

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. KENNETH COOPER

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual from Dallas, Texas for his induction into the National Football Federation's Leadership Hall of Fame last night January 8, 2015. I would like to thank Chairman Archie Manning, Troy Aikman, Tom and Laura Leppert, and Roger Staubach for recognizing Dr. Kenneth Cooper for his dedication to health and fitness and his continued leadership in the North Texas community as a whole.

Throughout Dr. Cooper's career he has continued to revolutionize health and fitness and has proven to be a leading pioneer in preventative medicine. Known as the "Father of Aerobics" he has motivated thousands of people in Texas and across the United States to exercise in pursuit of good health and overall well-being. I want to express my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Cooper on this outstanding accomplishment and sincerely thank him for his immense contribution to the Dallas community.

RECOGNIZING PINE CASTLE,  
FLORIDA

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Pine Castle, Florida.

Pine Castle's rich history begins in the years immediately following the Civil War. Originally, Pine Castle was a private residence erected by Will Harney, a poet and settler from Kentucky. He built his home from the abundant pines of Central Florida and dubbed it his "pine castle." Soon, the areas of modern-day Edgewood, Belle Isle and the Conway chain of lakes came to be known as "Pine Castle." In 1915, the Town of Pine Castle was formally incorporated.

I join the residents of Pine Castle in celebrating this historical milestone. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Pine Castle in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN ENI FALEOMAVAEGA OF AMERICAN SAMOA FOR HIS NEARLY FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the nearly four decades of service of my former colleague Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa. After nearly four decades on Capitol Hill, American Samoa's longest serving Member of Congress and the first Asian Pacific American in U.S. history to become chairman and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, bid farewell to colleagues and friends at a reception on Capitol Hill held in his honor on Wednesday, November 19th. The farewell reception for Faleomavaega included Members of Congress from the House and Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, ambassadors, foreign delegations, and their family members. They paid tribute to the man they call "Our Eni," and did so by sharing memories from their years together. Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, beloved by so many on the Hill, first came to Capitol Hill in the 1970s and served as Chief of Staff to the late Paramount Chief A.U. Fuimaono, American Samoa's first Representative in Congress, and as staff counsel to the late Congressman Phil Burton of San Francisco before he became American Samoa's Representative in 1989.

As a reflection of Faleomavaega's genuine kindness that touched so many and his bipartisan approach that reached across party lines, the reception was attended by many, including House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI and her husband Paul. Leader PELOSI shared memories of Faleomavaega in their early years with Congressman Phil Burton long before she and Faleomavaega were both elected to Congress. "Eni, you are family from the Burtons on," Leader PELOSI stated. The Pelosis visited privately with Faleomavaega and his family, including his wife, Mrs. Hinanui Hunkin, and his daughter and son-in-law, Leonne and Fui Vakapuna.

Current and former members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee also attended. Republican Senator JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, who first came to the Hill as a Representative from Arizona's 1st District in 2001, expressed his gratitude to Faleomavaega as a leader, mentor, and friend, including an unforgettable moment with Faleomavaega when the two were on their way to a hearing. Congressman Faleomavaega was in an elevator with a good number of Samoan visitors whom the Senator described as all resembling NFL linebackers. Faleomavaega immediately held the elevator door open when he saw his friend coming down the hallway. Mr. FLAKE squeezed in to

the elevator but once the door closed, rather than ascend to the next floor, the elevator dropped a few feet and the entire group was trapped for about twenty minutes before they were rescued. Senator FLAKE joked that the irony of it all was that the hearing was on submerged lands. In his message to Faleomavaega, Senator FLAKE stated, "Eni, I have such good memories of our time together. Thanks for being such a good friend and mentor to me, and such a good example of a disciple of Christ. I look forward to working with you on a range of issues in the future. With admiration, JEFF FLAKE, U.S. Senate."

Hawai'i Senator MAZIE HIRONO, reminisced with Faleomavaega about their early years in the House together and conveyed how much she will miss him being an honorary member of the Hawai'i State delegation. Over the years, because of his close ties to Hawai'i and friendship with the delegation, Faleomavaega was always invited to speak at the annual King Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony. The Senator also shared how, whenever Faleomavaega had the opportunity, he always reminded President Obama that Kahuku (Faleomavaega's alma mater) is better than Punahou (the President's alma mater). "To my brother," Senator HIRONO stated, "Thank you for all the kokua. Kahuku High, here I come! Take care, aloha."

In a surprise tribute to the Congressman, former Hawai'i Senator Daniel Akaka, whom Faleomavaega affectionately calls by his Hawaiian name, "Kaniela," also joined in on the reception from his home in Hawai'i via telephone. The pair, who for many years were the only Members of Congress with Polynesian ancestry and who were also founding members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, laughed about their imaginary "Polynesian Caucus" in which Senator Akaka was the chair and Faleomavaega was the secretary. Senator Akaka thanked his "brother" Faleomavaega and his wife, Hina, for their years of friendship to him and his wife "Aunty Millie" all the way back to when Faleomavaega was first elected.

