major surprise offensive on December 16. Fought among the dense forests bordering Belgium and Luxembourg, it was the bloodiest battle the U.S. encountered during the World War II, with over 18,000 Americans killed and over 65,000 captured or injured. The heavy rains and thick fog eventually subsided, and Allied forces were able to hold off Nazi forces and severely deplete their resource supply. The Battle of the Bulge is symbolic of the resilience and strength of American soldiers, who were unyielding in the face of both enemy fire and debilitating weather. After the Battle, General Patton told Msgr. O'Neill that ''our prayers worked.'' To General Patton, prayer was just as powerful a weapon of war and as defense and attack strategies.

It is an honor for me to commemorate the valor of these American soldiers, the leadership of General Patton, and the ultimate victory of the ''Greatest Generation.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE M. LAWSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Lawrence M. Lawson and congratulate him on his recent retirement as Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge. Judge Lawson has served honorably, breaking barriers and serving as an example for younger generations.

Judge Lawson received his undergraduate degree at Bowie State College (now Bowie State University) and his Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Prior to enrolling at The Catholic University, Judge Lawson completed the Council in Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Program and earned a 3-year scholarship for law school.

Judge Lawson's judicial experience began after he graduated from law school. In 1972, he worked as a law clerk for the late Honorable Thomas L. Yaccarino in Monmouth County, and was the first black law clerk to work in the Freehold court house. He was nominated as a Monmouth County judge by Governor Tom Kean in 1987 and was appointed to Assignment Judge on April 15, 1993, serving as the first black assignment judge. Early in his career, Judge Lawson served in the Civil Division and the Criminal Division, eventually serving as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. With this assignment, Judge Lawson became the first black judge of a division of the court system. Judge Lawson retired as Assignment Judge on September 1, 2014.

In addition to his judicial service, Judge Lawson worked for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs State Office of Legal Services, held a general law practice in Asbury Park for 12 years, worked as the Asbury Park Municipal Prosecutor, the Neptune Township Board of Adjustment Attorney and served as a delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention and the 1984 Democratic National Convention for Ted Kennedy and Walter Mondale, respectively. Judge Lawson also served on the Neptune Township committee and was elected mayor in 1984, serving as the first black mayor of the township.

Judge Lawson is also an active member of his community. He has coached a midnight basketball team, volunteered as a mentor at Second Baptist Church and worked with the United Fellowship men's program. Through his background and community outreach, Judge Lawson has motivated the community's youth to strive for success.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Honorable Lawrence Lawson on his retirement and thanking him for his service. Judge Lawson dedicated nearly 30 years to the bench and his contributions and achievements are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IZADELI ''IZA'' MONTALVO VÁZQUEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Izadeli ''Iza'' Montalvo Vázquez. Iza was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and was raised in the town of Sabana Grande. From a very early age, she demonstrated a gift for poetry and by the age of seven, she wrote her first poem. Her love for writing was inherited from her uncle, Emilio Forestier Gregory, a lawyer and published poet in Puerto Rico.

Her parents, both public school teachers, encouraged her to get involved in the community. She started writing theatrical plays for her school to bring awareness to different topics and to raise funds for student clubs. In middle school, she founded the student's newspaper, ''Eco Estudiantil.'' Iza was an honor student throughout her school years. At the age of 14, she started playing professional volleyball. In her senior year of high school, she was offered a scholarship to play for the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico's volleyball team. The Puerto Rican Volleyball Federation also signed her to join Las Leonas de Ponce.

In college, Iza continued to follow her passion for writing by joining the José Gautier Benítez literature club, where she received numerous awards for her poetry. She also earned third place in a poetry competition where film director, Jacobo Morales, served as the judge.

In 1998, Iza moved to New York City. She continued her undergraduate studies at St. John's University in Queens, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism in 2001. During that time, she interned at Univisión 41 in New Jersey and at El Diario La Prensa, where she was hired to work as reporter. She has reported about the protests at the United Nations against the Navy's presence on the island of Vieques, protests in Times Square against the War in Iraq, the World Economic Forum, the aftermath of September 11th, Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo's police brutality cases, and dozens of homicides.

In 2004, Iza moved to Orlando to work as a reporter for El Nuevo Día Orlando, part of Puerto Rico's largest daily newspaper. Her work has been published in newspapers including Caribbean Business, El Nuevo Día in Puerto Rico, La Prensa in Panamá, La Opinión, La Raza and El Mensajero.

Iza has also worked as a reporter for The Ledger, a company owned at the time by The New York Times Regional Newspaper Group. There she covered immigration and other topics of interest to the Hispanic community. In Florida, Iza reported on the 2004 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the NBA's All-Star Game in Orlando, and the 2012 presidential and local elections, among other stories. Iza has conducted many interviews, including one with Jose Mélendez Pérez, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Protection Inspector at the Orlando International Airport who became a key national figure when he refused entry to a terrorist involved in planning the 9/11 attacks. As a TV producer, she arranged an exclusive interview with Joseph Acaba, the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be named as a NASA astronaut candidate.

Iza's professional experience also includes working as a producer for Univisión WVEN TV 26 in Altamonte Springs and as my press secretary during 2013. She has been a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) since 2001, and she was recently named honorary godmother of the International Association of Writers and Poets (AIPEH). At age 39, Iza became the editor in chief of La Prensa, Central Florida's oldest Spanish language newspaper. La Prensa is owned by ImpreMedia, the leading Hispanic news and information company in the U.S.

I am happy to recognize Iza Montalvo Vázquez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING DR. TALMADGE WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Dr. Talmadge Williams. He was a man of consequence who forever strived to restore balance to the scales of justice, whether it was ensuring that our government committed to telling the full story, or making sure someone he knew had a fair shot at success. And he was my friend.

I am not exactly sure when our paths first crossed, but Talmadge had a way of growing on you. As a local elected official, particularly in my early years of service, I was out almost every night at a different event, connecting with communities and constituents I represented, first at City Hall in Alexandria and subsequently in Congress.

Somewhere among the meetings and events I saw Talmadge as a familiar face and in a short while we would seek each other out and discuss local issues of concern. His quiet demeanor and keen insight made him an indispensable ally and a trusted friend.

He always seemed to know more about a local issue than what was common knowledge, and in sharing it with me, he opened my eyes to a narrative and a perspective that was largely unknown.

It was more than just folklore; it was history that was still unwritten but needed to be. And, there was often a reason it went unrecorded and remained unwritten. It was part of a painful truth that too many, particularly those in power, found inconvenient or uncomfortable to acknowledge.

Well, Talmadge's sense of justice wouldn't let it stand and a great deal of his life was devoted to finding ways to tell the full story.

One monumental way he found to tell the full story was when he conceived the idea of building in Arlington The Black Heritage Museum. It was a vision I am pleased to be associated with through congressional legislation I helped pass that reserved a segment of the Navy Annex site for the future museum.

But, Talmadge was not one to pass up on other opportunities and I was proud to join with him in restoring the surviving slave quarters at Robert E. Lee's Arlington House. You

see, before Talmadge made it an issue, the Park Service was using the two surviving slave quarters as a storage facility, erasing the significance of these two buildings and the story of slavery at Arlington House.

It is not uncommon to find some of Virginia's historic plantations beautifully restored, but with all traces of its slave history removed, as if that peculiar institution never existed. We could not undo what these owners did to erase the vestiges of slavery from their grounds, but we were not going to let the National Park Service get away with it.

I made sure the Park Service had the funds and the instructions from Congress to restore the slave quarters.

Today, Talmadge's work is now on display at Arlington House. When Talmadge made his point, it had a lasting effect.

While I was on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee I made sure the history of the U.S. Capitol acknowledged the sweat and blood of the slaves who built it. Today, in the Capitol's new visitor center there is a memorial dedicated to the slaves who built the nation's house of democracy. For me, this memorial also honors my friend Talmadge Williams.

While we have faced some setbacks on acquiring the land for the Black Heritage Museum, I have no doubt it will be built.

You see, Talmadge is recruiting new allies in heaven to aid the cause. Though I am saddened by his death, I rejoice in knowing that Talmadge has transformed those around him directing us to a better, more just tomorrow.

He is a man who dared to make a difference, and I am so ever grateful I am among those he touched.

HONORING MS. CHERISSE MARSHALL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Entrepreneur Ms. Cherisse Marshall from Lexington, Mississippi.

Cherisse Marshall was born in Chicago, IL and at an early age her parents moved to Flint, Michigan along with her other five siblings. She was raised in Flint, MI where she attended school. After graduating from high school, she later attended Ferris State University where she studied journalism. After graduating from Ferris State University, she later entered into the corporate world in an administrative support role that would be the beginning of a long rewarding career in administration.

After a few years of working at home in Flint, MI, she decided to relocate to Atlanta, Georgia where she continued to tune and develop her administrative expertise.

As a detail-oriented, results-oriented professional, she has effectively utilized her diverse skills to benefit companies in the engineering, financial, insurance, information technology, and advertising industries. Throughout her corporate career that spans over 17 years, she has provided diverse administrative support in the areas of office administration, customer support, contract administration, problem resolution, information technology, project management, as well as everyday administrative support.

She later relocated to Lexington, Mississippi where she created OfficeStar Administrative Consulting, LLC to provide the same administrative expertise to entrepreneurs and small businesses to help them focus on growing their business instead of worrying about everyday administrative tasks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur for her dedication and service to her profession.

RECOGNIZING MR. BERNARD MAZZOCCHI ON HIS BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Bucks County businessman and entrepreneur, Bernard Mazzocchi, on the occasion of his birthday. As an entrepreneur, he has developed small businesses and properties, and revitalized aging buildings that have added to the economy and the quality of life in the Lower Bucks County community. Additionally, he uses his energy and drive as a volunteer on the local level. In this way, Bernard Mazzocchi represents American enterprise at its best, having worked his way up the ladder to success and always willing to give back. With a generous spirit, he contributes the benefit of his experience to civic, educational and charitable causes. In so doing, he has set an example of what it means to be a successful businessman and a good neighbor. We wish him continued success with our appreciation for his good work. Happy birthday and many more.

THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR SARAI MARTIN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Sarai Martin on the occasion of his retirement after 22 years of service in the United States Army.

Major Martin's distinguished military career began as a Private at Fort Benning, Georgia when he was only 17 years old. He served assignments throughout the United States and abroad as an enlisted Soldier, Non-Commissioned Officer and Commissioned Officer as well as enduring deployments to both Bosnia and Iraq.

Throughout his career, Major Martin continued to improve himself and rise through the ranks. After earning a college degree, Major Martin was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He served in positions as varied as Company Commander for an Ordinance Company, a Military Transition Team advisor in Iraq, and eventually rose to become the Mobilization Chief in the Logistics Division of the National Guard Bureau's G4 department.

We owe Major Martin a debt of gratitude for his selfless devotion and years of service to our nation. It is my true honor and privilege to recognize Major Sarai Martin for his distinguished career, and I offer him my best wishes for continued good health and success in the years to come.

HONORABLE PATRICK J. ROMA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Patrick J. Roma who was celebrated in October for his retirement from judicial service by his friends, family, and coworkers. He retires after a long career in which he faithfully upheld New Jersey's Constitution.

The Honorable Patrick J. Roma received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University in 1971. He later received his law degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1975 and his L.L.M. Degree from New York University School of Law in 1981.

Early in Judge Roma's legal career, he worked as the late Judge John J. Cariddi's Law Secretary in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Judge Roma then went on to work at Friedman, Pearlman & Roma, P.C. where he worked as an attorney for over two decades. During this time, he also served as Prosecutor for the Boroughs of Palisades Park, Fairview, Little Ferry, Saddle Brook, Haworth, and Leonia.

During his time as Partner at Friedman, Pearlman & Roma, P.C., Judge Roma was elected as Council President and Police Commissioner for the Borough of Palisades Park. He served from January 1985 through December 1987. Thereafter, Judge Roma was elected as New Jersey's District 38 General Assemblyman from 1988 through 1997 during which time he served as Assistant Minority Whip and Assistant Minority Leader.

As an Assemblyman, Judge Roma received a number of awards. He was awarded Legislator of the Year by Local 518 the Motor Vehicle Employees Union in 1993, and Shelter Our Sisters and the Italian American Police Society both in 1994, as well as, Man of the Year by New Jersey AFL–CIO in 1995 and Parole Officers Association in 1991.

Judge Roma received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Consul General Franco Mistretta, on behalf of the Italian Government, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and dedicated service to the Italian-American community from Ambassador Boris Biancheri, Ambassador of Italy to the United States.

Judge Roma was appointed in 1997 to the Superior Court of New Jersey by Governor Christie Todd Whitman and reappointed with tenure in 2003 by Governor James McGreevy. He has served on the bench in the Criminal Division of the Bergen Vicinage.

Having served alongside Judge Roma in the State Assembly, I know personally of his dedicated and hardworking nature. Judge Roma has made an outstanding mark on Bergen County with his compassionate nature and passion for upholding justice.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating

the achievements of individuals like the Honorable Patrick J. Roma.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Judge Roma's family, friends, coworkers, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the Honorable Patrick J. Roma.

HONORING FRED T. NOLAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Fred T. Nolan, a native of Dyer, Tennessee, but raised in Paducah, Kentucky, and has lived in Jackson, Mississippi since his graduation from Tougaloo College in the early 1960s.

One of his early career choices was teaching in the Jackson Public School District (JPS). Mr. Nolan taught two years at the then Brinkley High School located on Livingston Road and was a ninth grade teacher of Social Studies and Mathematics. He left JPS to pursue other career options and worked briefly for the Urban League of Jackson as director. The majority of his career spanned 25 years as the executive director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, a division of Housing Urban Development (HUD).

After fully retiring from HUD in 1996, Mr. Nolan rejoined the JPS family as a substitute and limited service teacher. He worked three years in a limited service capacity at Siwell Middle, Lanier High, and Forest Hill High schools.

Mr. Fred Nolan is married to Mrs. Kisiah Nolan, a former JPS Board member and president. His son, Fredrick Nolan, is coordinator of the JPS WATCH D.O.G.S. program. The Nolan's also have two daughters: Renee Nolan Johnson of Huntsville, Alabama, and Adrienne Nolan Colar of Smyrna, Georgia. All three of their children are graduates of the Jackson Public School District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Fred T. Nolan for his dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF BENNY G. BENAVIDEZ

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chief Benny G. Benavidez for his outstanding and invaluable service to the Imperial County community and to congratulate him on his retirement. Throughout his 37-year public service career, Chief Benavidez exhibited dedication to the Imperial County Probation Department's staff and clients, while keeping a steadfast commitment to improving services in Imperial County.

