

Mr. Speaker, Logan Hughes is also a young man who is dedicated to improving his community through service. Logan led service efforts at Wesley United Methodist Church as a service acolyte.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Hughes is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With Mr. Hughes' grandfather as outstanding example of an Army Officer, I am confident that Logan will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes.

#### BANNER SIGNS AND DECALS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Banner Signs and Decals for their outstanding service and commitment to the community.

Dan, Carol and Jeff Lundin bought the company in 2007 with a vision to ultimately make Banner Signs and Decals one of the best sign companies in Colorado. The original business had been located at Colfax and Carr for more than 11 years. The Lundins recently moved the business to the new 40 West Arts District at Teller and Colfax. This Small Business of the Year goes above and beyond for their customers and their local community each and every day.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Lundin family and Banner Signs and Decals for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment and service in all future accomplishments.

#### INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUGUST 6TH AS NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS DAY

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution designating August 6th as National Voting Rights Day.

On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The Act not only outlawed discriminatory voting practices and exponentially expanded the level of African American voter registration and participation, but also vastly increased the number of African American and other minority elected officials. For nearly five decades the Voting Rights Act has served as our nation's most important safeguard against racial discrimination in our electoral system. As we prepare to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of its passage, establishing a day recognizing its magnitude will pay homage to this transformative law, which remains one of the most effective pieces of civil rights legislation ever enacted, and will serve as a critical reminder of the importance of continued efforts to ensure that all Americans are able to fully participate in our electoral process.

I am pleased be joined by 36 of my colleagues in introducing this resolution. They include: Representatives: MARK TAKAI (D-HI), ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (D-DC), JOHN GARAMENDI (D-CA), GREGORY MEEKS (D-NY), DEREK KILMER (D-WA), CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY), BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN), PETER WELCH (D-VT), TED DEUTCH (D-FL), TERRI SEWELL (D-AL), ROBERT BRADY (D-PA), FREDERICA WILSON (D-FL), SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA), PATRICK MURPHY (D-FL), MAXINE WATERS (D-CA), DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL), CHERI BUSTOS (D-IL), JUAN VARGAS (D-CA), JUDY CHU (D-CA), MARCY KAPTUR (D-OH), GWEN MOORE (D-WI), ANDRÉ CARSON (D-IN), JOYCE BEATTY (D-OH), MIKE HONDA (D-CA), LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-NY), ADAM SMITH (D-WA), AL GREEN (D-TX), BOBBY SCOTT (D-VA), CORRINE BROWN (D-FL), ELIJAH CUMMINGS (D-MD), MARCIA FUDGE (D-OH), STEVE COHEN (D-TN), EARL BLUMENAUER (D-OR), JOHN YARMUTH (D-KY) and KATHY CASTOR (D-FL).

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this resolution, so that we may all properly recognize the significance of the Voting Rights Act by designating August 6th as National Voting Rights Day.

#### HONORING SOUTH TOMS RIVER MAYOR OSCAR CRADLE

### HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize a prominent leader in my district who has gone above and beyond to help better our community. That man is Mayor Oscar Cradle from South Toms River. Through his work and his life, Oscar has greatly improved our community for his neighbors, friends, and all those who are lucky enough to know him.

Mayor Cradle has been a resident of Ocean County for sixty years. Growing up in South Toms River, Oscar was a member of youth choir and Sunday school at Wells Chapel AME Church. After graduating from Toms River High School, he enrolled in Hampton Institute and studied mathematics. After facing issues with addiction, Oscar overcame his struggles and decided he wanted to focus on helping others in his community battle this terrible disease.

Oscar became involved with several different organizations in South Toms River. With his own journey in mind, he helped create the South Toms River Alcoholics Anonymous, the South Toms River Narcotics Anonymous, and the South Toms River Neighborhood Watch Committee. But his work didn't stop there—he recently founded the South Toms River Historical Society to help preserve the history of this great town. At Wells Chapel AME Church, Oscar has been ordained as a Reverend and helped to create the church's Community Outreach Center. Additionally, Oscar has served his community as an elected member of the South Toms River Borough Council for seven terms and was elected as the town's mayor on November 4, 2014.

Oscar's dedication to improving the lives of those around him is remarkable. Mr. Speaker,

we are all blessed to know Oscar, and are grateful for the impact that he has made in our community. South Toms River would not be the same without him.

GWEN REESE

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to honor a dedicated community leader and equal rights champion, Gwen Reese of St. Petersburg, Florida. Ms. Reese was born in St. Petersburg and is a proud graduate of Gibbs High School as well as St. Petersburg Junior College. Ms. Reese has dedicated her career to supporting initiatives that lift families. She began as a counselor for Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Services for the YWCA of Tampa Bay. Thanks to her passion and diligent work, she was consistently promoted, rising to become the Director of Administrative Services of the YWCA of Tampa from 1994–1999. Ms. Reese continued to be a voice for Florida families by serving as a Coordinator for both Healthy Start of Pinellas and the Midtown Health Council. In both capacities she focused on reducing infant mortality as well as other initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness of health care delivery and outcomes.

Ms. Reese's unrelenting service has led her to play an important role in numerous service organizations and projects in Tampa Bay. Currently, she serves as the District Manager of Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) Inc. which provides career seminars, college tours, internships, and community service projects to assist area high school students in exploring and experiencing different career goals. Furthermore, Ms. Reese organizes the annual Stand Against Racism event and the Week Without Violence activities. These events bring attention to significant issues facing our community.