Congressman CHARLES RANGEL of New York and Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO of California shared their admiration for Faleomavaega's decades of service, noting how much personal dedication and family sacrifice is required to be a Member of Congress. Congressman RANGEL stated, "Eni, the Congress will miss you so much and I even more" and added that when Congress loses one of its devoted servants, a family gains a husband, father, and grandfather. Congresswoman NAPOLITANO said, "Eni, my friend, I will miss your smiling face" and shared how being so far from home in Washington, D.C. makes her miss her grandchildren, to which Faleomavaega replied, "I don't even know how to be a grandpa!" The Congressman's youngest daughter, Leonne, who was only two years old when Faleomavaega was first elected to Congress and who is now a wife and mother, smiled and gave her dad a big hug.

Republican Congresswoman, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, former chair of the House Foreign

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Affairs Committee, said "I'm gonna miss you, amigo!" as Faleomavaega introduced her to all the famous Samoans pictured in photos around his office. When they came to a picture of Faleomavaega with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, she asked, "Do you really know Dwayne Johnson?" Without skipping a beat, the Congressman replied, "Of course I do. His mom is my cousin!" Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, who represents Florida's 27th District including Miami, where Dwayne Johnson lives, said, "Everyone is your cousin, Eni. And he's my constituent!" When they came across Faleomavaega's centerpiece photo from the 1960s featuring him with Elvis in Hawai'i, the Congresswoman laughed, "Elvis is Samoan too? You do know everybody Eni, even Elvis! I already like you. But now I like you even more."

Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO of Guam brought her entire staff to bid farewell to Faleomavaega. "Hafa Adai! To our friend Eni from the Guam office! I will always remember our many years together in Congress. You were a dear friend and you helped me along with advice during my early years! One memory I will take with me is our CODEL to American Samoa. What a fiesta that was!!! Love, MADELEINE and from all your friends on Guam!"

Other Members, including Congressman STEVE CHABOT (R-OH), Congressman DAVID CICILLINE (D-RI), Congressman JOHN CONYERS (D-MI), Congressman ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY), Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD (D-HI), Congressman MIKE HONDA (D-CA), Congressman GREGORY MEEKS (D-NY), Congresswoman GRACE MENG (D-NY), Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV), Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN (D-MP), Congressman BRAD SHERMAN (D-CA), and former Congressman Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) also attended Faleomavaega's farewell reception.

Several who attended wrote the following in Faleomavaega's guestbook.

"You are my buddy and you always will be!"—Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER (R-CA).

"To a dear dear friend. You have made a giant difference in the lives of so many! Thank you, thank you so much, SHEILA!"—Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D-TX).

"I've really enjoyed serving with you. You've done a great job!"—Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA).

"The mark of success is not measured in what you've accomplished but rather in the lives that you have touched. Eni you've touched so many lives in your years of service, you're the definition of success. Be well my friend."—Congressman AMI BERA (D-CA).

"Hermano, you are the best. We will see you soon!"—Congressman HENRY CUELLAR (D-TX).

Ambassadors and delegations from the Asia-Pacific region, including Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, also expressed their gratitude to Faleomavaega.

From Myanmar: "On behalf of the Myanmar Government, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to you for your kind contribution toward promoting Myanmar-U.S. relations as well as for your country."

From Pakistan: "The Embassy of Pakistan deeply appreciates gracious support received by your office. Thank you."

From Vietnam: "Brother Eni, we love you so much. Thank God for helping us meet each other on the earth!"

Also from Vietnam: "We'll keep you forever in our heart, millions of Vietnamese will do."

Faleomavaega expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all who attended. "I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to have worked with such distinguished leaders during my time in Washington, DC. The memories we built are priceless and I wish my friends and colleagues and the people of American Samoa continued success and happiness," Faleomavaega concluded.

As you can see his years of service have had a tremendous impact on U.S. policy in American Samoa and on U.S. foreign policy across the globe. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE KIWANIS CLUB 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club, as well as the outstanding work of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe.

While the Kiwanis Club originated as a business fellowship, it has evolved into an important worldwide service organization. Over the years the Kiwanis Club has devoted itself to making a positive impact on the lives of underprivileged children and communities, contributing nearly 150,000 service projects, 6 million hours of service, and \$100 million per year to communities around the world. Some of their notable projects include a partnership with UNICEF to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus, a worldwide service project to end Iodine Deficiency Disorder, and the Young Children Priority One program to address the needs of children age 0–5. The Kiwanis Club has truly set an example for selfless and enduring community service.

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe is an important part of the international Kiwanis Club organization. Originally formed on April 25, 1921, the Club has had a significant impact on the children and community of Santa Fe. In addition to helping over 155 students with more than \$450,000 for college scholarships, the Club has also had an important hand in many community service projects, such as the organization of the annual Pinewood Derby, building a computer lab for St. Catherine's Indian school, and the Kamp Kiwanis camping facility and program for handicapped children. Moreover, the Club has helped organize and produce the annual Zozobra event, one of the oldest celebrations in North America and a tradition that is dear to all New Mexicans. The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe has had a tremendous effect on the city of Santa Fe and has truly helped make a difference in its community. I applaud the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe for setting an example of dedicated community service for the people of New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMENIAN SISTERS' ACADEMY OF LOS ANGELES

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HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian Sisters' Academy of Los Angeles upon its thirtieth anniversary.