Chief Benavidez began his career in Imperial County Probation as a Juvenile Hall Officer in the 1970s. During his career, he served in many capacities for the Imperial County Probation Department and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In his leadership position at the Imperial County Probation Department, Chief Benavidez practiced and preached ethical conduct, professionalism, knowledge, loyalty and evidence-based practices. He also created a new mission statement that embodies the driving force and tempo for all officers, enhanced officer training, established the Day Reporting Center, a one stop shop for services and referrals, improved Juvenile Hall Medical Services and brought a wealth of resources to the area through his collaborative efforts.

Chief Benavidez was heavily involved in the community he served. He routinely attended Imperial County Board of Supervisors meetings, Law Enforcement Coordination Council meetings, Community Corrections Partnership meetings and local events designed to bring awareness to the resources available in the community to reduce recidivism, motivate behavioral change and advocate for victims. With a degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, Chief Benavidez continues to be a valuable asset to the Imperial Valley College faculty as a Correctional Science instructor.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Georgia Military College as it celebrates its 135th anniversary. I take great pride in representing this historic institution, comprised of a junior college and a separate preparatory school, located in scenic Milledgeville, Georgia.

Once the site of the Georgia state capitol, GMC now is one of only five United States Military Junior Colleges. At the center of its main campus stands the Old Capitol Building where the Georgia General Assembly met from 1807 until 1868 before the capital was moved to Atlanta. As President Emeritus Major General Peter J. Boylan has highlighted, "It was on the parade on the east plaza that every soldier from Georgia marched before going off to defend our values in war . . . the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, the War with Mexico, and, of course, the Civil War." In light of this rich history, it is fitting that the institution's core values are that of Duty, Honor, and Country.

What began in 1879 as Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College with just 219 students has flourished into an institution with more than 12,000 students enrolled online or at one of its nine campus locations. Nationally recognized as one of the best community colleges, GMC is producing accomplished and well-rounded individuals. It has a highly regarded junior college cadet program that culminates at the end of two years of study with a select few men and women being commissioned as officers in the United States Army. Additionally, it boasts such prestigious graduates as Georgia Governor George Busbee, Coach Bill Yoast of "Remember the Titans," U.S. Secretary of Labor W.J. Usery, and comedian and actor Oliver Hardy. Its alumni include judges, artists, educators, inventors, doctors, aviation pioneers, and thousands of men and women who have served in uniform.

For this reason, and on the occasion of its anniversary, it is my honor to acknowledge the educational leadership of this remarkable institution, under the direction of Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV. Furthermore, I extend my sincere appreciation to the entire Georgia Military College community—students, staff, faculty, alumni, and supporters—for the contributions they have made for more than a century to Georgia and beyond.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT TAX-EXEMPT STATUS TO PROFESSIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES THAT PROMOTE THE USE OF THE TERM REDSKINS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would amend section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit tax-exempt status to professional sports leagues that promote or allow a member club or franchise connected to that league to promote the use of the term "Redskins." Senator MARIA CANTWELL has introduced the same bill in the Senate.

Currently, the National Football League (NFL) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) "business league" organization that receives tax-exempt status. It is the nation's largest sports franchise, generating almost $10 billion annually. Unlike some of its counterparts—the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball, for example—it operates as a nonprofit, which allows for its profits to trickle down to its 32 teams, including the Washington football team.

Over 300 tribes and two million Native Americans, as well as religious and human rights organizations, have called on NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Daniel Snyder, the Washington football team owner, to change the name of the Washington football team because the name and mascot insult native people. In addition, several media outlets around the country no longer print or use the term "Redskins" when referring to the Washington football team because the term is offensive.

On June 18, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in a landmark decision (Blackhorse v. Pro Football, Inc.), found the name used by the Washington football team to be disparaging to Native Americans and not deserving of trademark protection, and cancelled federal trademark protection for the "Redskins" trademarks. While the ruling did not persuade Daniel Snyder or Roger Goodell to change the name, the ruling has the potential to affect the profits received from the sale of the team's merchandise.

American taxpayers have been subsidizing a multibillion dollar league that promotes what has now been officially found to be a racial slur for profitable gain. Relief from taxes should no longer be given to a league that profits from the continued use of a racial slur, which degrades some Americans. As an organization that enjoys tax-exempt benefits, the NFL also has a duty to American taxpayers to

ensure that its teams are not promoting or benefitting from a racial slur. This bill would revoke the tax-exempt status of professional sports leagues that choose to continue to use the offensive and derogatory term ''Redskins.''

Because this bill only revokes the tax-exempt status of leagues that promote the use of the term ''Redskins,'' it would not affect other leagues that fall under the same 501(c)(6) tax exemption such as the Professional Golfers Association and the National Hockey League.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

REMEMBERING PAUL G. (JERRY) GOFORTH

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul G. (Jerry) Goforth who passed away on October 3, 2014. Jerry, a family man, United States Marine, and a horseman will be remembered as a compassionate and respectful man who provided unconditionally for his family.

Jerry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Second Division, in 1943 and served over two years in the Pacific Theatre.

After leaving the USMC, Jerry made Southern California home where he fell in love with his wife Barbara (Bobbie) Baylis. Together they married in 1948 and raised a family.

Jerry was a distinguished member of the Long Beach Police Department as a motor officer. After an accident that prematurely ended Jerry's career, he joined the team at State Farm in Costa Mesa as a claims superintendent.

Retiring after twenty-five years, Jerry and Bobbie built their dream home and moved to my hometown of Yucca Valley.

I can remember Jerry and Bobbie traveling at every opportunity they had. Either abroad or in their motor-home, they loved the chance to see old friends and make new ones. Jerry raised Arabian horses, leather tooled, and restored antique factors.

Jerry was a member of the California Chapter of the Second Marine Division Association. He was devoted to promoting the tenets of the association and served as both President of the California and National Associations.

''Once a Marine, Always a Marine''

Semper Fi

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIONVILLE NATURAL PHARMACY OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lionville Natural Pharmacy of Chester County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

After graduating from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1973, Ben Briggs, RPh, CNC, IACP, began his career as a retail pharmacist and founded Lionville Pharmacy in 1979. While the store was originally located in the Medical Arts Building on Route 100, it moved in 1987 to a larger location on Route 113 and Whitford Road, and then finally to its current location in 1992 at Route 113 and Gordon Drive. In 1996, the store was renamed Lionville Natural Pharmacy and Health Food Store. In 1999, upon his graduation from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Ben's son, Michael, Pharm.D., CNC, also joined the practice.

Over the years, Lionville Natural Pharmacy added a compounding pharmacy lab and a holistic health center offering therapeutic massage, acupuncture, shiatsu, and more. Throughout its long and storied history, Lionville Natural Pharmacy has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles, including Best of the Main Line in Main Line Today from 2006 to 2014.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its 35 years of faithful service to its patients and customers, along with its outstanding history of commitment to the life and health of the Chester County community and its citizens, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Lionville Natural Pharmacy of Chester County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEMPLE COVENANT OF PEACE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 175th anniversary of the Temple Covenant of Peace. They are the third oldest Temple in Pennsylvania and the tenth oldest in the United States. Committed to a mission of cultivating a love and understanding of Jewish heritage and to inspiring fellowship in the Jewish Community, they have offered many avenues for service to the larger community. Their history is intertwined with the history of the City of Easton, Pennsylvania.

Founded on August 26, 1839, the Congregation Brith Sholom (Covenant of Peace) held their services in a rented space on Third and Bank Street in Easton. As they grew, they endeavored to build a synagogue on Sixth Street between Pine and Ferry. Its façade mirrored that of a great synagogue in Florence, Italy. Until 1959, it was the oldest synagogue in continuous use, for 117 years, in the United States. In 1954, the Covenant of Peace purchased property to build a new synagogue for their growing congregation. This synagogue was dedicated on November 20, 1959. The synagogue was built with no work performed on the Sabbath or on Jewish holidays. The Temple Covenant of Peace has what is believed to be one of the first free-standing monuments to the victims of the Holocaust.

Through the years, members of the Temple Covenant of Peace have served the Easton community well. The Rabbis and members have served on the boards of community nonprofits and similar organizations. They have organized food drives and participated in community dialogues on faith and the ethical issues of our day. They have stood with members of the community to help them grieve times of loss and to offer courage in times of change.

It is my honor to commend the Temple Covenant of Peace and their commitment to cultivating a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage and to inspiring fellowship in the Jewish Community as well as service in the broader community in the Easton area.

HONORING COLONEL ANDREW J. FRANK

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Andrew J. Frank who retired after 36 years of faithful service in the United States Army on September 30, 2014. As a fitting finale to his long and distinguished career, on July 28, 2014, Colonel Frank was awarded the National Intelligence Medal for Valor in recognition of his extraordinary heroism while serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. As the Intelligence Community's second highest award, the National Intelligence Medal for Valor recognizes only the most exceptional acts of courage in the pursuit of intelligence community and national security objectives.

On the occasion of Colonel Frank's retirement to my home-state of Wisconsin, I would like to take a moment to underscore his heroic actions to the House.

On March 20, 2008, while serving as the Defense Intelligence Agency's Chief of the Defense Intelligence Support Organization in Afghanistan, Colonel Frank displayed unflinching leadership and bravery leading security activities for an inter-agency intelligence task force. Caught in an ambush by a numerically superior enemy force with a marked tactical advantage, Colonel Frank courageously disregarded his own safety, maneuvering through multiple kill zones over open terrain, on no less than seven occasions, to save the lives of his teammates, coalition soldiers, and civilian bystanders. He personally led the fire and maneuver of his team, rallied the Afghan National Police (ANP) to engage enemy forces, and heroically retrieved a critical resupply of ammunition desperately needed by his team. Colonel Frank's uncommon valor and determined leadership allowed his three-member team, trapped in two ambushes for over two and one half hours, to neutralize the enemy without a single loss of U.S. or ANP life. Colonel Frank's bravery under fire is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the United States Intelligence Community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Andrew and his family for their many years of faithful service and a job very well done. I wish them years of good fortune as they enjoy their retirement from military service in Wisconsin.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S (TAIWAN) 103RD NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Taiwan's 103rd National Day on October 10, 2014. This event marks the anniversary of the 1911 uprising that led to the establishment of the Republic of China.

As my colleagues know, the U.S.-Taiwan relationship is a warm one, cemented by our shared commitments to democracy and free enterprise. This stands in contrast to Taiwan's unique political status in the international community, which too often leaves it shut out of the world's deliberations. All across the globe today, we see new and emerging threats of rare complexity, the solutions to which would benefit greatly from Taiwan's participation at the negotiating table.

I ask that my colleagues join me in redoubling our efforts to secure meaningful participation, wherever possible, for Taiwan in the work of international and multilateral organizations. As we work toward that end, I once again join my colleagues in wishing our Taiwanese friends all the best as they commemorate this momentous day.

RECOGNIZING DR. AHMED MAZAHERI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to proudly acknowledge the many accomplishments of Ahmed Mazaheri, M.D. and his contributions to the local and global community. He recently was recognized by Rotary Club International and the Rotary Club of Doylestown with its "50 Years of Service Award." Dr. Mazaheri retired from medical practice in 1994 and, with his generous spirit, devoted his time to community and international service, particularly through the Rotary Club of Doylestown and service on various county health and educational associations. Dr. Mazaheri, a native of Iran, left his country at age 18 to study medicine at the University of Bonn and the University of London and later, medical residencies at Georgetown University and Pennsylvania Hospital. Prior to 1961, he was a medical liaison for the U.S. Army in Germany. We sincerely congratulate him for selfless dedication and devotion to the health and well-being of the greater community and grateful that he has reached out to so many others. In so doing, Dr. Mazaheri has set an outstanding example for others to follow.

CELEBRATING VIVIAN L. WOOD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary service of Williamson County Treasurer Vivian L. Wood as she begins the next exciting chapter of her life. Recognizing the importance of allowing a new generation of leaders a chance to make a positive impact, Vivian is stepping down from her two decades of dedication to making Williamson County a great place to live and work.

Under Vivian's stewardship, Williamson County has enjoyed tremendous population and job growth while the rest of the nation was still recovering from recent economic challenges. As the fastest growing county in the USA from 2010 through 2012, Williamson County is home to Dell Computers, cutting edge medical centers, and thriving small businesses. Vivian's forward-thinking financial management has been critical to the county's continuing success.

Widely admired and respected for her leadership, Vivian has been a treasurer both her colleagues and constituents could rely upon. Her commitment to public service doesn't end when she leaves the office. Vivian has served in all offices of the County Treasurers Association of Texas since 1996 and has received numerous awards for her dedication to excellence.

Vivian's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. She's positively impacted the lives of thousands and there's no doubt that Williamson County is a better place because of her.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I commend Vivian Wood for her selfless service to her beloved community and wish her only the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Save Mart Supermarkets, who will be inducted as a member of the Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame's "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California, on November 13, 2014.

Save Mart Supermarkets, a California corporation, owns and operates 221 stores in Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada under the Save Mart, S-Mart Foods, Lucky, and FoodMaxx banners. A privately-owned retail food company, it is sustained by a familial corporate culture. The company has always believed in supporting local suppliers and producers, and is actively engaged with the charities and causes of the communities where its stores do business.

Their long history began when the first Save Mart opened in Modesto, California on January 17, 1952. Over the next four decades, many changes took place. Long known for innovation, Save Mart was one of the first supermarkets to offer customers pre-packaged meats, yard and garden supplies, plants, fresh-cut flowers and gift items, all creative concepts for the 1950s, and relatively unheard of for the area until Save Mart introduced them. In 1984, major growth occurred for Save Mart Supermarkets with the opening of eight new stores and a new partnership established to produce Sunnyside Farms dairy products. The company expanded throughout the 1980s including the acquisition of twenty-seven Fry's supermarkets located in the East Bay area in 1989; 1997 saw the acquisition of 10 Lucky stores in the Central Valley.

With their success, the company developed its own warehouse concept under the name FoodMaxx, which it owns independently. In 2003, Save Mart Supermarkets acquired 25 Food 4 Less stores and rebranded them FoodMaxx. The FoodMaxx division is now 50 stores strong.

Still growing, in 2007 Save Mart Supermarkets acquired Albertsons stores in the Metro Sacramento area, San Francisco Bay Area, and Northern Nevada, and converted them to Lucky and Save Mart stores. Today, the company operates stores throughout the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, and Northern Nevada.

Save Mart Supermarkets is committed to being a responsible corporate citizen—conducting business ethically and giving back to the communities that it serves. The company has partnered with a number of organizations and established giving programs that can deliver both tangible and intangible benefits to the communities served by Save Mart Supermarkets' stores. Some of the partners include American Heart Association, City of Hope, Children's Hospitals: Madera, Oakland, San Francisco, and Sacramento and local food banks.

One event that the company has made its own is the Toyota/Save Mart 350. Ranked as one of the top ten annual NASCAR races by Maxim magazine, the Toyota/Save Mart 350 is a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event held every year in June at Sonoma Raceway. Save Mart Supermarkets has sponsored this race since 1989, when it attracted only 20,000 spectators. The annual event now draws a crowd of approximately 110,000 and raises money for the company's charities and Save Mart CARES.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Save Mart Supermarkets for their significant contributions to agriculture and to the people of our local community.