Ms. Reese has been an outspoken advocate for preserving the history of African Americans' contributions to the St. Petersburg community. Her passion led to her selection as the President of the African American Heritage Association. Under her leadership, the African American Heritage Association developed a walking trail through historic neighborhoods in St. Petersburg. It captured the oral histories of the great people like those who built tracks for the Orange Belt Railway, laid Augusta blocks in the Historic Old Northeast, and made the prized hex blocks seen on some city sidewalks.

Ms. Reese brought the St. Petersburg community together through this project. She has witnessed great moments in the community created by the project. Her favorite instance was when 25 high school students from Gibbs High School, Pinellas County's first public high school for black students, interviewed the residents who had witnessed immense changes in the community on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

We truly appreciate the outstanding work that Ms. Reese has done to preserve and venerate the history and contributions of African Americans. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Ms. Reese for her wonderful service to Pinellas County and to the State of Florida.

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EXTRAORDINARY AMBASSADOR

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the President's Day break, I was grateful to chair a House Armed Services Committee delegation to the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Jordan, and Iraq.

With Congressmen BRAD ASHFORD, SETH MOULTON, and ELISE STEFANIK, we met world leaders in the midst of forcefully protecting their citizens in the Global War on Terrorism.

Coordinating the itinerary were House professional staffers Pete Villano and Lindsay Kavanaugh, with military input by Major Brad Grane, U.S. Army, Colonel Dan Greenwood, U.S. Marine Corps, and Major Tony Garofano, U.S. Marine Corps.

At each step we were greeted and briefed by experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic U.S. Ambassadors, including Barbara Leaf at Abu Dhabi in the UAE, Michael McKinley in Afghanistan, Alice Wells in Jordan, Douglas Silliman in Kuwait, and Stuart Jones in Iraq. Each has recruited talented foreign-service officers to promote warm relations with our allies in the Middle East and Central Asia.

A key way to protect American citizens at home from terrorists is to promote stable, prosperous, and unified allies abroad. Radical Islamists have declared war on Americans and plan to exterminate Jews. Moreover, in the last ten days, they have slaughtered their fellow Muslims from Peshawar, Pakistan, in a mosque, to burning alive over 30 innocent civilians in al-Baghdadi, Iraq, while beheading 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, and murdering Jews in Copenhagen.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

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CASA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties for their outstanding service to the local community.

CASA's mission is to provide trained volunteers to advocate in court for the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers attend 35 hours of intensive

training before being appointed to a case of child abuse or neglect. Each volunteer commits to stay with the case until it has concluded to ensure they are able to advocate for the child's best interests in the areas of education, health, foster placement, and most importantly a permanent and safe home.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties for their honor as Nonprofit of the Year by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same service and dedication in all future accomplishments.

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IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARY GAILE EDWARDS WINGARD

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Gaile Edwards Wingard, who died peacefully in the presence of her beloved family on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Gaile was a pillar of the Jacksonville community. An avid volunteer and both loving mother and grandmother, she was dearly loved by everyone who knew her. The First Coast will truly miss this incredible woman.

With a ready smile, quick wit, and abundant southern charm, Gaile made everyone she met feel at ease. She lived her life with a passionate devotion to her loved ones and her family. Whether it was volunteering for one of the numerous organizations around town or simply living the role of loving grandmother, Gaile never did anything half-way. Jacksonville will be forever thankful for her selfless dedication.

Gaile's quiet strength and loving spirit will long be remembered by our city. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Joseph Theodore Wingard, Jr.; her children, Joseph Theodore Wingard III and his wife Pam, Jonathan David Wingard and his wife Heather, and Katherine Wingard Sherman and her husband Nate; her grandsons, Matthew Alexander Wingard, Jonathan Michael Wingard, Jonathan Ramsay Wingard, Joseph Theodore Wingard, Nathaniel Alden Sherman, Jr., and an unborn granddaughter to be named Beatrice Gaile Sherman; her sister Jeanne Edwards Yarborough; and six nieces.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Wingard family. I am forever grateful to have known such an amazing woman.

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IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational and cultural exchange for both the

congressional intern and office. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students for two month internships in our offices. During their time in our nation's Capitol, these student-ambassadors continue to develop their commitment to civic engagement and public service.

This year I welcomed student-ambassador Emma Lee who has been a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. Emma is a Masters candidate from the University of Sydney, with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wollongong where she was a Dean's Scholar. She has been an invaluable asset to our office these past two months.

Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests on a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to food security and the environment. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to thank Emma Lee for her participation, time, and hard work.

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REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST DURING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE AND "BLACK JANUARY" IN AZERBAIJAN

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for very important reasons. First, I would like to commemorate the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, where on February 25, 1992, 23 years ago, 444 mostly elderly men, 106 women and 63 children were brutally killed. Please join me in recognizing the horrific atrocities that took place during the month of February in Khojaly, Azerbaijan.

Secondly, I would like to recognize the night of January 19, 1990, as "Black January." On this day, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of the following day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and, for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on their minds and hearts.

Although Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives in Black January, 1990, and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly as well as Black January.