The Armenian Sisters' Academy of Los Angeles (ASA), nestled in the foothills of the Verdugo Mountains in Montrose, offers a Day Care Program, Preschool, Kindergarten and grades 1st through 8th. Established in 1985, the ASA is one of three schools in the United States operated and governed by the only existing Catholic Order of the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, which was founded in 1847. The other two schools are located in Radnor, Pennsylvania and Lexington, Massachusetts, established in 1967 and 1979, respectively.

Since its inception, the ASA has been committed to providing an exemplary and well-rounded education to its students. The ASA offers a bilingual curriculum, art, music and computer instruction to all students, and has been successful in preserving the identity and culture of the Armenian people by teaching the Armenian language, Armenian cultural courses and religion. The ASA also offers after school extracurricular activities such as Armenian dance classes, basketball and volleyball.

The Armenian Sisters' Academy of Los Angeles is dedicated to the development of the child spiritually, personally, emotionally, intellectually and socially. Among the many goals and objectives the ASA strives to achieve include providing each student with a respectful and optimistic environment in which each student feels encouraged, creating an atmosphere where the Armenian language, heritage and culture may be taught and experienced, emphasizing the heritage, privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship, and encouraging small group work and the increased use of independent study. I commend the ASA for being an integral part of the community, and applaud the school's unwavering commitment to our youth. The ASA plays a central role in shaping our children into responsible citizens and thriving members of society.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Armenian Sisters' Academy of Los Angeles for thirty years of dedicated service to the community.

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HONORING LARRY BLAKENEY FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO ALABAMA ATHLETICS

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HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Larry Blakeney, an exceptional Alabamian who has made an enormous contribution to athletics and the development of young people in my state.

Coach Blakeney is best known as the head coach of the Troy University Trojan football

team, a position he held for 24 years, retiring this past December. During that time, Coach Blakeney built a little-known Southeast Alabama team into a conference powerhouse and a nationally-competitive program. His remarkable career at Troy has included six 10-win seasons, five Sunbelt Conference championships, and 178 wins—a total that places him among the top three Alabama college coaches, behind the legendary Paul “Bear” Bryant and just ahead of his mentor and winningest Auburn coach Ralph “Shug” Jordan.

Among the defining characteristics of Larry Blakeney-coached teams was the fearless attitude they took into competition. “Any team, anytime, anywhere” was Troy’s motto, never phased or intimidated by traditional college football powers. And the Trojans would not just compete against the best, they would win. Simply put, Larry Blakeney has personified Troy Football, so much so that the field on which the Trojans play bears his name.

Larry Blakeney’s impact on the game of football in Alabama started as a player in high school, when he led the Gordo Green Wave to a record of 24–2–2 and three-straight Warrior Conference championships. He enrolled at Auburn University, where he became the first sophomore to start at quarterback under Coach Ralph “Shug” Jordan, a distinction that even Auburn Heisman winner Pat Sullivan does not share.

Blakeney began his coaching career in the high school ranks, first at Southern Academy, then Walker High School and Vestavia Hills High School. He was then hired at his beloved alma mater, Auburn, where he served as an assistant coach for 14 seasons. Auburn would experience one of its most successful runs ever with Coach Blakeney calling plays, including three-straight SEC championships in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Coach Blakeney’s success and championship drive made him the perfect choice to lead Troy’s burgeoning football program beginning in 1991.

His success on the gridiron has led to many accolades, including multiple “Coach of the Year” honors and placement in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. However, Coach Blakeney’s impact goes far beyond the playing field.

From Gordo to Auburn to Troy, he has maintained close, warm relationships with his teammates, fellow coaches, and players. The Auburn Creed, which outlines how Auburn men and women are supposed to live, emphasizes “the human touch,” which cultivates love, understanding and sympathy with your fellow man. Larry Blakeney personifies and embodies that “human touch” to a great and rare degree.

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of once-young men are, today, better husbands, fathers, and citizens because of the positive influence of Coach Blakeney; a good man who used the game of football to teach integrity, character, and perseverance throughout his entire career.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge Coach Blakeney’s positive impact on young people in Alabama, to celebrate his remarkable career, and to honor his place among the greatest college football coaches to walk the sidelines in my state.

LAW ENFORCEMENT  
APPRECIATION DAY

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and honor our brave law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line day in and day out and keep our communities safe. The millions of state, local and federal law enforcement officers nationwide constitute both our first and last line of protection for the American people.

As a former mayor, I know how important having well-staffed and properly equipped public safety departments is to protecting our communities. Our law enforcement officials work tirelessly to protect our families and business, and I am committed to ensuring that they have access to the resources they need to uphold the public’s safety. That is why I have long been a supporter of the federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology Grants program as well as for the COPS Hiring program, which provides invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies in an effort to keep our communities safe.

Finally, I want to recognize my friend, colleague and former sheriff Congressman REICHERT for all his work to honor and support law enforcement officers across our country. Protecting the American people must be the number one priority of our government. It is our brave law enforcement officers who protect our streets day and night who are the very essence of our national security and deserve our utmost gratitude and thanks.