RECOGNIZING DR. LARRY SCHMITZER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to proudly acknowledge the many accomplishments of Dr. Larry Schmitzer and his legacy of kindness and commitment to the well-being of others. Prior to serving individuals and families in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Dr. Schmitzer served our country as a flight surgeon in Vietnam.

Dr. Schmitzer started his medical practice along with Dr. Mark Radbill. As their practice grew, they saw the need to expand in order to better serve our community. Along with other individuals, Drs. Schmitzer and Radbill helped establish the Delaware Valley Medical Center. Eventually, the organization joined Aria and is now known as Aria Health-Bucks County.

Although an esteemed medical practitioner, the hallmark of Dr. Schmitzer's career was his effort to form the Warminster Chapter of Gilda's Club. Dr. Schmitzer was among the 12 original founders and deemed the driving force. Named after comedian Gilda Radner who died from ovarian cancer in 1989, the organization provides emotional and social support for people living with cancer and the families that love them. They have been particularly attentive to the needs of children impacted by family members battling this horrible disease.

On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I offer Dr. Schmitzer my gratitude for a career marked with selfless dedication and compassion for our friends, neighbors and loved ones. Thank you, Dr. Schmitzer.

GAETANO ARMANDO FORMICA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaetano Armando Formica who selflessly served as a U.S. Army soldier during World War II and is celebrating his 100th birthday. His family and friends will join together this Sunday to celebrate and wish him continued health, happiness, and prosperity.

Gaetano Armando Formica, also known as Al, was born September 4, 1914. Al worked in the family bakery and then went on to work for Federal Leather. With his experience there, Al eventually went on to open his own shop where he recovered chairs and furniture.

Al married his wife Anna in 1943. Soon thereafter, he was drafted into the Army and served in several European countries during World War II. His services in World War II deserve special recognition.

Al was on Utah Beach, the westernmost part of the Allied landing beach on D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge toward the end of World War II.

Al helped to liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. It was one of the first and largest concentration camps on German soil where over 55,000 innocent souls lost their lives. Today, the remains of Buchenwald serve as a memorial and permanent exhibition and museum.

Al returned to civilian life after being injured during the war. For many years, he served as commander in the Disabled American Veterans Post 38. He was also the Grand Marshall in the Memorial Parade in 2009.

Al and his wife Anna have been blessed with three children, Armand, Gary, and Roberta as well as six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Sadly, his son Gary was killed in 1970 while serving his nation in the Vietnam War. Truly the Formica family has given of itself in service of our great nation.

Al and Anna currently reside in Bloomfield, NJ. Al keeps busy with gardening work, playing the guitar, and cooking. He also takes care of Anna who is wheelchair bound.

As his friend, I am very pleased to have the great fortune of being able to honor such a marvelous member of our community. I sincerely wish Mr. Gaetano Armando Formica and his entire family the best.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Gaetano Armando Formica.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Formica's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Gaetano Armando Formica for one hundred years of life dedicated to family and nation.

HONORING FRANCHESTER COLEMAN EASON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mrs. Franchester Coleman Eason, who is the owner of Franchester's Salon.

Franchester was born January 3, 1969 to the late Eddie and Henrietta Coleman. She along with her 13 siblings was raised south of Rolling Fork, MS in a small rural community called Edgermount. Franchester is a graduate of Rolling Fork High School and holds an AA degree from Hinds Community College in the field of Cosmetology. She has worked as a cosmetologist since earning a license from the MS State Board of Cosmetology in 1990.

Franchester began her career working for the late Minnie Pearl Brown at the Rolling Fork Beauty Charm. After working at Rolling Fork Beauty Charm for several years Franchester decided to work for Lee's Hair Care, for the late Mrs. Letha Lee. Upon the passing of Mrs. Lee, Franchester managed the shop as her own for many years. In 2009 she and her husband, Frank, were blessed with the opportunity to buy the business. The beauty shop is now called Franchester's Salon and is located at 153 North 2nd Street; opens at 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday. Franchester's Salon offers a wide variety of hair care techniques.

Franchester is a member of the National Beautician Association. She is also a member of Mt. Ollie M. B. Church in Edgermount.

Franchester and her husband, Frank, are the proud parents of Catina, Mariesha, Jeremy and Frank III.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Franchester Coleman Eason for giving back to the community in which she was born and reared.

HONORING VINCE CALLAHAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., who passed away on September 20th, 2014, at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia.

Vince represented Virginia's 34th District in the Virginia General Assembly for nearly four decades. During his tenure on the Appropriations Committee, he worked tirelessly on important regional projects for his constituents in McLean and Arlington. He was always willing to work across the aisle to find compromise and get things done.

Vince's many legislative accomplishments include supporting the growth of George Mason University and the Dulles Corridor, as well as securing state funds for public spaces, like Wolf Trap. The northern Virginia we know today would not exist if it were not for Vince and his outstanding statesmanship in the Virginia General Assembly. The region owes him a debt of gratitude for his faithful and effective service.

Vince was a man of strong convictions and the highest moral character. He was a true Virginia gentleman, family man and a loyal friend; he will be sorely missed by his family, friends and community. Vince is survived by his wife Yvonne, eight children, 22 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I respectfully submit Vince's obituary from The Fairfax Times and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vince's life and achievements.

[From FairfaxTimes.com, Sept. 26, 2014]

CALLAHAN'S LEGACY BURNS BRIGHT

Fairfax County lost one of its true statesmen—and untold amounts of institutional knowledge—when longtime state legislator Vince Callahan died last Saturday from complications related to West Nile virus.

Callahan, who represented McLean in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1967 to 2008, will best be remembered as someone who cared deeply about Northern Virginia and spent more than half his life fighting for his district, his constituents and for Virginia.

It's hard to travel through Fairfax County today and not see Callahan's fingerprints on many key institutions and roadways. He was critical in drumming up dollars and support for George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College; many Fairfax residents could locate either school on a map. He championed Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts when many others viewed the project as a waste of money and land. He was instrumental in establishing Georgetown Pike as a scenic byway, fending off intense pressure to four-lane the road through Great Falls and parts of McLean.

He also played a lead role in establishing the Dulles Toll Road, erecting sound walls along Interstate 495 and sparking commercial development on the Dulles corridor.

Callahan's list of accomplishments goes on and on, fueled mostly by a calm, inclusive leadership style rarely seen in today's General Assembly.

In an era of partisan bickering and political gamesmanship, Callahan built his career on putting people ahead of party and solving old problems rather than creating new ones.

He was keenly aware that he worked at the behest of those in the 34th House district—not the other way around. A lifelong Republican, he went to Richmond each winter focused on improving the lives of his constituents in McLean, Arlington and other parts of Virginia. That often meant crossing the aisle and working with Democrats to pass critical legislation. It also meant standing up to lawmakers in his own party when they were pushing policy harmful to his district.

In the midst of yet another expensive, attack-oriented election cycle, Vince Callahan's passing should serve as a reminder that there's always going to be a place for people with firm spines, positive ideas and good intentions.

RECOGNIZING THE COLLINSWORTH FAMILY AS THE 2014 WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Collinsworth family of Westville, Florida, for being selected as the 2014 Walton County Farm Family of the Year.

The Collinsworth family traces its Northwest Florida roots to 1894, where their ancestors settled near the small community of Gaskin, Florida. Today, about 25 miles southeast of Gaskin, the Collinsworth family farm, owned by Bobby and Hazel Collinsworth, comprises three generations of farmers, including their son-in-law and grandchildren of the Currid family, each of whom play an integral role in the family's farming operations.

Since 1924, Bobby and Hazel Collinsworth have worked tirelessly to cultivate their farm to the successful operation it is today. What originally produced corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts and consisted of hogs and cattle has flourished into 320 acres owned and 240 acres leased to raise 129 crossbred cows and 16 registered Simmental cows.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by farmers and their families. The Walton County Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Collinsworth's family dedication to family and farming and their shared passion for ranching and caring for the land for future generations to come. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Collinsworth family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

CONGRATULATING CALVIN L. JOHNSON, SR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Calvin L. Johnson, Sr. as he completes his time as the Worthy Grand Joshua, of the Most Ancient Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho, Inc., Prince Hall PHA of Pennsylvania.

The Prince Hall Freemasonry is a collection of predominately African American jurisdictions in North America with a rich history dating back to before the Revolutionary War. In the 1700s, upon receiving rejection by over a dozen colonial Freemasonries, a freed slave by the name of Prince Hall, along with fourteen other freed slaves, created a chapter through the Grand Lodge of England, the original source of Freemasonry. The position of Worthy Grand Joshua is one of the highest honors within the Prince Hall Freemasonry. During the past two years, Mr. Johnson's duties have involved a demanding schedule of visits to many lodges throughout the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and participation in countless ceremonies and events.

A lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, Mr. Johnson was born in Harrisburg and spent his formative years in Steelton. He graduated from Steelton-Highspire High. After completing high school, Mr. Johnson entered the U.S. Army and was able to retire as a Chief Warrant Officer 3, as a Criminal Investigator for the Department of the Army.

His career after the military includes working for the Department of Environmental Resources, the Office of the Attorney, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Most recently, after four years as a Security Investigator, Mr. Johnson left to pursue part-time work as a private investigator, constable, and tax preparer. It is during this time that he became the Worthy Grand Joshua, of the Most Ancient Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho, Inc., PHA. He has served in this capacity for two years, performing his duties professionally and never without a smile.

Outside of his current role as Worthy Grand Joshua, Mr. Johnson also serves on the Executive Board of Steelton Youth in Action (S.Y.I.A.) as the Financial Secretary. Even with his many commitments, he finds time in his schedule to drive a school bus for Steelton-Highspire, McDevitt, and Central Dauphin students.

George Washington, a notable Mason, once shared: ''To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.''

Mr. Speaker, upon the completion of his duties as Worthy Grand Joshua, I thank Mr. Johnson for all that he has done for our area and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING DR. DEBRA STAKES

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Dr. Debra Stakes, President of the Cuesta College Federation of Teachers, AFT 4909. Throughout her career, Dr. Stakes has been a committed individual to the advancement of high-quality education and scientific research. She has been a champion in moving forward these principles all while being a staunch advocate for faculty concerns and promoting community engagement, organizing, and political activism.

Dr. Stakes prestigious career in the sciences is a product of her academic tenacity and achievements. She is a graduate of Rice University and received her doctorate in Oceanography from Oregon State University. Dr. Stakes' prominent postgraduate work included research appointments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology, as well as a year at the National Science Foundation. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Stakes was the first woman to participate in a range of groundbreaking discoveries such as the seafloor hot vents.

Later, Dr. Stakes taught at the University of South Carolina for almost eight years, where she was the only woman on a faculty of twenty-five in the Department of Geology. During her time at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Stakes promoted the management of large educational programs to support students to excel and succeed in the fields of mathematics and science.

Dr. Stakes continued her work and research in scientific and oceanic developments during the decade she worked as the only female scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

In 2006, Dr. Stakes began teaching at Cuesta College in the fields of Geology and Oceanography, where she became involved in the faculty union as a Division Representative and later as the Committee on Political Education (COPE) Chair. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Stakes became the Vice President and took on the role of the organization's Chief Negotiator.

Dr. Stakes' passion for the sciences is evident throughout the trajectory of her career. She has been a trailblazer for women in her field and has continuously shown outstanding dedication towards the value of people's work and has stood against the injustice to deny anyone acknowledgement of their contributions.

As the current Chief Negotiator for Cuesta College's faculty union, Dr. Stakes continues to strive for the progress and enhancement of our education system, as well as the lives of educators. Dr. Stakes has encouraged and cultivated a strong bond of partnership between Cuesta College and the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council, which has benefitted many people throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

For these reasons, I am pleased to join the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council in honoring Dr. Debra Stakes for her unwavering dedication and tireless efforts to expand the role of women in the workforce, the education sector and our community.

HONORING PETER ANDREAS SZEGO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congress members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA, to recognize the impact of Mr. Peter Andreas Szego's lifelong involvement in the life of our community. We would like to express our deep sadness over his passing on September 28, 2014, in San Jose at the age of 89.

To escape Hitler's Germany, Mr. Szego immigrated to the United States with his family in 1934. After he started his studies at Stanford University, his education was interrupted in 1944 when he entered the U.S. Army to serve in Europe as a dental technician until 1946. After WWII, Mr. Szego returned to the United States to finish college, undertake course work toward a Ph.D., and teach at Rice University, Houston, Texas, and Santa Clara University.

Around this time, Mr. Szego began his lifelong activism for civil rights, justice, peace, and many political campaigns for candidates who stood for these causes. After doing research for over a decade and while continuing to work and publish in applied mathematics, Mr. Szego left engineering to join the staff to Mr. Dan McCorquodale, the Santa Clara County Supervisor at the time. Among other things, in 1963, Mr. Szego joined an interracial group to take part in the March on Washington. Additionally, Mr. Szego served as an advisor to U.S. Representative Phil Burton on the issue of drafting fair political districts long before computer programs were used to draw boundaries.

After his retirement from the Legislature in 1991, Mr. Szego continued to work even harder to improve the lives of people of all races, backgrounds and ages, both on the local and national levels. In fact, in recognition of his numerous years of dedicated volunteer service, Mr. Szego received the AARP's highest state honor, the California Percy Andrus Award for Community Service. Deservedly, in May, 2014, Mr. Szego received the Santa Clara County Democratic Party Don Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award.

We join Mr. Szego's family, colleagues, and our community to express our heartfelt sense of loss. Mr. Szego's service leaves our world a better place, and he will be dearly missed.

TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF SARDAR GANGA SINGH DHILLON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the distinguished life of Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon, who passed away on September 24, 2014 at the age of 86.

Ganga Singh Dhillon was born in the Sheikhupura area of West Punjab. He received his early education at Chak 19 and the Guru Nanak Khalsa High School Nanakana Sahib. He later joined the Sikh National College Lahore.

This was a time of great political and religious turmoil throughout the Indian sub-continent. The region was on the verge of being divided, and the interests of the Sikh community were not being addressed. S. Dhillon became one of the foremost original leaders of the Sikh struggle. In 1947 he was arrested in Lahore along with several other students for promoting Khalistan, a Sikh nation. That same year, his father was shot and killed by the Pakistani army while trying to resolve an issue between the Sikhs and Muslims.

Ganga Singh Dhillon then moved with his family to India where he was mentored by S. Joginder Singh Mann, an old family friend. While in India, S. Dhillon began his battle to preserve Sikh holy sites, especially the birthplace of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev, and to allow Sikh pilgrims the right to visit these sites. However, his cause was considered far too radical, and he was taken into custody and held in the Nabha jail for a year and a half. It would take fifty years for this battle to be won; in 1999 the President of Pakistan finally granted the Pakistan Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee the right to maintain Sikh shrines and began granting more visas so that Sikhs abroad can visit them.