EXCELLING IN THE CLASSROOM  
AND ON THE COURT

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate high school student Cassidy Nussman for being named to the 2014 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) Class 6A all-state and academic all-state volleyball teams. Nussman is a senior at Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. These prestigious awards recognize her hard work and exemplary performance as a scholar-athlete.

Nussman earned a spot on the academic all-state team by maintaining a GPA of 3.9 or higher while competing on the court at an elite level throughout her high school career. She was also named an honorable mention selection on the Under Armour Girls High School All-America Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and competed on the 2014 TGCA Blue All-Star team for Class 5A/6A as one of the division’s top 12 college-bound players. She has committed to play volleyball for Northwestern University next year.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Cassidy Nussman for

being named to the 2014 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) Class 6A all-state and academic all-state volleyball teams. We look forward to her continued success both on and off the court.

INTRODUCING THE DEFEND  
ISRAEL BY DEFUNDING PALESTINIAN  
FOREIGN AID ACT OF 2015

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Defend Israel by Defunding Palestinian Foreign Aid Act of 2015.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ application to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an affront to all of those who have engaged for years in efforts to accomplish a peaceful resolution to the decades long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinian Authority’s anticipated war crimes complaint against Israel will, in no uncertain terms, severely hinder future comprehensive peace talks in a time when the advancement of a two-state solution that ensures enduring peace has never been more important.

For more than half a century, Israel has been America’s most reliable strategic partner in the Middle East. It is essential that we remain supportive of Israel’s absolute right to defend itself and protect its citizens. We cannot stand by while the Palestinian Authority, engaged in a unity government with Hamas, makes frivolous and damaging claims against Israel Defense Forces soldiers and Israeli citizens residing in settlements in the disputed West Bank. Congress must halt the \$400 million American dollars sent annually to the Palestinian Authority until it withdraws its counterproductive request to join the International Criminal Court and returns to the negotiating table with Israel.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in calling for the defunding of Palestinian foreign aid by becoming a co-sponsor of this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on January 9, 2015, I underwent emergency surgery to repair a broken bone and, therefore, was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 3, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act, and no on Final Passage of H.R. 3.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2015*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3, the Keystone XL

Pipeline Act. The legislation would immediately authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

My constituents are sick and tired of the delays in approving and building the Keystone pipeline. The recent drop in gas prices highlights the economic benefits of increased energy production right here in North America.

Building the Keystone pipeline will increase access to more North American energy sources and further reduce our dependence on oil from the Middle East. For the first time in decades, North American energy independence is within our grasp if we make the critical investments in the necessary infrastructure.

President Obama's opposition to the Keystone pipeline and all of its economic benefits shows just how out of touch he is with middle class working families.

The State Department studied the environmental impacts of the Keystone XL pipeline and concluded that it would not have a negative impact. Furthermore, the State Department found that the Keystone XL pipeline project would support roughly 42,000 jobs. Earlier today, the Nebraska Supreme Court dismissed a key lawsuit challenging the Keystone XL pipeline.

The passage of H.R. 3 is the tenth bill approved by the House of Representatives to authorize the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Thankfully, the new Republican majority in the Senate has indicated it will take action on similar legislation next week. I know my constituents and hardworking American families hope we can finally start construction on this economically important project.

#### PEARLAND LEGACY CONTINUES

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate high school student Brooke Botkin for being named to the Texas Sports Writers Association (TSWA) first team and the 2014 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) Class 6A all-state volleyball teams. Brooke is a sophomore at Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. These honors recognize her hard work and outstanding athletic achievements.

The TSWA and TGCA selected Brooke for her skill and sportsmanship, which have made her a top prospect for collegiate volleyball programs. Her dedication to the sport ensures her place in an elite class of competitors and continues Pearland's legacy of producing some of the nation's best student athletes.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Brooke Botkin for being selected as a first team athlete on the TSWA and TGCA Class 6A all-state volleyball teams. We look forward to her continued success both on and off the court.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

On Friday, January 9, 2015 it was \$18,098,260,560,760.27. We've added \$7,471,383,511,847.19 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

Today, it is \$18,084,817,920,825.53. We've added \$7,457,940,871,912.45 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 16 had I been present, I would have voted aye.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM PAULY

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have committed community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Jim Pauly is one of these outstanding individuals. On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Jim Pauly will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Corona Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner.

In the history of Corona, California, few individuals can match the years of devoted service Jim has given to his hometown. After attending local schools throughout his childhood, Jim enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II at seventeen years old as a senior at Corona High School. Following his service in the Armed Forces, Jim returned to attend Chaffey College. In 1947, Jim began working full time at Emerson's Men Clothes. Due to his strong work ethic and commitment to the business, Jim became a partner, changing the name to Emerson-Pauly Menswear. After thriving for over fifty years in Corona retail, Jim retired and closed the storefront in 1993.

Jim's commitment to the business community is only matched by his devotion to service and leadership. Jim regularly contributes to the community through work on the Charity

Solicitation Committee as Vice Chairman of the Downtown Corona Redevelopment Project and as the Chairman of the Corona Parking Authority. Additionally, Jim is involved in several local organizations, frequently offering his guidance. Jim was a member of the 20-30 Club and acted as the president in 1959. As a fifty eight year member of Elks Lodge, Jim served as Lodge Leader in 1959. Jim also holds fifty-five years of membership with the Rotary Club and served as the organization's president in 1965. Finally, in 1966, Jim was appointed to the Corona-Norco Unified School District Board of Trustees. Due to his exceptional work, he was elected twice more to continue to build a strong foundation for the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

In light of all Jim has done for the community of Corona, it is clear he fully deserves the Corona Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement award. Jim's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations, and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the roll call vote on Thursday, January 8, 2015 and Friday, January 9, 2015, I was absent after returning to El Paso due to a shooting that occurred on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at the El Paso VA Clinic and subsequent visit by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald to the clinic.

Had I been present, on roll call number 14, I would have voted Nay.

On roll call number 16, I would have voted Nay.

#### LEADING THE WAY

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jillian Ross for being elected to the Columbia University Senate for a two-year term through 2016. Jillian is a 2012 graduate of Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas and a chemical/biomedical engineering junior at Columbia University.

Ms. Ross is the first African-American woman elected to represent Columbia's Fu Foundation School of Engineering in the department's 150-year history. Through her position in the university's senate, Jillian will work with school's president and faculty to shape policy on issues that affect the student body and greater Columbia University community.

I commend Jillian Ross for her dedication to serving the interests of her fellow students and taking on the responsibilities that leadership brings. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas,

congratulations to Jillian for winning a seat in the Columbia University senate.

### KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3, which would circumvent the legal approval process and grant blanket automatic authority for TransCanada to “construct, connect, operate, and maintain” the Keystone XL pipeline and cross-border facilities.

Every cross-border pipeline must undergo a vetting process to make sure that it is in the national interest. This process has been ongoing at the State Department and has been complicated by disputes over the route, most notably in Nebraska, where their Supreme Court ruled on the issue just this morning. Today’s legislation would provide a special deal for one company to bypass federal permitting requirements.

Additionally, the oil that would be transported by Keystone XL, tar sands oil, is currently exempt from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund that is used to fund the response to leaks and accidents. This means that the American public would bear the risks for the immediate cleanup costs from any potential accidents or leaks from the pipeline. Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER introduced legislation last night, which I am proud to cosponsor, to close that loophole and ensure that TransCanada and other companies transporting tar sands oil share responsibility for those costs by paying into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Democrats are offering a measure today to address this issue for the oil that would be transported through the Keystone XL pipeline, and I hope my Republican colleagues will work with us to close this loophole.

Ultimately, there is no reason to give special treatment to a single, foreign company, which would be exempt from permitting requirements and from paying into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. We should reject this bill and allow the State Department to complete its ongoing review.

### TRIBUTE TO WAYNE KEITH

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Wayne Keith is certainly one of these individuals. On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Wayne will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Corona Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner.

Following his graduation from Iowa State College, Wayne took his Bachelor’s Degree in

Mechanical Engineering to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, known today as NASA. Following his time there, Wayne then took a position with the Aluminum Company of America, ALCOA, in 1945, where he would remain for forty years. After dedicating his time and efforts to offices in Cleveland, Detroit, New Kensington and Pittsburg, Wayne found his home in Corona where he acted as general manager until his retirement from the plant in 1986.

In addition to his strong work ethic, Wayne also exemplifies what it means to be a volunteer. After moving to Corona in 1969, Wayne immediately involved himself in the growing Corona community in a variety of capacities. Wayne took on many leadership positions with organizations such as the United Way, Corona Rotary Club, Good Samaritan Boys Home, First Congressional Church, Navy League, Peppermint Ridge, YMCA, The Greater Corona Chamber of Commerce, Corona Community Hospital, Norco-Corona Unified School District, California Manufacturer’s Association and the Wagner Foundation. Few citizens can match the years of service Wayne has generously donated to the Corona community.

Given all of the contributions Wayne has made, he has received many prestigious honors. In 1975, Wayne was deemed Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce. Wayne has also been the recipient of other prominent awards such as the Corona Chamber’s “George” Award, the Corona Community Hospital Volunteers Award, Peppermint Ridge’s Golden Hinge Award and the Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award due to his outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the Corona community.

In light of all that Wayne has done for the community of Corona, it is clear he fully deserves the Corona Chamber of Commerce’s Lifetime Achievement award. Wayne’s tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations, and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

### DEDICATION TO CHARACTER AND SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ruben Ruiz and Shelby Lowe for being named Pearlland’s 2014 Employees of the Year by Pearlland city management. This award is given to the public servants who best exemplify the city’s core mission—to provide those who live in Pearlland with the best quality of life.

Mr. Ruiz, a utility billing specialist, and Ms. Lowe, a recreation attendant, went above and beyond in performing their duties and improving the systems on which the city runs. Their dedication to service and character provide a shining example of public service and set an example we can all follow. The residents of Pearlland, Texas already know what a great

place they live, work and raise their families. These dedicated city employees are part of what makes Pearlland special.

I thank Ruben Ruiz and Shelby Lowe for their tireless work in ensuring the Pearlland community gets the customer service it deserves. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Mr. Ruiz and Ms. Lowe for being named Pearlland’s 2014 Employees of the Year.