With the help of S. Mann, Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon moved to the United States in the 1960s where he continued his advocacy on behalf of Sikh concerns. S. Dhillon was committed to improving relationships and understanding between Sikhs and other cultures and religions. He discussed issues with patience, logic, and advocacy for peaceful solutions, even with his most bitter adversaries. In 1965, S. Dhillon founded the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hockey Tournament. The core mission of this tournament was to build friendship and stronger bonds through sport, and to develop better understanding and mutual respect for people of all countries, rich and poor, through competition and sportsmanship. This tournament is now one of the largest international hockey tournaments in the United States.

In 1981, S. Dhillon returned to India to deliver a Presidential Address entitled "Sikhs Are a Nation" at the 54th All India Sikh Educational Conference. Reaction to his speech was overwhelmingly hostile, forcing him to leave India immediately. He was banned from ever travelling to India as a result.

S. Dhillon was also a leader on other issues of importance to the international Sikh community. He along with others established the Nanakana Sahib Foundation, the purpose of which was to bridge the gap between Sikhs and their Pakistani Muslim brothers. This foundation is jointly funded and run by Muslim and Sikh private individuals, and houses a library, a guest house, and hospital where free medical care is provided to the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating and celebrating the life of my friend, Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon and in expressing sincere condolences to his family. Sadar Ganga Singh Dhillon rightfully belongs in a select group of very rare individuals who, through peaceful means, have truly changed the world. His efforts on behalf of the international Sikh community and in improvement of relationships between cultures will leave a lasting legacy.

RAINN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), one of our Nation's most effective victims' organizations.

Founded by Scott Berkowitz in 1994, RAINN is the Nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization.

Their cutting edge work has changed the outcome for victims of sexual violence for years.

They have made the country more aware of the evil of sexual assault and have aided millions of victims.

RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline, which provides victims of sexual assault with free, confidential services around the clock and has served over 1.5 million people since 1994.

The hotline expanded its services going online in 2007 helping to reach even more victims.

In addition, RAINN operates the DOD Safe Helpline to aid victims of sexual violence in our military.

Beyond the hotline and other direct victim services, RAINN advocates for policies that change the lives of victims of sexual assault and engages the public to advocate on behalf of victims' rights bills.

They were vital in the passage of the Debbie Smith Act, its subsequent reauthorizations, the DNA Fingerprint Act, and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, and the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act.

I worked with RAINN on SAFER for years along with Congresswoman MALONEY and Senator CORNYN.

SAFER provides grants to states and localities with existing funds to audit their rape kit backlog and makes this information available to the public.

SAFER also mandates that more current funds go directly to test rape kits.

Despite the various barriers we encountered throughout the years since this idea was brought to me by RAINN, Scott Berkowitz and the incredible staff at RAINN never gave up.

They persevered because they knew it was right.

They knew that SAFER would bring justice to victims and put perpetrators where they belong, behind bars.

Scott's spirit is like that of a Texan, even though he's from New Jersey, but we won't hold that against him.

That is why we work together so well.

Congratulations on 20 years of making a true difference in victims' lives.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN CUNDIFF AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Susan Cundiff as the Hurlburt Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Cundiff was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Ms. Cundiff joins the ranks of teachers previously bestowed this honor for her more than three decades of service as an educator at Gulf Breeze High School and her service to the Gulf Coast community. Since 1983, she

has witnessed and has played an integral role in the growth of some of the finest minds of our Nation's youth. Through her passion for teaching, which has helped spark her students' sense of wonder and interest in the world around them, Ms. Cundiff's contributions to producing the next generation of active participants in our society, and perhaps future scientists and engineers, cannot be overstated.

Her tireless efforts and innovative techniques have brought unique hands-on learning opportunities into the classroom. As a result of this practical learning, her students gain a working knowledge of wireless computer integration and electronics construction. Today, her students can also be found researching, building, wiring, programming and testing robots on a specified task.

Her dedication to the community, however, is not confined within the classroom. Ms. Cundiff is active in Hurlburt AFA Chapter's aerospace educational programs, devoting her time and energy to assist in planning and organizing events. She also utilizes her considerable experience and success in the classroom to assist in the professional development of other educators throughout the area at the Chapter's Teacher Workshops, sharing best practices and stimulating lessons that can be brought back to their respective classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Cundiff on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Cundiff all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2014 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2014 Elly Doyle Park Service Award, the Elly Doyle Special Recognition Award, the Eakin Philanthropy Award, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award, the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award as well as the 2014 Student Honoree. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance public educational and recreational services.

The Elly Doyle Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. In addition, recipients also have been selected for the 2014 Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the family that donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship, named in honor of a celebrated local historian and military veteran, and the 2014 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named in honor of a local champion of environmental education and protection. I congratulate each of the following recipients of these prestigious awards and proudly enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2014 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients: James "Curly" Anderko, Bob Dinse, Alan Figgatt.

Elly Doyle Special Recognition: Mona Enquist-Johnston, John Eltzroth, Fairfax County Farmers Markets Market Masters, Donn Grover, REI.

Student Honoree: Matthew Baker.Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients: Mike Rolband, Transurban—Fluor.

Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award: Bob Lundegard.

Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award Recipient: Diane Hoffman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking these honorees for their demonstrated commitment to our open spaces and public parks. Fairfax County is able to enjoy a high quality of life because of the efforts of these individuals and they are deserving of our praise and appreciation.

RECOGNIZING PASCO L. SCHIAVO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Pasco L. Schiavo, who has been selected as the 2014 UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter's Italian American of the Year.

A lifelong resident of Hazleton, Mr. Schiavo served our country honorably as a first lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves. In 1962, after completing his military service, he established a law practice in Hazleton and began teaching at the local Penn State Hazleton Campus. Mr. Schiavo generously donated not only his time, but also his financial support to the school, establishing multiple scholarships in memory of his parents.

Along with his commitment to higher education and learning, Mr. Schiavo has held many leadership positions in the community. He served as Assistant District Attorney of Luzerne County, was President of the County Commission on Economic Opportunity, and was appointed to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Additionally, he served as solicitor for the Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Housing Authority, Hazle Township Municipality, and the Hazleton City Authority. He continues to give back to the community through his support of the Hazleton Public Library, Hazleton Kiwanis, the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and the Serento Gardens Drug and Alcohol Services.

He has taught at and held many leadership roles at Penn State Hazleton. The plaque on the side of Pasco L. Schiavo Hall says it all: "A lawyer, author, educator, community leader, and philanthropist. The only title missing is Proud Italian American."

Mr. Speaker, for his exemplary service to the Italian American community and the greater Hazleton Area, I commend and thank Mr. Schiavo and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. STEVE HALL

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Dr. Steve Hall, President and Chief Negotiator for the Ventura County Federation of College Teachers, AFT Local 1828, who has successfully worked with labor and community groups throughout Ventura County to promote high-quality education and academic excellence for all students throughout the region.

Throughout his life, Dr. Hall has followed his passion for teaching, but more importantly helping others attain their highest potential. With this in mind, he pursued a Doctor of Education Degree with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership at Pepperdine University, and has since dedicated his career to the fields of education and teaching.

For several years, Dr. Hall has been an esteemed and respected member of the Oxnard College faculty. After only two years at Oxnard College, Dr. Hall was recognized for his excellence in teaching when he was voted "Teacher of the Year" and delivered the commencement address in 1998.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Hall has also served as the Dean of Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Athletics, and Health Sciences at Oxnard Community College for six and a half years. Dr. Hall was the lead administrator responsible for starting an array of programs at Oxnard College that have immensely helped numerous students over the years. These programs have included the Oxnard College Dental Assistant Certificate Program, the "Proyecto Access" program, and the Oxnard College Marine Education Center. Dr. Hall has diligently worked alongside fellow faculty, staff, and community partners to make these milestones for Oxnard College students a possibility.

In 2010, Dr. Hall began serving as the President and Chief Negotiator for the Ventura County Federation of College Teachers, AFT Local 1828. In this role, Dr. Hall worked in partnership with faculty and colleagues to secure a successful three year contract that provided stability for the teachers and students of the Ventura County Community College District.

In November 2012, Dr. Hall was elected by the communities of Oxnard, Camarillo, and Port Hueneme to the Oxnard Union High School District School Board. Following his election, Dr. Hall continued his steadfast and outspoken advocacy for teachers and students. He has worked diligently to raise awareness about the necessity in reducing class sizes, raising pay for teachers and staff, and reducing expulsions. Dr. Hall has truly been a champion for Ventura County's students and teachers.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID L. MCKEEHAN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David L. McKeehan, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce (NCMCC). After 30 years of dedicated service, Dave will be retiring from the Chamber of Commerce on December 31, 2014.

Dave formed the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce by merging the Fitchburg and Leominster Chambers of Commerce, along with smaller business groups. Over the course of his tenure, he procured over $4.5 million in private sector funding and over $1 million in government grants for economic development programming in the region. Under his leadership, the Chamber of Commerce has grown a community of business memberships reaching over 1,000 member firms that employ upward of 25,000 individuals in the cities of Leominster and Fitchburg and surrounding towns. Dave was instrumental in the creation as well as saving of jobs within North Central Massachusetts during his years at the Chamber.

Dave is a true leader within the community and Chambers across the country. His hard work and dedication was recognized when he was awarded the ''Service Above Self Award'' by Mount Wachusett Community College for his contribution to the school as well as the 29 surrounding cities. Dave was also recognized by Fitchburg State University as being one of the ''100 Most Influential People in the Last 100 Years.'' When David officially retires, the Chamber of Commerce will lose a remarkable president and asset to their organization.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating David McKeehan on his retirement and wishing him the very best with his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM B. WILKINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor Mr. William B. Wilkins on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

Mr. Wilkins was born October 31, 1919 in Anniston, Alabama and was married to Ms. Eunice B. Wilkins for 72 years. He served in the United States Air Force for two years spending 18 months in Europe during World War II.

Mr. Wilkins resides at Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home and enjoys spending time with his fellow Veterans

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Wilkins for his selfless service to our country and celebrating his 95th birthday today.

RECOGNIZING PENNY MOORE AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Penny Moore as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Moore was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

The never-ending yearning to help others is the foundation on which Ms. Moore has built her success as an educator. Prior to moving to Northwest Florida, Ms. Moore worked as a special needs teacher inspiring students at Churchill Academy in Montgomery, Alabama. She has since spent the last decade of her professional career teaching at Avalon Middle School in Milton, Florida. Her willingness and constant ability to adapt to the ever-changing needs of her students is a challenge that Ms. Moore embraces and is furthermore evidence of her passion to mold and enlighten the minds of our Nation's youth.

While she holds high expectations for her students and works diligently with them to master theory and practice, she also inspires and motivates her students to rise to the occasion and put theory into practice. Under her leadership and guidance as the school's science, technology, engineering, activity and math (STEAM) team, nearly 100 students from all grade levels have competed in boosting engineering, science, and technology (BEST) robotics competitions and the Science Olympiad and have represented Northwest Florida at state and national competitions. Furthermore, Ms. Moore recognizes the importance for her students to experience science and technology outside of the classroom and affords them the unique opportunity to visit the Flight Adventure Deck and the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, where students complete preparatory lessons and apply their knowledge of what they have learned through hands-on activities at the Adventure Deck.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Moore on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Moore all the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 15, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on No. 497.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 74TH ANNUAL ANNANDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS BANQUET AND INSTALLATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department and to congratulate the 2014 award recipients and incoming 2015 officers and board members.

The Annandale Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is one of 12 volunteer fire departments in Fairfax County, and since its founding in 1940, it has provided lifesaving, fire suppression/prevention, and emergency medical/rescue services to the residents of the Annandale area and the surrounding community. The AVFD owns two stations, Station 8 on Columbia Pike and Station 23 on Little River Turnpike, and its front line fleet includes two ambulances, a medic, two engines, and one canteen unit. The Department also provides opportunities for professional growth and development of the membership.

The most valuable assets of the AVFD are the volunteers who donate their time and resources in service to our community. Last year alone, these highly skilled and committed volunteers contributed in excess of 15,000 hours responding to emergency incidents, attending training, and fundraising. Each year the AVFD recognizes those volunteers who have excelled in service and commitment, and it is my honor to enter the following names of the 2014 Annandale Volunteer Fire Department award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Outstanding Service Award (4 recipients): Kathleen Hinman, Richard Mitchell, Jason Pavelko, William 'Bill' Richmond.

Highest Administrative Hours Award: Shirley Binsky.

Admin Member of the Year: Walter Ferrebee and Diana Phan.

Rookie Members of the Year (two recipients): Nicole Dellinger and Kelly Kardos.

Most Training Hours: Yuan Yao.

Most Riding Hours: Chessy Dintruff.

Support Member of the Year: Fran Carfaro.

President's Award: Anthony 'Tony' Ruth.

Chief's Award: Laura Dye.

EMS Provider of the Year: Sean Bhatty and James Tuttle.

Firefighter of the Year: Robert Melgar.

Additionally, I wish to congratulate and thank the following men and women who have agreed to assume additional responsibilities as officers and board members for 2015:

Chief: Roger Waller.

President: Gary Moore.

Vice President: Sean Bhatty.

Treasurer: Ronald Waller.

Secretary: Diana Phan.

Directors: Shirley Binsky, Michael Hassan, and Peter Snitzer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 award recipients and in commending the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department for 74 years of service. I thank the brave volunteers whose dedication to public safety is deserving of our highest praise, and to each of these men and women I say: ''Stay safe.''

HONORING CONSTABLE MARTIN RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Constable Martin Rodriguez. Constable Rodriguez has faithfully served the people of South Texas in many capacities, and he honorably served his country in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Martiniano Rodriguez was born in San Antonio, Texas on December 8, 1944. The second of eight children, Martin graduated from C.W. Fox High School in 1965. Upon graduating from high school, Martin joined the Navy and served two tours of duty in the waters of Vietnam. After completing his Navy service, Martin started work at Kelly Air Force base, where he worked in the civil service for 18 years. He concurrently took classes at San Antonio College and graduated in 1977. In 1985, Martin decided to change careers, and began work at the Bexar County Constable's Department as an investigator. In 1993, Martin began working for the Wilson County Sheriff's Department and retired in 2006. Then in 2009, Martin ran for the office of Wilson County Constable, and has served in this role to this day.

In addition to a lifelong career of service to his country and his community, Constable Rodriguez will celebrate his 50th anniversary with his wife Belinda this coming January. Together, they have four children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Further, Constable Rodriguez has been a member and Officer of the Board of both the San Antonio and Wilson County Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), served as a life member of the Wilson County Housing Foundation, and served as a member of the Knights of Columbus of Wilson County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Constable Martin Rodriguez for a lifetime of service to his family, his community, and his country.