### TO MAKE IT A TOP PRIORITY TO EXTRADITE WILLIAM MORALES TO THE UNITED STATES IMMEDIATELY

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the actions taken by the Obama Administration in December to re-establish relations with Cuba. Among other reasons, Castro’s Cuba has been entirely uncooperative with the United States by providing safe harbor to numerous American fugitives, with offenses ranging from hijacking to murder.

One of the most notable fugitives hiding out in Cuba is the known terrorist William Morales. Morales was a leader of the terrorist organization FALN, which has committed numerous terrorist attacks on United States soil, including the 1975 bombing of Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan. This attack killed 4 and injured more than 60 others.

I urge the Administration to reevaluate its stance towards Cuba and make it a top priority to extradite William Morales and other fugitives evading justice in Cuba to the United States immediately.

### CUBA A SPONSOR OF TERROR

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

[From National Review Online, Jan. 6, 2015]

YES, CUBA IS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERROR

(By Yleem Poblete & Jason I. Poblete)

The most senior U.S. delegation in decades will soon be in Havana to engage a declared enemy of the United States in discussions about “normalizing” relations. Covering much more subject matter than routine migration issues, these meetings stem in large measure from the December 17 return of spies to Cuba who are responsible for American deaths.

Obama sent three Cuban spies back to the island, trading them for the release of American Alan Gross. Mr. Gross had been held hostage for five years for the “crime” of teaching Jewish Cubans how to connect to the Internet. As part of this lopsided deal, the Obama administration also declared American policy a failure and offered a large basket of potential economic and diplomatic benefits.

This was a significant ideological and political victory for the Communist regime.

And there are more rewards in the offing. Administration officials are reportedly considering removing Cuba from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism—a request Raul Castro made in May 2014 and one that the Cuban regime has made many times in recent years. Under Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act, a country's designation as supporting acts of international terrorism may be rescinded in only two ways. Cuba is not ready to come off that list. Quite the opposite.

In the first instance, the President must certify to the Congress that there has been a fundamental change in the leadership and policies of the government in question, as was the case with Iraq after the removal of Saddam Hussein. There is no legitimate way that administration officials can make such a claim with respect to Cuba. Moreover, the criteria for determining such a systemic transformation is clearly defined in the LIBERTAD Act, known as the Helms-Burton law. For starters, as stated in the law, Fidel and Raul Castro cannot be part of the governing structure.

That leaves only the second option for removal from the list. To remove Cuba's terrorism designation, the president would need to submit a report to Congress, 45 days prior to the proposed removal, certifying that 1) the regime has not provided any support for international terrorism during the preceding six months and 2) the government has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future. Most would agree that Cuba fails on both counts.

Cuba has supported and provided safe haven to members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Both are U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). The Obama administration would therefore need to remove ETA and FARC from the FTO list, before removing Cuba from the state-sponsors-of-terrorism list. Both actions are untenable at this time. Unless Spain's foreign-policy establishment is about to make a radical shift in thinking, ETA remains a terrorist organization and there are ETA sympathizers in Cuba who are wanted for terrible crimes against the Spanish people. As for FARC, despite the faux peace process in Havana the past few months, it continues to carry out violent acts in Colombia, has no plans to lay down arms anytime soon, and has links to al-Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

The "April 2014 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism," however, implied that the only role the Castro regime had with FARC was facilitating travel for the "peace talks" between these terrorists and the Colombian government. It further stated that the ETA presence in Cuba is diminished. It would appear that a kinder-and-gentler Cuba narrative is being written to accommodate a preconceived policy outcome.

Administration officials have reportedly spent the last two years creating a foundation for Obama's Cuba announcement on December 17—all the while denying any such activity when asked by Congress about related news reports. If this sounds familiar, it's because it closely parallels the script used in the negotiations leading to the release of five Taliban leaders held at Guantanamo in exchange for Bowe Bergdahl.

The State Department terrorism report also makes references beyond ETA and FARC—most significantly that Cuba harbors several fugitives of U.S. justice. Terrorists, murderers, and other violent criminals are being protected, well fed, and supported by the Communist regime. Among these is a woman convicted of first-degree murder, Jo-

anne Chesimard. Also known as Assata Shakur, she is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list for executing a New Jersey State Police trooper. With the help of the Black Liberation Army, she broke out of prison and found refuge in Cuba. According to the FBI, Chesimard "continues to profess her radical anti-U.S. government ideology." New Jersey governor Chris Christie said recently that he wants her back in New Jersey. He'll be waiting a long time.

Basing the decision to remove Cuba from the state-sponsors-of-terrorism list solely on these above-referenced examples (there is probably a great deal more in classified form), the president would need to prove that for the six months prior to the proposed rescission, the Cuban dictatorship did not provide any assistance to terrorists and had unconditionally returned U.S. fugitives. But Communist-party officials have already stated publicly that Cuba considers Chesimard a political asylee and, as such, not to be released into U.S. custody.

The president would also have to accept as credible the "assurances" from the Havana regime that it would not provide support in the future for international terrorism—a difficult task given intelligence gaps highlighted in the State Department's terrorism report. The pertinent section states: "There was no indication that the Cuban government provided weapons or paramilitary training to terrorist groups," but it provides no further data or analysis on these activities. It also fails to address the relationship and cooperation between Cuba and other state sponsors of terrorism such as Iran, or other entities listed on the FTO List.

And then there is the question of intelligence tainted and manipulated by Americans spying for the Cuban regime. One of the most notorious of these traitors, Ana Belen Montes, used her position at the Defense Intelligence Agency to provide Cuban handlers copious amounts of highly sensitive data, including military contingency plans, details of intelligence-gathering efforts, and profiles of a broad spectrum of U.S. officials.

Congress must therefore require a comprehensive appraisal of the range of Cuba's activities against the U.S. and its interests and priorities before the White House can make any decision on whether Cuba will remain on the terrorism list. The review must cover no less than a 20-year period and include a fresh appraisal of all available raw data used in the Clinton-era Pentagon assessment spearheaded by Montes. The review should include detailed intelligence and analysis of unconventional threats and programs that have dual-use application, such as Cuba's biotech capabilities.

The congressional national-security and judiciary committees must be given full access to all files pertaining to the WASP spy network, including data related to the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue shoot-down, as well as damage assessments for all Americans and non-Americans convicted of spying for the Cuban regime.

However, if President Obama chooses to proceed irrespective of the aforementioned conditions and determines that Cuba should be removed from the state-sponsors-of-terrorism list, Congress would have only 45 days from the submission date to evaluate the rescission proposal and act accordingly.

Members of the House and Senate must therefore be proactive in countering the executive action outlined on December 17 and in preventing further damage. Failure to do so would make Congress complicit in the administration's acquiescence to Cuba's Communist regime; it would undermine American interests and reinforce a message of weakness to other enemies of freedom and security.

SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE

## HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for the Cuban people, who have suffered for so many decades under the brutal regime of the Castro brothers, and to thank my colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership in calling for statements on the record on the deplorable human rights situation in Castro's Cuba.

Her leadership and moral clarity on this issue stands in contrast to that of the Obama Administration, which once again has demonstrated its fecklessness. The events of this past weekend—where the absence of our President among so many bold Heads of State who marched in Paris for freedom and against extremism was so glaring—underscores how this Administration scorns our friends while coddling this country's enemies. The disregard this Administration showed for the people of France is part of a pattern, a pattern of contempt which includes disrespect to our great ally Canada and Prime Minister Harper over the crucial Keystone pipeline, which includes allowing Administration spokesmen to insult Israel's courageous Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu in the most juvenile fashion, and which includes abandonment of our Polish and Czech allies when they sought to base a missile shield in their countries in 2009.

By this move to normalize relations with Cuba without consultation with either Congress or the State Department, and without holding the Castro regime to minimum standards of protection of human rights and commitment to democracy as prerequisites to negotiations, the Administration betrays the aspirations of the Cuban people while embracing the brutal dictators and oligarchs who turned an island paradise into a gulag.

Again, there is a pattern here, a pattern of embracing our enemies, be it Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, the mullahs of Iran, or the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, whose rise this Administration helped facilitate. And with each embrace of dictatorships and murderous regimes, the Administration showed its contempt for the downtrodden of these countries—the masses of people in Venezuela who suffered first under the dictator Chavez and now suffer under his understudy in oppression, Nicolas Maduro, who continues to persecute democracy advocates such as Leopoldo Lopez.

This Administration was also silent when the Muslim Brotherhood Morsi regime oppressed the Coptic minority in Egypt, and it lifted no fingers to support the people of Iran during their peaceful Green Revolution protests in the wake of the 2009 election in that country, which were met with batons and pepper spray.

And now the President embraces the Castro brothers, who were tutors to Hugo Chavez in the ways of oppression and whose support of so-called revolutionary movements has brought so much suffering to countries in Latin America and around the world. Let's be clear about this: Cuba has been a state sponsor of terrorism, supporting violence against allies of the United States such as Colombia.

I have been a consistent supporter of the Cuban people in resisting tyranny. I am fortunate to have known many great Cuban dissidents, first and foremost Armando Valladares, whose autobiography *Against All Hope* was a first-hand account of Castro's tyranny, on par with the great work of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. I have also stood with the Ladies in White, or Las Damas de Blanco, and courageous leaders such as Ivonne Malleza Galano, and with heroes such as Dr. Oscar Biscet, a medical doctor and courageous human rights advocate who testified before our human rights subcommittee in February 2012 on "Further Human Rights Violations in Castro's Cuba: The Continued Abuse of Political Prisoners."

Dr. Biscet's story is far too commonplace to ignore. For the QUOTE UNQUOTE "crime" of organizing meetings on behalf of human rights, Dr. Biscet was first arrested and detained by Cuban police in 1999 along with two dozen other advocates. He was released after 5 days, but was rearrested again later that year, this time spending three years in prison. After he got out, he was rearrested a third time in December 2002, beaten and released. Presumably, the Castro regime saw his beating as sufficient warning not to speak out in defense of liberty and human dignity. When he continued to do so, however, the Castro regime arrested him a fourth time, in March 2003, and sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

Fortunately, the Catholic Church intervened to secure his release and that of 50 other unjustly-jailed dissidents in March 2011. He was able to testify via phone at our hearing from Cuba from the US mission. To this day he is unable to leave the Island, prevented by the Castro Brothers.