HONORING THE CITY OF CAMARILLO

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the City of Camarillo as it celebrates 50 years as a thriving and prosperous community in the heart of Ventura County, California. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the City of Camarillo, along with its residents, on this historic milestone.

The City of Camarillo was incorporated on October 22, 1964, and was named after Adolfo and Juan Camarillo, the proprietors of Rancho Calleguas. At the time of the city's incorporation, a population of approximately 10,500 residents covered the 5.2 square miles of the municipality. Today, Camarillo boasts an appealing mixture of rural and suburban lifestyles to its over 66,000 residents covering a region that spans an estimated 19.5 square miles.

Located in the Pleasant Valley at the eastern end of the Oxnard Plain, Camarillo has developed into a flourishing community since its incorporation. The city has become known for its outstanding high-tech retail stores, specialty businesses, and modern buildings. Additionally, Camarillo has been ranked as one of the safest communities in Ventura County, an ideal and premiere city to raise a family, live, and work.

Furthermore, the City of Camarillo is home to an exceptional educated workforce, with a premiere four-year public university. California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) was established in 2002 and has been a phenomenal addition to the fabric of the city and surrounding community.

Throughout the years, Camarillo has maintained a balance between modernity and history. While providing modern amenities to its residents, the city is peppered with significant cultural and historic landmarks, such as the Camarillo Ranch House, the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum, and Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church.

Since 1964, the City of Camarillo has defined itself as a distinguished community, with a wealth of history, culture, and innovation. Camarillo takes pride in its unparalleled quality of life and the many attributes of the community that have lasted throughout the years. For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the City of Camarillo on their 50th Anniversary.

CONGRESSWOMAN HONORS MS. LAURA LAWTON-FORSYTH, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 NAOMI BERBER MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Laura Lawton-Forsyth of Spokane, Washington for receiving the Printing Industries of America's 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award. I am pleased to recognize her contributions as a business leader who works diligently to support Eastern Washington's economy as well as providing employment opportunities for citizens in Eastern Washington.

Founded in 1940 by Frank A. and Frank H. Lawton, Laura's grandfather and great-grandfather, Lawton Printing Inc. has remained a family business for more than seven decades. Through the years, Lawton Printing Inc. has been dedicated to serving the needs of its clients, enabling them to grow and diversify their business offerings.

Joining the company in 1991, Ms. Lawton-Forsyth held a variety of positions before being named president in October of 2001—the fourth generation of her family to hold that position. In 2012, Laura served as Chair of the Board of the Printing Industries of America, overseeing the direction and activities of the world's largest graphic arts trade association, representing an industry of more than 900,000 employees. As such, she became the second woman to be elected to the position since its founding in 1887. Leadership on a national level runs in the Lawton family. Her father, Ray, was also Chair of the Printing Industries of America, making the Lawtons the only father-daughter pair to serve in that role.

In presenting the 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award to Ms. Lawton-Forsyth, the Printing Industries of America honors this outstanding woman in the graphic communications industry for her exceptional record of accomplishments, contributions to the development of the graphic communications industry and for furthering the industry's interests. She has served on their Executive Committee since 2004 and on numerous other committees, including Research and Development, Finance, Marketing, and Government Affairs.

So today, I rise to acknowledge and thank Ms. Laura Lawton-Forsyth for her years of dedication and hard work. I also want to congratulate her, as leader of Lawton Printing Inc. and File-Ez Folder Inc., for receiving the 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award. I applaud her dedication to the printing industry and her contributions to the success of the economy in Eastern Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIA BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Julia Bancroft Elementary School.

Julia Bancroft Elementary School, located in Auburn, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Julia Bancroft prides itself on the ability to prepare its students to succeed in a dynamic and fast-paced world. With a student body of approximately 285 third through fifth graders, Julia Bancroft Elementary focuses on its students at an individual level. Under the leadership of Principal Susan M. Lopez, teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to create a rigorous yet inviting environment where students are valued and differences are celebrated. The Julia Bancroft pledge, ''I believe, I will achieve, and I will succeed,'' encompasses Julia Bancroft Elementary School's tenets to help each student reach their potential.

To encourage students to become leaders and give back to their community, Julia Bancroft Elementary promotes numerous Community Service Learning Projects. Through fundraising, volunteer work, and reading programs, these projects have instilled in the students the importance of ''giving back.'' Other programs that contribute to student development while simultaneously benefiting the community include the Inventors' Fair, Turkey Trot, C.A.R.E. program, Literacy Night, Math Night, annual Community Reading Day, the Festival of the Arts, and various food drives.

Additionally, Julia Bancroft Elementary has strived to close academic gaps between students. Through the implementation of planned Intervention Blocks, Professional Learning Community discussions, and consistent differentiated instruction, teachers have targeted high-achievers and developed specific targeted instruction. This has resulted in the closing of gaps in the low income and special needs subgroups.

None of this would be possible without the talented educators and staff members of Julia

Bancroft Elementary School. Principal Susan M. Lopez has demonstrated a deep passion for the success of her students, as well as a commitment to creating a warm and welcoming learning environment. The tireless efforts of educators and staff at Julia Bancroft Elementary School have earned them the ''Level I School'' status for the past two years.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of Julia Bancroft Elementary School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating Julia Bancroft Elementary School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING SARAH MASON AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Sarah Mason as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Mason was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Though Ms. Mason has been teaching for ten years, she was keenly aware of her passion for putting others before herself long before she stepped foot in a classroom as an educator. Her teaching aspirations took flight in high school, when she joined the Gold Seal Quality Care program her junior year, which afforded her the opportunity to inspire the young minds of local elementary school students. Ms. Mason built on this positive experience and pursued a Bachelor of Education at the University of West Florida. She has spent the last seven years of her decade of teaching at Blue Angels Elementary School in Pensacola, Florida.

Ms. Mason credits her family for igniting in her curiosity and passion for science, which indirectly led to the chemical reaction rocket experiments in her backyard as a child that have helped her cultivate tomorrow's scientists and engineers as an adult. She brings science to life in her classroom through hands-on activities, like the pegboard ''engineering wall'' that allows students to engineer their own creations using pegs, rubber bands, and pipes and the building and analyzing of marble roller coasters to understand mathematical, scientific and engineering concepts through real world applications.

Ms. Mason also welcomes the latest technology in her classroom, including iPads loaded with STEM applications that stimulate student interest in outer space through the engineering of models of irregular galaxies and discovering the complex motions of the planets of our solar system, as well as constructing motors. In addition, Northwest Florida is home to some of the world's finest engineers, and Ms. Mason has partnered with Gulf Power Company making it possible for her students to engage its engineers in the developing of their classroom robots.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Mason on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Mason all the best for continued success.

HONORING NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH AND SACRIFICES MADE BY NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Trickster Art Gallery for its presentation of Native American Veteran artwork in honor of Native Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

During the month of November, we celebrate the ancestry and time-honored traditions of Native Americans, as their contributions have been and continue to be instrumental in the development of our great Nation. Native Americans have helped shape American conservation policy, enriched American culture and have fought gallantly for our country.

From the Revolutionary War to current combat missions, American Indians have played a vital role in the United States Military. In World War II, for example, over 375 Navajo Marines were trained as Code Talkers and famously saved countless lives with their unbreakable codes.

Native Americans continue to serve honorably on behalf of our Nation. According to the Department of Defense, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a greater proportion of Veterans than the general United States population. As a Veteran myself, I understand the great sacrifice and courage of the Native American Veteran community.

I am proud to represent the Eighth Congressional District where the diverse cultures of our great Nation are celebrated.

COMMENDING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ON ITS NEW JEAN R. PACKARD CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority on the ground breaking for the new Jean R. Packard Occoquan Center. Work on this multi-purpose facility will kick-off of a major rejuvenation effort throughout Occoquan Regional Park, which sits in Fairfax County just across the Occoquan River from the Town of Occoquan in Prince William County.

The 400 acre park is popular with families, boaters, and fisherman with its easy access to the river, athletic fields, picnic areas, and connections to multiple regional trails, including the Gerald E. Connolly Cross County Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The modernization of this regional park will feature a new entrance with greater roadside visibility, a loop trail traversing the entire park, a landscaped waterfront plaza, and other infrastructure improvements.

A new focal point of the park will be the Jean R. Packard Center, named in honor of my good friend and mentor. Jean recently retired from the Regional Park Board after 24 years of dedicated service. It is difficult to overstate the tremendous environmental legacy Jean has cultivated here in Northern Virginia. A veteran of the Women's Army Corps during World War II, Jean moved to Fairfax in 1951 and got her start in public service much the same way I did as president of her neighborhood civic association. Thus began five decades of civic engagement, particularly focused on environmental stewardship and protection.

She was the first woman elected as chairman the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1972 and was an unabashed environmentalist before it became trendy. During my 14 years on the County Board starting in 1995, Jean was a member of my trusted kitchen cabinet and helped shape our award-winning environmental agenda. After her tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Jean became the first woman elected to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Though not continuous, she has served on the Board multiple times over the past 40 years, and she is in the midst of her most recent term at the age of 91!

She was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, which recently renamed its lifetime achievement award in Jean's honor, and she has served on the national board of the Sierra Club. She has been recognized as Fairfax County's Citizen of the Year and Fairfax County Conservationist of the Year. I was proud to present Jean with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which is named in memory of our dear friend and fellow community leader.

Fittingly, the new center that will bear Jean's name will include a robust educational component on our local history and the environment. It will tie in with the nearby Suffragist memorial within the park, and it will feature an interpretive collection showcasing the native flora and fauna of Northern Virginia at the time of John Smith's historic expedition in 1608. From its perch overlooking the river, the Jean R. Packard Center will put on full display the beauty of our local parks and demonstrate the value of protecting environmental treasures like the Occoquan for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for undertaking this grand park renewal and for its stewardship of its many other properties throughout the region, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the immeasurable contributions of Jean Packard a true environmental champion, who has dedicated her life to protecting and improving the natural resources that make our community such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

TRIBUTE TO JIM XINIS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize Jim Xinis and his twenty-five years at the helm of Calvert Memorial Hospital. Jim has been a tireless fighter to ensure the best service for the people of Calvert County and throughout southern Maryland.

Jim is an honest, confident, creative, and inspiring leader. He's been an effective manager and a visionary. His twenty-five years leading Calvert Memorial Hospital have been a period of growth and change that have increased quality, efficiency, and innovation for the benefit of patients and their families.

I will never forget how, in the summer of 2009, when the nation was engaged in a heated debate over passage of the Affordable Care Act, I asked Jim to facilitate a town hall meeting at North Point High School so I could hear from residents of the Fifth Congressional District on this important issue. It was quite a meeting with over 1,500 in attendance—and Jim displayed such grace and tact in keeping the meeting focused over several hours on the issues at hand and making sure everyone had a chance to weigh in. It was no easy task.

But Jim has never been one for easy tasks. Recognizing the challenge of rising health care costs and affordability, Jim created Calvert Healthcare Solutions, which serves the uninsured throughout the county. And under his leadership, Calvert Memorial Hospital has been the lowest cost hospital in Maryland for twenty consecutive years, with a reputation for providing a full range of services at a very high quality of care. At the same time, he has worked to preserve its warm community spirit, where patients can feel comfortable, cared for, and empowered. Jim's good humor and positive attitude have surely contributed to his effective leadership and his reputation for excellence.

I wish him well in retirement and thank him for his extraordinary service to Calvert County, to Maryland, and to our nation.

RECOGNIZING STAYUNITED

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize StayUNITED, a nonprofit organization based in Rockland County, New York, and its founders, Mark and Ismini Svensson.

StayUNITED is devoted to improving the quality of life for children and youth across the country and throughout the world. Their recent initiative, "50 Acts of Giving Back," promotes volunteerism while highlighting the power of social media to promote good causes. Mark and Ismini Svensson, both constituents of the New York 17th District, are traveling across the country, visiting all 50 states, to perform 50 acts of kindness. At the same time, they are using social media platforms to inspire others to become active members of their communities by performing their own acts of kindness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mark and Ismini Svensson for their hard work and devotion to improving the lives of children across the globe. Their charitable journey is an inspiration for others and, through their hard work and kindness, has made the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF COLONEL JUSTIN McCARTHY "MAC" MILLER, USMC (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of the Greatest Generation, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller, United States Marine Corps Retired, upon the occasion of his 100th birthday. Colonel Miller has dedicated his life to service to his community, his family, and to our great Nation, and I am humbled to honor him and his remarkable achievements today.

Born in 1914, aviation has always been a stronghold in Colonel Miller's life. As a young man, he admired the pursuit pilots, or fighter pilots, of the Allied Forces. From his early encounters with comic books and magazine covers depicting the Lafayette Escadrille, to his application to the United States Naval Academy, Colonel Miller knew his life's destiny was to become a fighter pilot.

While at the Naval Academy, he resigned as a midshipmen and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an aviation cadet in 1940 before receiving his wings in 1941. His first assignment was as an Instructor Pilot in Pensacola, Florida, where he would return later in life. He then was assigned to Staff and Command school at United States Marine Corps Base, Quantico. Though these two assignments were perhaps not the most ideal for someone just pinning on wings eager to enter theater, shortly after the beginning of World War II, not only would Colonel Miller be presented with the opportunity to fly in combat, but he would be assigned as the Commanding Officer and take on the role of Executive Officer of the newly-established fighter squadron VMF 217, training in the F4F Wildcat. In 1943, the squadron embarked on the USS BARNES (CVE–20) deployed to the South Pacific, transitioned aircraft to the F4U Corsair, and flew combat missions over the Solomon Islands. In 1944, the squad embarked on the USS SANTEE (CVE–29) and deployed to Guam, where they commenced strikes against the island of Rota. In October 1944, Colonel Miller took Command of VMF–321 until 1945, when the squadron returned to the United States. Throughout his tour in the Pacific Theater, Colonel Miller commanded two fighter squadrons. He then joined the Reserves in 1948 after the end of the war, where he continued his career in flight while also proving to be a successful businessman, as evidenced by his ownership of many radio stations, including WCOA Pensacola.

Amongst his vast array of accolades and contributions lay a century's worth of anecdotes, including being taught to fly his favorite aircraft, the F4U Corsair, by the legendary Charles Lindbergh himself. Amazingly, throughout his remarkable career, Colonel Miller flew 140 combat missions in 31 different aircraft, and received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Air Medals, and four Battle Stars, amidst an interminable list of decorations, honors, and awards for his distinguished service in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller is a valued member of our community and national history. He is a true "American Patriot" and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of being a part of his exemplary life. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday as he turns 100 years young, and we wish him and his entire family all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED STATES NAVY SEAL LIEUTENANT MICHAEL MURPHY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a fallen American hero, United States Navy SEAL Lieutenant Michael Murphy with a tribute to his most heroic life. On October 22, 2007 The Medal of Honor was presented to his family by President George W. Bush at The White House. This Veterans Day let us remember all of the Fallen like Lt. Murphy who have given That Last Full Measure to protect us. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

BUT, WHERE OUR HONOR LIES

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

All . . .
All in our darkest days of night!
As all around us the most wicked of evil casts its light!
When before us death so lies!
While, all out there on that road of life!
When, all in the throes war realized!
All in those moments of truth comprised!
Are but all of those defining moments of light!
Which shine so very bright!
Are but a true reflection of one's soul and might!
Which shines like gold this sight!
Comes the most precious of all things!
Above all else which surely rings!
As lies the proof of ones most inner being!
Is But, Where Our Honor Lies!
When all between life and death comprised . . .
When one's courage comes to rise!
All in those moments when who lives or dies!
So all depends on you comprised!
But comes only America's Best!
Is But Where Our Honor Lies this test!
When, uncommon valor is extolled!
And with clenched fist we see the greatest of all virtues, behold!
Coming from all within one's soul!
To our world as now exposed!
Is But Where Our Honor Lies!
As we lose so lose our breath!
As we so reflect upon all of this and those . . .
Most Christian acts as so!
Now carried deep in our souls!
All in hearts to have and hold!
Could we but live by such an honor code?
Would we ever see such light as have all of those?
With such Uncommon Valor who into that darkness did go!

What all their fine hearts emote!
To win that day and night!
All in those darkest of all fights!
All in this brilliance,
As when one's soul ignites!
Shinning All In The Brilliance of Honor's Light!
Now In Hearts To Hold!
Of which all our children must be told!
Will we so be the ones?
With such uncommon courage,
And grace as you Murph on earth as it is in heave they will be done!
And shine as bright as the midday sun!
While all in the face of evil,
For your Brothers In Arms to death look upon . . .
To Follow!
To Lead!
To help them succeed!
But, Where Our Honor Lies!
To evil to erase!
As with your fine heart they could not keep pace!
Out On Point!
All In Your Strength In Honor!
No one could take your place!
As you heard death's haunting call!
And the face of death Michael you saw!
And yet you did not hesitate!
Standing Strong and Standing Tall!
As our Lord and his Angel's watched you fall . . .
With tears upon their face!
How proud of you they must have been that day!
Watching you all in Honor's way!
Standing back all in such awe . . .
As your fine soul up to Heaven would ascend . . .
With you new life as an Angel to begin . . .
In The Army of Our Lord,
to watch over us and defend!
This Congressional Man our Nation has so blessed!
For Heaven could not wait for one of its best!
As we lower you fine body down to rest!
With but tears upon our face,
as Michael you showed us how to behave!
As these word in our hearts At East we made!
But Michael,
we will hear you in the night!
Upon gentle breezes so slight . . .
And we see will see your face and realize . . .
You are an angel to watch over us both day and night . . .
In life,
moments are all that we so have!
As our time begins To Make A Difference to grab!
To Crush Hearts!
To But Find Where Our Honor Lies!
SEAL . . . ED WITH A KISS,
AS MURPH WE SAY GOODBYE!
On this day knowing . . .
But Where Our Honor Lies!

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. SONNY HASHMI IN ADVANCING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES THAT ENHANCE CITIZEN SERVICES, SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS, AND PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES ACROSS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Mr. Sonny Hashmi of Oakton, Virginia for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the management excellence category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Mr. Hashmi serves as the Chief Information Officer for the United States General Services Administration, or GSA. In this role, Mr. Hashmi is responsible for managing GSA's $600 million information technology budget and ensuring that GSA's IT initiatives effectively align with the agency's strategic goals and government-wide leadership responsibilities in key areas, such as information security and enterprise architecture efforts.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Mr. Hashmi was instrumental in launching GSA's groundbreaking ''Drive to the Cloud'' initiative. This program enabled GSA to lead by example in becoming the first agency to transition its email services to a cloud-based platform, along with its collaboration and documents management tools. It is projected that these two migrations from legacy systems to cloud-based platforms will result in $15 million in savings for the agency by 2016.

Under Mr. Hashmi's visionary leadership, GSA has also worked to ensure its lesson learned and best practices permeate across the Federal Government, and it is a testament to Mr. Hashmi's success that each year, additional agencies follow GSA's blueprint and guidance in moving to embrace shared services and innovative cloud-based solutions.

Mr. Hashmi represents precisely the type of Federal Chief Information Officer our government desperately needs more of. I fully concur with GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini's recent observation that, ''Sonny not only fixes problems, but also provides newer and better solutions. He is a leader in the best sense. He is all about the outcome and builds a team that shares that desire.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Mr. Sonny Hashmi for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal. Mr. Hashmi and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than $1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Mr. Hashmi and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. Each one deserves our gratitude and respect.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and well-being of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council and recognize its significant impact and contributions to Northwest Florida.

The West Florida Regional Planning Council was established in 1964 as the Pensacola-Escambia County Regional Council when the need of transportation planning and coordination was recognized. As the third regional planning council to have been formed in the State of Florida, it has since grown to also include Bay, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington Counties and their municipalities. In addition to transportation planning, the Council today provides a forum

to engage its members in regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategic planning, emergency preparedness planning, environmental planning and education, and intergovernmental review. Furthermore, the Council provides assistance in grant-writing, project management, technical planning, and data analysis.

Due to its collaborative nature, the Council naturally recognizes the importance of an all-of-community and region approach. To that end, it welcomes and encourages citizens throughout the Gulf Coast to become engaged in the process to actively address and solve problems of the growing region.

Over the past five decades, the Council has dedicated their efforts to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Northwest Florida. Their contributions have helped ensure that the Emerald Coast remains a top tourist destination and a place where thousands live like millions wish they could.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of its members for their devotion to service and wishing them and the Council all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD FRAZIER MACIVER, JR., CHAMPION OF LGBT VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Donald Frazier MacIver, Jr., who has dedicated his life to serving his country, his community, and his fellow military service members and veterans. Donald's service began as a Senior Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army's elite 5th Special Forces Group. In Vietnam, Donald showed the depth of his commitment to service by participating in extraordinarily hazardous missions behind enemy lines as a member of the covert Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACV–SOG). His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

In the last fifty years, Donald has worked tirelessly to advance the dignity and equal treatment of GLB service members and veterans. In 1993, Donald was arrested at the White House for his nonviolent civil disobedience in protest of the implementation of the U.S. military's discriminatory ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy. Donald has also served as a volunteer consultant on proper treatment and dignity for those living with HIV and AIDS. His contributions to the HIV/AIDS community include time as the Chair of the Community Advisory Board of the New York University Medical School, NYU Langone Medical Center, and Bellevue Hospital Center HIV/Hepatitis/Infectious Diseases Research Networks, and volunteer consultancy to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health. In 2011, Donald was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the VA Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health for his ''dedicated service and commitment to improving the care provided to our nation's veterans.''

As president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual (GLB) Veterans of Greater New York, Donald's leadership inspired GLB veterans who were discharged from the military for ''homosexual conduct'' to demand the respect and honor due for their faithful service. When unforeseen circumstances forced the closing of the GLB Veterans' office in January 2014, Donald went once again to action. Concerned that decades of activism and records of the discriminatory treatment of GLB veterans would be lost to history, Donald selflessly volunteered hours of his expertise to a coalition dedicated to preserving the GLB Veterans' archives. In March 2014, Donald singlehandedly organized, securely packaged, and transported sixteen boxes of archived records to a secure storage site in Bronx, New York. His continued stewardship of the records protects the memory of military veterans who faithfully served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere. It is impossible to calculate the value of Donald's contributions to GLB veterans' recognition and equality in New York City and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SCOTT GERALD BORG, WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING AMERICA'S ANTARCTIC RESEARCH PROGRAM INTO ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND ACCOMPLISHED IN THE WORLD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Dr. Scott Gerald Borg of Fairfax Virginia, for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the career achievement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Dr. Borg serves as the Head of the Section for Antarctic Sciences within the National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs. According to the Partnership for Public Service, under Dr. Borg's direction, the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research program has become one of the most esteemed and comprehensive on the continent. Today, Dr. Borg plays a critical role in guiding the U.S. Antarctic science program that supports cutting-edge research across a range of topics, including climate change, the origins and nature of the universe, and the discovery of new species of extinct dinosaurs.

The work being facilitated by Dr. Borg and his colleagues is truly groundbreaking research. For example, Dr. Borg's leadership is credited with overcoming numerous technical and logistical challenges that enabled the National Science Foundation to complete the West Antarctic Ice Sheet drilling project, which extracted ice core that dates back 68,000 years and represents the highest-resolution record of climate obtained to date. Further, Dr. Borg also oversaw the development of clean drilling technology that retrieved the first-ever pure water samples from an Antarctic lake a half mile below the surface of ice sheet. These samples are estimated to have been sealed under the ice for approximately 15 million years, and may enable researchers to understand what types of life can survive on other worlds.

Being named a finalist by the Partnership for Public Service is just the latest honor in Dr. Borg's outstanding and celebrated career that has made tremendous contributions to the global research community and elevated the prestige of Federal scientific research over the past two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dr. Scott Gerald Borg for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Medal. Dr. Borg and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than $1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Dr. Borg and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our thanks and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN ROBERT ''BOB'' RASMUSSEN, USN (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize retired Navy Captain Robert ''Bob'' Rasmussen for his lifetime of honorable service and dedication to our great Nation on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola.

A native of Sacramento, California, Bob was born on May 26, 1930, and entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1951. He excelled in flight training school at NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola, both located in Northwest Florida, and was assigned to a fighter squadron in San Diego, California, where he deployed on multiple occasions to the Western Pacific aboard the carrier USS *Philippine Sea*. In 1956, he was selected to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels. For three years, he awed and inspired millions of Americans flying flight demonstrations as the right wing pilot and number four slot. Bob continued his tours at sea in Fighter Squadron 33 aboard the USS *Intrepid* and as a Flag Lieutenant to

Deputy Commander Atlantic Fleet before completing the Navy Postgraduate School program in Monterey, California. In 1966, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 111 aboard the USS *Oriskany,* where he completed two combat tours in Vietnam and served as first Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer. Before returning to combat in Vietnam as the prospective Air Wing SIXTEEN Commander, subsequently selected for Captain and assigned as Chief of Staff and Operations Officer of Carrier Division SEVEN and then as Commanding Officer of the ammunition ship USS *Mount Hood,* Bob completed a tour in our Nation's capital region.

After the end of the war, he served as Commanding Officer of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico before later returning to Washington to command the Aviation Officer Distribution Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. Following three decades of service as one of the finest Naval aviators in history, recording 650 carrier traps and with more than 5,000 flight hours logged, as many servicemembers do, Bob found his way back to Pensacola where he completed his Naval service in 1983 as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Aviation Schools Command. Throughout his prestigious career, he received many awards, including three Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Bronze Star.

Bob's love for aviation, however, remained, and his artistic prowess proved too strong, as he went on to serve as the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Director of Development for four years before becoming Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum in 1987. During his tenure there, he produced hundreds of naval aviation watercolor pieces and several bronze sculpture works for the Museum, the Foundation, and several other historic venues, earning him the R.G. Smith Award for excellence in naval aviation art. As a direct result of his efforts, the Naval Aviation Museum more than tripled in size and remains the most successful Naval museum in the country as close to one million people visit and enjoy the museum each year.

My wife Vicki and I join Northwest Florida—and a grateful Nation—in thanking Captain Bob Rasmussen for his more than six decades of admirable military and public service and wish him all the best as he takes off in his retirement alongside his wife, Phyllis; their children, Kathryn and Eric; and grandchildren, Christopher, Ashton, Emily Page, Madison, Avery, and Jack.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the wonderful accomplishments of the St. Bernadette School.

St. Bernadette School, located in Northborough, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Deeply rooted in Catholic ideals, St. Bernadette School strives to encourage intellectual curiosity, spiritual inspiration, and a high moral compass. Its rigorous academic program, commitment to Catholic values, and diverse student body has led the School to be called the 'Flagship of the Diocese' by the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester.

Since its founding in 1997, St. Bernadette School's enrollment has grown exponentially. The School's current body of approximately 500 students enables it to give students individual attention while holding them to high academic standards.

Through new initiatives, St. Bernadette School has incorporated technology into the learning process. Recently, the School has built a computer lab, a mobile Macintosh lab, and installed interactive whiteboards in every class room. An iPad program was also started in the 2012–2013 academic year, providing every student with additional learning opportunities. Foreign language programs are required at every grade level, in addition to pre-algebra and project-based learning initiatives. This diverse curriculum has resulted in many middle school students at St. Bernadette being selected to the Junior Honor Society, an organization that recognizes achievement in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and citizenship.

St. Bernadette also fosters community through its extra-curricular programs, hosting a variety of family-oriented events and fundraisers throughout the year. The Parent Guild hosts events such as Spree Day, Family Picnic, Walkathon, and more. The parents of St. Bernadette students also coach the school's sports teams, which include basketball, cross country, golf, ski, and track. In addition, students from grades 6–8 are divided into Houses, where they practice leadership and responsibility while planning communal outreach programs.

None of this would be possible without the work of the talented educators and staff members of St. Bernadette School. Principal Deborah C. O'Neil has demonstrated a passionate commitment to the success of her students. Time and time again, this has been exemplified through the School's consistent growth rate and track record of achievements.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of St. Bernadette School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating St. Bernadette School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. ALICE LIPPERT IN DEVELOPING A CRITICAL INFORMATION-SHARING SYSTEM TO COORDINATE THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND POWER COMPANIES FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Ms. Alice Lippert of Fairfax, Virginia, on being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the homeland security and law enforcement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Ms. Lippert is one of three United States Department of Energy officials who are being recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the groundbreaking data visual platform, known as EAGLE–I. EAGLE–I is our Nation's first-ever system that can gather and share real-time emergency situation information on power and natural gas infrastructure. As one disaster program manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noted, before EAGLE–I, ''It was difficult to get a clear picture of what was going on. Now we rely on the DOE as the authoritative source.''

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Ms. Lippert, a senior technical advisor in the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, was instrumental in recognizing that our country's inability to collect and access real-time data on energy infrastructure during an emergency represented a critical vulnerability that hampered the Federal Government's ability to effectively coordinate the response to major natural disasters, such as the destructive Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Ms. Lippert was not satisfied with the status quo emergency response system, which was antiquated and cumbersome in requiring Department personnel to directly contact energy companies to obtain data that would have to be manually entered into a data base. This process could take hours and did not provide Federal, State, and local first-responders with the real-time data they needed to gain situational awareness of a locality's battered power and natural gas infrastructure.

Ms. Lippert took the initiative by contacting two colleagues with subject matter expertise in advanced grid modeling and computer programming. Together, these civil servants worked in-house to build EAGLE–I, which now covers 75 percent of all U.S. electricity customers. However, it was not until October 2012 that EAGLE–I was put to the test, and the true value of Ms. Lippert's leadership and hard work was realized.