Dr. Biscet is just one example of the many who suffer under the Castro Brothers. I join my voice with those of my colleagues to express my dismay that the Administration would squander so much leverage in seeking this rapprochement with Cuba, and not doing more to gain concessions from the Castro regime to advance the cause of human rights, offering so much in exchange for so little.

Despite today's news confirming that Cuba released 53 dissidents, which we welcome, since the Administration announced that it would seek normalization of relations with Cuba, hundreds have been arrested, and critics of the government who thought this might signal a new openness continue to be suppressed. This includes Cuban artist Tania Bruguera, who along with other freedom advocates was detained following her attempt to speak and assemble freely in Havana's Revolutionary Square.

There should be no easing of the pressure until Cuba has met definitive and concrete human rights and democratic milestones. Among this is the release of all political prisoners, the end of harassment and a policy of releasing and then re-jailing, the ending of restrictions on freedom of speech and the press,

and on the rights of Assembly. Moreover, the Church must be allowed to conduct its affairs fully and freely without government interference.

And, finally, the Castro regime must be held to account for their harboring of some seventy fugitives from justice, including Joanne Chesimard, who was convicted of killing a state trooper from my home state of New Jersey in 1973, Werner Foerster, leaving his then-young wife a widow. The events of the past several weeks remind us how political violence done in the name of ideology destroys lives and creates deep divisions in the fabric of our society. That this Administration would fail to condition normalization upon the return of fugitives such as Joanne Chesimard, who is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list, shows where its priorities are.

In closing, I want to assure the Cuban people that I will do everything to make sure that human rights milestones are met before our government makes concessions that are effectively unilateral, squandering leverage. Mind you, this lifeline thrown by the Obama Administration to the Castro regime came at a time when Cuba's oil patrons, Russia and Venezuela, were themselves hurting for cash, and unable to continue subsidizing the regime in Cuba.

To that end, I plan to hold a hearing on the human rights situation in Cuba, focusing in particular on the plight of Afro-Cubans. I also intend to seek a visa to go to Cuba, so I can meet with political prisoners languishing in jail and visit churches, which are spheres independent of government control. I have on multiple occasions sought a visa, only to never have one granted. I say to the Cuban regime—if today marks a new day of openness, then prove it, and let one of your most consistent critics visit Cuba and have freedom of movement to meet with victims of the regime. And, finally, I will introduce legislation to make sure that human rights are not forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
DR. DALE PATTERSON, PASTOR  
OF EAST BRENT BAPTIST  
CHURCH IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale Patterson, Pastor of East Brent Baptist Church, upon the occasion of his retirement after 33 years at East Brent Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida, and for more than 50 years of ministry.

Pastor Patterson is a native of Sumrall, Mississippi, and he started his long and distinguished career in the ministry in Mississippi, where he served congregations in Hattiesburg, Mendenall, Shuqualak, and Picayune, while

also pursuing his education at Mississippi College, William Carey College, Mississippi State University, and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his master's and doctoral degrees.

In 1981, Pastor Patterson and his family moved to Northwest Florida, where he took the important position of Pastor of East Brent Baptist Church. During his three-plus decades in Northwest Florida, Pastor Patterson became a staple of the community, leading his ministry based on a simple plan to minister to those within the church, while also reaching out to spread the Gospel to all the members of the community in need of the Lord's guidance.

Under Pastor Patterson's leadership, and with the grace of God, East Brent Baptist Church has grown significantly over the past decades. Pastor Patterson supervised the purchase of property surrounding East Brent Baptist Church to expand the grounds and facilitate the construction of many new facilities, including the Family Life Center, the Worship Center, the G Building—used to house various events from Sunday School classes to GED classes and weddings—as well as the reutilization of existing property to provide recreational opportunities for children in the church community. In addition, during his tenure, East Brent Baptist launched Care Ministries, Inc. to help further spread the word of Jesus Christ far and wide.

There is no question that Pastor Patterson's record of leadership and accomplishments at East Brent Baptist are myriad; however, he has also served in important leadership positions throughout the state and in the larger Southern Baptist Community. During his time in ministry, Pastor Patterson has served as President of the Associational Pastor's Conference, Moderator of Association and has served on State Board of Missions for Florida Baptist Convention. Pastor Patterson has also held the chairmanship of various committees, including: the Evangelism Committee, Mission's Committee, Sunday School Committee, Program Committee, State Order of Business, State Nomination Committee, State Loans and Grants Committee, Budget and Allocations Committee, and the Health and Hope Committee.

Pastor Patterson's many accomplishments, however, are only a small window into the exceptional work that he has done serving the Lord and the congregation of East Brent Baptist Church, and his many successes in life are a testament to what can be achieved through faith and adherence to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I wish Pastor Patterson, his wife Louise, and the entire Patterson family all the best as Pastor Patterson enjoys his retirement years spending time with his family and the many friends he has made throughout the Northwest Florida community.

## 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 infor-

mation, 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 Tuesday, January 13, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.