In the aftermath of the damaging Hurricane Sandy, our Nation's first-responders and emergency managers had access to regular updates on the grid status in the hard hit areas, enabling decisions to be guided by accurate and up-to-date data and information. As the Department's Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability noted, ''These reports were critical to decisions by federal, state and local officials in responding to and recovering from the catastrophe. The power outage reports gave insight to senior DOE leadership and responders that allowed them to make informed decisions, reducing

both the human and economic impacts associated with the storm.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Ms. Alice Lippert on being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Medal. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Ms. Lippert and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our deep gratitude and respect.

MARKING THE PASSING OF JAMES BRADY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of James Scott Brady, a courageous champion in the fight against gun violence and the legacy of lifesaving leadership he leaves behind. Through triumph and tragedy, Jim Brady remained an insistent and impassioned voice of clarity and consequence in our national effort to strengthen our gun laws. His death at age 73 concludes a life defined by public service and personal bravery—and renews the call to action that he made so well for so long.

Jim Brady, a proud alumnus of the flagship institution in his home state, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discovered a life-long passion for public policy after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science.

After graduating, Brady worked with some of the leading American political figures of the late 20th century. As an aide to then-State Senator Everett Dirksen—who would later serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and as the U.S. Senate Minority Leader—Brady deepened an abiding belief in the power of public service to build a better world.

As an advisor to top-level public officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense and the U.S. Senate, Brady became an indispensable counselor and trusted friend to many. He was tapped to serve as Director of Public Affairs and Research for the Reagan-Bush Committee and, following the election, as Spokesperson for the Office of the President-Elect and White House Press Secretary.

On a fateful March in 1981, Jim Brady suffered a gunshot wound to the head during the assassination attempt on President Reagan's life. The road to recovery would be hard, but Jim and his wife, Sarah Brady, would inspire the nation with their resolve.

Strengthened by their own struggle, Jim and Sarah vowed to take a stand on behalf of all victims of gun violence. This couple's heroic leadership challenged our nation to act, and because they did, millions of Americans are safer and many of our communities are more secure.

It took the Bradys six years, seven votes, three administrations, endless strength and boundless courage to enact the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act. But, thanks to their dedication, the Brady bill became the law of the land.

By 2010, the Brady law had blocked felons trying to buy guns more than a million times—an average of 171 felons denied applications to buy firearms a day. Almost 300,000 domestic violence offenders were prevented from buying guns. Thanks to Jim and Sarah Brady, countless families have been spared the tragedy of gun violence.

In recognition of this leadership, Jim Brady was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Today, the White House press secretary addresses the media—and the nation—from the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.

Every day, the Bradys' legacy is felt in lives saved by the law that bears his name. Jim Brady's perseverance challenges all of us to never stop fighting for the common sense gun violence reduction measures our nation needs. Jim Brady was a man of extraordinary wit, charm and courage, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him

I hope that it is a comfort to Jim's wife, Sarah, his children and all of his loved ones that so many people across the country share their grief and mourn the loss of such a valiant and dedicated man.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. KENT HILL, DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND CONSUMMATE DEDICATION TO OUR VETERANS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kansas City VA Director Kent Hill, a transformational leader with an open door policy that is known for the unselfish public service that he has provided to our veterans, their families, his staff, and to me in my capacity as United States Representative for the Fifth District of Missouri. I think it is important to recognize the accomplishments of those who professionally serve with distinction. Director Hill has done so modestly without bringing attention on himself.

The scope of his work since 2002 at the Kansas City VA Medical Center included an operating budget of approximately $260,000,000, approximately 1,500 employees and providing healthcare services to more than 45,000 veterans. He had the added responsibility of opening and overseeing clinical programs, including five Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and the new Honor Annex. In addition, the Kansas City VA Medical Center has a vibrant research and outreach program.

When Kent Hill took over as Director for the Kansas City VA Medical Center, he came in as a veteran who had attended the Air Force Academy and has spent 40 years in Federal service. During his career, he cultivated a successful management style, centered on personal involvement and respect for his staff and the veterans and their families that he served. He was an advocate of the methodology outlined in the book, ''The Servant Leader''. His staff worked within a management style that delegates power, believes in a team approach, motivation, recognition, and at the core; an understanding for the veterans and their issues. He has been a strong advocate for continuing professional growth through education and initiated a mentoring program.

Under Kent Hill's direction, the hospital has undergone a complete floor to floor update and expanded to include: new surgical suites, Women's Clinic, Chiropractic care, state of the art Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Hospice Unit, Blind Rehab Center, Cochlear implant program, Sleep Lab, New Ambulatory Surgery Unit, an OIF/OEF Case Management Program and a new Dialysis Unit.

Access to VA healthcare and services have long been a priority for Director Hill. His management and oversight of veteran access included weekly meetings with clinical leaders to review capacity for appointments and wait times as well as decisions on adding staff and new services. To facilitate easy access for veterans to the programs and services of the Kansas City VA Medical Center, Director Hill originated a Greeter program, a Vet 4 Vet navigator program and shuttle service to and from the parking lots; and a successful and long awaited Veterans Transportation Service became operational. He tackled telephone access and electronic messaging to providers. Director Hill did not stop with services and programs at the main hospital—but placed emphasis on taking VA healthcare outside the parent facility and into the surrounding communities. He activated a Mobile Medical Unit, opened Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and built a community-based Radiation Therapy Building. One of his more noteworthy achievements was the opening of a large outpatient building—the Honor Annex—that houses mental health services, primary care and a women's clinic.

One of the compliments that I have heard often is regarding cleanliness and modernization of the hospital. An example of his receptiveness and desire for a more accessible environment can best be illustrated with the Director's directive to remove glass partitions that had created barriers between staff and veterans. This important move coincided with many communication and outreach initiatives.

During my time in office, I have watched the Kansas City VA gear up for returning veterans from current conflicts while maintaining services to all of our existing veterans. An example of Director Hill's proactive style became evident as the current conflicts brought new mental health problems and illnesses, he called for focused education for his staff on how to identify and help veterans coming home from combat. With the continual evolution of hidden wounds from war, he ensured the staff was trained to identify signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and possible suicide. Expanding of mental health services included veterans having access to Veterans Court as well as a multitude of homeless programs and initiatives. An example of the influence and impact of Director Hill's leadership is the widespread participation of the KCVA staff in the spring and fall community Heart of America Stand Down for homeless veterans. Director Hill can be seen every year personally distributing boots to homeless veterans. Since arriving in Kansas City, Director Hill has championed inner city and rural outreach programs to ensure veterans are aware of their many benefits. His

outreach efforts have touched veterans in many different locations throughout the Heartland. In 2013, Kansas City VA staff hosted and/or participated in more than 40 veteran-focused events. Director Hill can be seen at many different events always supporting causes and programs for our veterans. He has a strong dedication and commitment to the veterans he serves. One of the most compelling stories about Director Hill is when he attended the funeral of a civil war veteran, whose family had long-awaited formal burial. These are only a few of the many examples of how Kent Hill has torn down barriers and gained the respect of our veterans.

Perhaps the most gratifying praise one can receive is to have the respect and appreciation from those they serve. Among the veterans of Missouri's Fifth District, Director Hill is regarded as a listener who takes their concerns seriously and will take the time to discuss solutions, explains his position with diplomacy and compassion. In an effort to have a closer relationship with our veterans, he meets periodically with the Veterans Focus Liaison Committee. This committee concept was presented to Director Hill by a group of veterans who received services at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. The idea was readily accepted and this grassroots committee took shape. The members talk to their peers and relay their concerns to the Director. He has been receptive to their suggestions and always willing to investigate their grievances. This partnership has resulted in more honest communication and better relations between staff and the veterans they serve. Veterans have commented that when meeting with Director Hill, he already was aware of the issue and had been working on solutions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Mr. Kent Hill, Director of the Kansas City VA Medical Center upon his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs. While he embraces this next phase of life with his wife, Anita; children, Blake, Kirk, Keith and Stephen; and grandchildren, he leaves with the respect and admiration of those who have had the pleasure of working with him. I wish to personally thank him for his tireless service to our country and his unquestionable dedication to our veterans. His imprint will long be felt by future generations at the Kansas City VA Medical Center and in our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAY PEANUT FESTIVAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Jay Peanut Festival and recognize its founders, Gene and Brenda Gabbert and the community of Jay, Florida.

The Town of Jay, situated in northern Santa Rosa County, Florida near the Florida/Alabama line, is home to over 500 residents and the annual Jay Peanut Festival.

A quarter of a century ago, Gene and Brenda Gabbert founded the festival in honor of their daughter Melissa, who had lost her battle with cancer at the young age of 19. Melissa found great joy in frequenting agricultural festivals throughout the Gulf Coast and the special sense of community that festivals often bring to life. After her passing, the Gabberts started the Jay Peanut Festival to keep Melissa's memory alive and bring together the entire Northwest Florida community in celebration of the area's deep agricultural history.

In the 25 years since, the festival has flourished. While the pig chase has remained a highlight, what began in 1990 as a one-day event with 30–40 vendors is now a two-day event with 230 booths, live entertainment, carnival rides, 5k run, and a parade. The staple of the festival—the peanut—may attract the tens of thousands of visitors from all over; however, to the Town of Jay, the festival is much more than that. It's also a celebration of community, that Melissa was so fond of, and its members who have helped carry on this proud tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 25-year history of the Jay Peanut Festival. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing the Gabberts and the Town of Jay all the best for continued success.

HONORING ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGE DIANA BAUTISTA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Atascosa County Judge Diana Bautista. Judge Bautista has served the people of South Texas since she was elected in 2002.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Diana Bautista worked for the county as a clerk, as a Secretary for the jail Administrator, and then became a Pleasanton police officer and Atascosa County Sheriffs Deputy. During her time with public service offices such as these, Judge Bautista learned how she could best serve the people of Atascosa County. Taking her oath in 2003, Judge Bautista has served admirably for over a decade, boldly advocating for the citizens and employees of the county. In addition to her exemplary career, Judge Bautista is a committed wife and mother and a cancer survivor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Judge Diana Bautista. Her dedication to the citizens of Atascosa County has truly made her community a better place to live and work.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. For the past quarter century, the Foundation has provided low-cost housing to the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness in Prince William County.

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation was established in 1989 when the need for housing for the mentally ill became apparent. The first group home, ''Shepherd House I,'' opened in 1989 with a $1,500 donation from co-founders, Horace and Virginia Baker. As the parents of an adult child with mental health issues, the Bakers knew firsthand the challenges in finding safe housing options that would allow their son to live as independently as possible while receiving the care he needed. Mr. and Mrs. Baker, along with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, worked closely with the Prince William County Community Services Board to establish the bedrock of a stable and lasting program. In its beginning, the Foundation provided housing for five single adults.

Since its inception, Good Shepherd Housing Foundation has grown substantially in both clientele and breadth of mission. Now in 25th year, the Foundation provides housing and supportive services for 77 single adults and 45 families in 70 households throughout Prince William. Assistance is extended to those with chronic low income and mental or physical disabilities. The organization is sustained by the efforts and donations of individuals, businesses, and churches, and it receives assistance from local, state, and federal funding.

The Shepherd Homes Program offers group living and single adult housing options to mentally-ill individuals. Shepherd Homes I, II, and III are properties owned by the Foundation that function as group homes. The Foundation also provides eight apartments, one townhouse, and one affordable rental house maintained by the Foundation offering the mentally ill, some of whom are veterans, relief from chronic homelessness. Beyond housing assistance, the Foundation offers services that put residents on a path to financial and psychological stability.

Over the years, the Foundation has expanded its mission providing a broader scope of resources to the community to aid in providing housing to individuals and families who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The Foundation offers a holistic program approach aimed not only at providing housing but also teaching program participants the importance of education and financial management. Programs and services include the Affordable Rentals Program, Shepherd Homes, Shepherd Leasing, and a two-year Transitional Housing Partnership. Tutoring and child-care services are also available for the children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the work of Good Shepherd Housing Foundation in Prince William and in congratulating it on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The Foundation exists thanks to the dedication and generosity of its board, staff, volunteers, and many community supporters, and it is another example of what makes Prince William such a wonderful place to live.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S DEBORAH ''DEE'' COPELAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Deborah ''Dee''

Copeland upon the occasion of her retirement. For 42 years, Ms. Copeland has dedicated her career to educating our Nation's youth and serving the Gulf Coast community.

A graduate of Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi, Ms. Copeland began teaching at Mowat Junior High School in Panama City, Florida, in 1972. Eight years later, she joined the faculty at King Middle School in Milton, Florida, where she has established herself as a leader amongst the great educators in Northwest Florida and where she teaches today, chairs the History/Civics Department, and is the Student Government Association Advisor.

For over four decades, Ms. Copeland has inspired the minds of our Nation's youth, and her innovative techniques have brought unique learning opportunities and experiences to her students. Whether organizing an annual visit to Tallahassee, the state capital, to engage her students in the legislative process, sponsoring an annual Veteran's Day program to honor area veterans and first responders and educate her students on the contributions and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, or building pyramids and volcanoes, Ms. Copeland's passion for teaching is demonstrated through each of her tireless efforts in making learning enjoyable and bringing it to life.

Her dedication and service, however, is not confined to her classroom at King Middle School. Ms. Copeland teaches hospital homebound students in the evenings as well as Sunday School at her local church. She has also organized and sponsored countless events, including the Ronald McDonald House Easter Basket to benefit Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Pensacola, Florida; a Thanksgiving food basket drive to provide for the needy; a blanket giveaway for our area's homeless and to support low-income families; and Meet-the-Candidate breakfasts during election years to afford an additional opportunity to her students and the local community to participate in the democratic process.

Her involvement in the classroom and throughout the community has not gone unnoticed. As a result of her commitment to excellence and service, Ms. Copeland has received myriad awards, including the Alpha Delta Kappa Educator of the Year in 2012, the Governor's Award in Education, the International Award ISTE Ana Mackay-Gutierrez Award for Community Giving, the Santa Rosa County Volunteer of the Year in 2006, the Veteran's State Teacher of the Year in 2007, and the King Middle School "Teacher of the Year" award three times throughout her tenure.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Deborah "Dee" Copeland for her lifetime of achievements and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Copeland all the best for continued success in her well-earned retirement and thanking her for her service.

RECOGNIZING THE STROKE COMEBACK CENTER'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stroke Comeback Center on the occasion of its 10th anniversary and the critical health care services that it provides to stroke survivors and their families in our community.

The SCC is a non-profit founded by Darlene Williamson and John Phillips in 2004 to create a community in which stroke survivors and their families could receive proper long-term treatment. Meaningful care for stroke survivors is limited in the United States, and the SCC is one of less than ten such facilities. The mission of the SCC has been to pick up where traditional health care coverage misguidedly leaves off by providing affordable speech and language services to stroke survivors in a supportive and participating environment. No patient is ever turned away because they can't afford the cost.

The current situation of stroke coverage and care is in desperate need of reform. It is common misconception that recovery is quick and easy when in reality stroke survivors require comprehensive rehabilitation for a protracted period of time to fully regenerate their cognitive and physical abilities. Yes insurance coverage for such care, if provided at all, runs out within 3–12 months, and the Medicare therapy cap for speech and physical therapy falls well short of covering the true costs. There is an estimated direct and indirect cost of about $73.7 billion. However, it is impossible to measure the emotional, physical, and financial burden a stroke puts on a survivor and their family.

Today, the SCC operates with about 100 individuals served in 40 groups weekly, growing from just five groups in 2005. More than a dozen committed volunteers contribute more than 3,000 hours annually. The SCC works closely with national, state, and local stroke-related organizations and receives referrals from all of the major hospital centers in the metropolitan area. Ninety-three percent of survivors report improvement in one or more areas of speaking, listening, writing or reading. On average, survivors report that they are now three times more confident in their social interactions allowing them to reestablish their role in their family and the community. The success of the SCC is due in part to their undiminished and comprehensive programs. Its life participation, group-based approach helps patients achieve their maximum potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions and achievements of the Stroke Comeback Center and its dedicated staff and volunteers over the past 10 years. The services and programs offered by the SCC fill a void in the rehabilitation process and significantly improve the quality of lives of stroke survivors and their families.

IRON BILL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2013, Houston Fire Department suffered its most tragic event in its history. Four of Houston's bravest firefighters died in the line of duty, fighting a 5-alarm blaze at a hotel in southwest Houston:

Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, 35, of Station 51;

Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, 41, of Station 51;

Firefighter EMT Robert Garner, 29, of Station 68;

Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan, 24, of Station 68.

They were the best we had in Houston, and we are still saddened that they are gone.

The hotel's hellish inferno claimed the lives of these four firefighters and injured fourteen other firefighters when the roof collapsed—some critically. One of the brave who survived was Captain William Dowling, also known as "Iron Bill."

Iron Bill was injured serving Houston, the community in which he was raised. A graduate of Klein Oak High School, Captain Dowling left Texas to serve his nation as an enlistee with the United States Marine Corps. In 1993, on leave from Marine boot camp training, he married his high school sweetheart—Jacki. As a Marine, Iron Bill served 4 years, including a deployment to Somalia with I Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Restore Hope, 1995. He returned home to Texas and to Jacki to begin his career and to start a family. Twenty-one years later, Captain Dowling and Jacki have three children: Forrest, Faith and Foster.

Iron Bill's patriotic spirit and love of the community led him to join the Houston Fire Department. He graduated from the Houston Fire Department Academy in 2000 and steadily rose through the ranks. He worked at Stations 12, 19, and 48 before making Captain at Station 68 in January of 2013. Firehouse 68 is located at the corner of Bissonnet and South Gessner in the "heart of Southwest Houston". In 2013, the fire apparatus of Firehouse 68 made 14,847 responses, making it the third busiest fire station in the City of Houston. There, at Firehouse 68, Captain Dowling became known as "Iron Bill," a fitting nickname to describe a strong and courageous hero.

It was just five months after he arrived at Station 68 that Captain Dowling and fellow firefighters received an alarm call that would take them to the gates of hell.

On that fateful day, in the heat of the Texas noonday sun, Captain Dowling along with the four other firefighters rushed into the hotel to find potential trapped guests. While the firefighters were in the hotel, the roof collapsed, trapping and killing Garner and Sullivan from Station 68 and Bebee and Renaud from Station 51. Captain Dowling's legs were crushed and burned, but he remained calm, radioed for help and waited for his brothers to pull him from the flames.

The attending physician in the ambulance said that Captain Dowling, though severely injured, kept asking about the condition of his crew. He was more concerned for the safety of others than himself—the testament of a true hero. He told the doctor, on the way to the hospital, to tell his wife and children that he would fight for them. Hearing this comes as no surprise to Captain Dowling's family: they know him as a fighter.

Captain Dowling was seriously injured with burns over thirty percent of his body, and he was placed in a medically induced coma for months at Memorial Hermann Hospital and Medical Center. He subsequently had both legs amputated and suffered brain damage. A long road of recovery was ahead for Captain Dowling, but surrounded by a team of doctors, his family, firefighter family, friends, church

and the entire city and state of Texas, Iron Bill was not alone. Deservingly, Captain Dowling became everyone's hero.

Finally, six months after the fire, Captain Dowling left the hospital and went home, riding in Station 68's newly dedicated fire truck. Of course, he sat in the Captain's Chair. Along the drive home, he was greeted by firefighters and members of the community, who lined the streets and highways from the Texas Medical Center to Tomball.

Since returning home, Jacki left her full time job at Frank Elementary to care for her husband full time. It's no surprise that as a Texas woman, she's strong and determined, but quite simply, the strength that she possesses is amazing. To keep the community updated on Iron Bill, she started blogging on a community Facebook page (entitled ''Capt. William Dowling Iron Bill''). This blog allows the community to rally behind the Dowling family: cry with them, laugh with them, pray for them and see their hero survive.

In the last year, Captain Dowling has received a customized fire tank chair. It's an ATV-like wheelchair, and he loves driving it! At home, Houston Texans' JJ Watt visited Iron Bill and presented him with a Houston Texans' jersey with the #68 proudly displayed. Captain Dowling loves to sing and play guitar—from Bon Jovi to Third Day—and Texas Country music star, Cory Morrow, played for him when he was in the hospital. He was even able to travel to San Diego to see his son Private Forrest Dowling follow in his footsteps and graduate from the Marine Corps' Recruit Training. When Private Forrest Dowling held his newly earned Eagle, Globe and Anchor in the palm of his hand with pride after completing the Crucible, April 17, 2013, Forrest said that the main reason he decided to sign the dotted line and become a Marine, was because of his dad. He said my dad was a Marine and always wanted me to become a Marine as well, so it's what I set out to do. Despite his amazing progress, Captain Dowling has had his share of challenges. His pain is debilitating—so much so that Jacki cried out for help and prayers that he could be seen by a team of experts who had experience with traumatic amputations. She had heard of the work of the team at Brooke's Army Medical Center, which operates the only DOD Burn Center, at Fort Sam Houston and set out to work to get him admitted. The community rallied, launching a change.org petition, emailing and calling BAMC and reaching out to my office. It's rarely talked about, but most Congressional offices spend the majority of their time on ''casework,'' offering constituents help with a federal department or agency.

Within a matter of hours, Brooke's Army Medical Center deemed Captain Dowling admissible, saying they are honored to receive him and that he would be embraced by fellow Marines. Once the appropriate medical records were transferred, an ambulance transported Iron Bill from St. Luke's Hospital to Brooke's Army Medical Center for further treatment.

As Iron Bill gets the medical care that he needs, I hope he knows the community of Tomball and the greater Houston area and, of course, Texas' Second District eagerly awaits his return home. When that happens, I hope we line the streets and cheer for him once again. For our community will always be grateful for his service and sacrifices. Once a hero, always a hero.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED GEORGE H. WHITEHURST

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's beloved George H. Whitehurst who passed away on October 19, 2014. Throughout his long and distinguished career as a mayor and businessman, Mr. Whitehurst served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals. All those who have been blessed by his presence and leadership mourn the loss of a great man and esteemed public servant.

Mayor Whitehurst was born in Greenwood, Florida on July 28, 1926 to George and Ethel Whitehurst. Upon graduating from Greenwood High School, he enrolled in Florida State University where he was a part of the Flying High Circus and performed on the flying trapeze. From 1943 to 1945, Mayor Whitehurst honorably served our Nation in the United States Navy as a hospital corpsman, as well as an operating room technician. Following his military service, he continued his education and graduated from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science in 1950. In 1955, Mayor Whitehurst settled in Crestview, Florida, where he and his wife, Annelle, opened the Whitehurst Funeral Home. In 1961, he entered the public service arena where he would use his great business sense to lead the Crestview community as mayor for more than two decades.

As Crestview's longest serving mayor, Mayor Whitehurst tirelessly worked to better the city he loved. He successfully advocated for increased public safety and economic development, which resulted in the establishment of two police substations and the Crestview Public Safety Building, development of an emergency transportation corridor, restoration of a cemetery, construction of the Okaloosa County Veterans Memorial, conversion of the former Yellow River Railroad bed into Industrial Drive, and a revitalized downtown, among other efforts.

Mayor Whitehurst was a man of conviction and was widely respected by those who knew him. The community's immense appreciation was well evidenced when he received the Mae Reatha Coleman Citizen of the Year Award in August 2013 for his outstanding service. Mayor Whitehurst, fondly known as ''Mr. Crestview,'' will be remembered for his exceptional leadership and contributions to the Gulf Coast community, and his legacy will not be forgotten. To his family and friends, he will be remembered most as a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of George H. Whitehurst. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and prayers to his wife, Annelle; daughters, Angela and Ann; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and the entire Whitehurst family. He will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING NETKAL AND KOREAN AMERICAN SERVICE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to applaud the efforts of a group of Korean-American leaders in the United States as they successfully launched the first Korean-American Service Day, (''KA Service Day'') on Saturday, November 8, 2014, with hundreds of volunteers participating in various events held in New York, Atlanta, Washington DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

KA Service Day was conceived by the Network of Korean-American Leaders (NetKAL), a leadership program organized by the Center for Asian-Pacific Leadership at the University of Southern California for the purpose of incubating the next generation of Korean-American leaders. In 2014, the eighth class of leadership fellows convened in New York City over the course of six months and, as in years past, was challenged to come up with a community service project with far-reaching impact. The creation of ''Korean-American Service Day'' was an idea put forth by the 2014 class of NetKAL fellows.

The five-city service day aimed to encourage Korean-Americans across the nation to give back to their local communities. Some of the volunteer opportunities ranged from food pantries and meal programs to outdoor restoration projects. They partnered with nonprofit organizations, such as City Harvest to distribute fresh produce in the South Bronx neighborhood of my congressional district in New York City. From sorting donations to the Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles and planting trees in a community greenspace in Atlanta, volunteers on KA Service Day demonstrated their collective will and power to become positive agents of change in our society. I hope that the huge success of the inaugural KA Service Day will inspire thousands of dedicated volunteers to help grow it into one of the largest days of service in America.

As a Korean War veteran, I have been proud to witness the Korean community flourish across our nation. Since 1903, when they first came to America, Korean immigrants have played a vital role in shaping our society through their strong family ties and hard work. They have inspired us with their entrepreneurialism and perseverance toward building success and wealth for their families and communities. As a Congressman representing the communities in the New York metropolitan area I have been greatly impressed by the tremendous contributions made by half-a-million Korean Americans and 1,000 professional, educational, religious, and trade organizations, as they play a vital role in the Great City of New York. I am grateful to them and the members of NetKAL for their leadership in making a positive impact on our society.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF LITERACY VOLUNTEERS—PRINCE WILLIAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 23rd Anniversary of Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William.

Founded in 1991 by local librarian Dona Swanson to help teach a library patron to read, Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William has maintained its direct service approach, by providing individualized adult literacy tutoring based on the personal needs and goals of adult learners. LVA–PW understands that literacy is a critical skill which can open the doors to educational and employment opportunities. As a literature major in college, I cannot agree more.

LVA–PW's programs are well-researched and constantly tracked and evaluated by staff to ensure their effectiveness. This has proven to be a highly successful model: in 2014, LVA–PW served 667 adult learners who received a total of 14,000 hours of instruction from 212 trained volunteer tutors. Many of these participants learned to read and write thereby enabling them to become full participants in our communities and, in many cases, to earn their GEDs and achieve employment.

Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William has established itself as an institution in the community, fostering local partnerships to strengthen both their own services and those of other community groups, including the Prince William County Library System, the Virginia Employment Center, Northern Virginia Community College, the Prince William County Adult Education Program, and local businesses through workplace literacy programs. LVA–PW has been recognized as Community Service Organization of the Year by the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer Organization of the Quarter by Prince William County, and Friday's Hero by the local Channel 9 News. Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William is a model to be emulated.

Each year the Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William recognizes individuals for their commitment as students, tutors, or volunteers. I am pleased to enter the following names of the 2014 honorees into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Students of the Year—Rut Amdemskal and Iftikhar Haq

Tutors of the Year—Davine Irving and Linda Mazzucchi

Volunteer of the Year—Ernestine Jenkins

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William on the occasion of its 23rd Anniversary and in thanking the volunteers, sponsors, staff, and community partners for their efforts in support of this worthwhile organization. I also commend Vicki Gross for her many contributions to LVA–PW while serving as Executive Director.

HONORING WILSON COUNTY JUDGE MARVIN QUINNEY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Wilson County Judge Marvin Quinney. As a veteran of our nation's armed services, a dedicated officer of the State of Texas, and as a man of God, Judge Quinney has and continues to faithfully serve the people of his county to the best of his ability.

Marvin Quinney's lifetime of public service began in 1965 when he joined the United States Army to assist military efforts in Vietnam. After two years in the Army, future Judge Quinney spent a year working in a Texas oilfield—a period he cites for shaping his strong work ethic. He returned to public service in 1968 as a Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper from 1968 until 1995. He later served as a Federal Court Security Officer in San Antonio for three years. It was after this period that Judge Quinney announced his bid for the office of Wilson County Judge, promising to serve the County with responsibility, integrity, and confidence. Since his election in 1998, Judge Quinney has stayed true to his word. Among his many achievements in office are the protection of Wilson County's water rights, the continuation of low tax rates and the organization of a successful Sesquicentennial celebration. Currently, he is focused on overseeing the restoration of Wilson County's beautiful, historic Courthouse. When he retires on December 31, 2014, Judge Quinney will have served four terms in office and will leave an honorable legacy in his stead.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Judge Marvin Quinney. His dedication to his nation, the state of Texas, and especially to the citizens of Wilson County is truly admirable.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 14

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on Ukraine's pivotal parliamentary poll, focusing on the conduct and results of the elections, as well as the potential for the newly elected parliament to confront the coming challenge of forging a democratic, secure, independent future for their strategically important country.

SD–608

NOVEMBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight

To hold hearings to examine tax relief after a disaster, focusing on how individuals, small businesses, and communities recover.

SD–215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Earl L. Gay, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management

SD–342

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Housing Finance Agency, focusing on balancing stability, growth, and affordability in the mortgage market.

SD–538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act'', H.R. 669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and the nominations of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and any pending nominations.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine preparedness and response to public health threats, focusing on how ready we are.

SD–342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' mental health and suicide.

SR–418

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine combating corruption in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on the link between security and good governance, including a need to build effective institutions and the important role played by civil society in combating corruption.

SVC–203–202

11 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves.

SD–226

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the private industry's role in stemming the tide of phone scams.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine protecting our children's mental health, focusing on preventing and addressing childhood trauma in Indian country.

SD–628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

SR–428A

NOVEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD–106

NOVEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD–106

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Scher, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, David J. Berteau, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SH–216