

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANN WHITLEY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ann Whitley for her 25 years of service as the linchpin of the California Republican Party and thank her for working so tirelessly to make it possible for California Republicans to paint their principles in bold colors.

Ann has devoted her life to the advancement of these principles. She has been a precinct captain, led volunteer drives, and served as President of the California Republican Women Federated.

As Director of Membership for the California Republican Party, Ann has managed relationships with more than 2,000 members of the Republican State Central Committee. In this role, she has served as the liaison to 58 county chairmen, as well as to federal, state, and local Republican legislators. Ann has also been actively involved in recruiting new volunteers for the party and has organized numerous get-out-the vote drives across California and coordinated the twice-yearly party conventions.

Ann is a courageous cancer survivor, who even in trying times remained loyal to the cause of freedom that inspired her throughout her life and became an institution to the party that upon Ann's retirement must fill a major void.

Mr. Speaker, the California Republican Party will continue to reap Ann Whitley's contributions for years to come, and I rise to express my profound gratitude for her tremendous service.

HONORING PHYLLIS CURRIE ON HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS GENERAL MANAGER OF PASADENA WATER AND POWER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Ms. Phyllis Currie. On April 30, 2015 Ms. Currie will retire from Pasadena Water and Power after a 30 year career with the City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Currie's commitment to the city of Pasadena, coupled with her business sense, people skills and personal integrity have added to Pasadena's Water and Power achievements during a transformative time in the energy industry. Many Californians have greatly benefited from her leadership and vision while at the helm of the utility.

Ms. Currie has served for 14 years as General Manager of a highly-regarded public

power utility providing reliable and affordable electricity and water to 81,500 consumers in southern California. Under Currie's leadership, Pasadena's Water and Power has been a leader in meeting its aggressive goal of 40% by 2020 of renewable energy and water conservation.

Prior to joining Pasadena Water and Power, Ms. Currie served as the Chief Financial Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Assistant City Administrative Officer overseeing development of the city's annual operating and capital budgets. She was Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Public Power Association (2012–2013), President of the California Municipal Utilities Association (2014), and President to the Southern California Public Power Authority (2005–2006) where she was a trusted advisor, ally and decision maker on numerous capital projects and policies that come before the organization.

In her many leadership positions in the public power community, Ms. Currie testified often before Congress, and helped inform legislators of public power's positions on issues ranging from reallocation of power from Hoover Dam to electric reliability. Ms. Currie's credibility and vast knowledge helped guide federal policymakers on many important energy issues.

In the 111th and 112th Congresses, Ms. Currie testified in the House of Representatives and in the Senate in support of the "Hoover Power Allocation Act"—a bill to re-allocate hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, to Pasadena and numerous other cities, Indian Tribes, agencies, and others in California, Arizona and Nevada. The legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in December, 2011. Through this effort, Currie and her colleagues, assisted consumers in Pasadena and other southern California cities, in securing a low-cost and emissions-free hydropower supply for another 50 years.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Ms. Currie run deep, and as her friend, colleague and a fellow Californian, I wish her happiness and good health in her future endeavors.

Thank you for your service, Phyllis.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS ALOMES AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, each year congressional offices host Australian college students as interns with the Uni-Capitol program. It gives them the opportunity to learn about the American democratic and legislative process as well as see how the Congress functions from a firsthand basis.

My office is taking part in it right now, along with others in Congress. Some of Australia's

brightest are here, pursuing knowledge and understanding. In so doing, we are forging bonds that will last even after they have returned to Australia.

The Uni-Capitol program was born of the efforts of Eric Federer. Eric worked for more than a decade in the House and the Senate as a senior adviser. While doing this job, he lectured across Australia on American government, politics, and news media. In an effort to forge ties across the Pacific and for the betterment of both societies, Eric put together this idea in Washington in 1999.

The selection process for the students is competitive and intellectually rigorous, ensuring the highest quality applicant. Thomas Alomes of Monash University, my office's 2015 intern, surely reflects this. All participating students are comprehensively matched with a congressional office and corresponding position. They come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring as much knowledge and understanding to our offices as they take away.

Over the two months of their internship, Mr. Federer's students have approached this opportunity with enthusiasm. Thomas has been an excellent addition to my office, producing well-written and high-quality work including memos on Civil Asset Forfeiture, the Authorization for Use of Military Force, and national security law. He has become a valued member of the team and taught us about the many commonalities between our two countries. While in Washington, DC, he has had the opportunity to learn from a wide range of officials from the Australian embassy, the DC media, and the White House. Now at the end of his internship, he can navigate the historic hallways of the Capitol like a pro.

Australia continues to be one of America's strongest allies. Our greatest gift is the friendship born of shared values. I thank the Uni-Capitol Program and Thomas Alomes for their hard work, and I wish the program and Tom continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING CALVIN GREENE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 76 years of service that Calvin Greene has given to Bart Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Calvin has lived his entire life in Bart Township, having grown up on a farm that has belonged to his family since 1832. He spent his career doing what he loved: farming. He ran his farm as a dairy farm, milking cows until 1997 before crop farming. He retired in 2008. Calvin's farm won the 2014 Conservation Award from the Lancaster County Conservation District in recognition of his farm's commitment to preserving our environment.

Calvin has been a dedicated servant of his community, serving on the Bart Township

• 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.

Planning Commission and the township's Zoning Hearing Board. He has served as a Bart Township Supervisor since 1988.

Calvin has three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild with his wife Valeria. He's a life-long member of the Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church, where he's taught Sunday School.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Calvin Greene for his leadership for his community and nation.

REMEMBERING DAVID BRAUN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and a friend, David Braun. David passed away last Saturday, February 21, at the age of 59 following a courageous three-year battle with liver cancer.

David was a true public servant and a powerful voice in the Houston community. As a former Nassau Bay city councilman, mayor pro tem, and aerospace manager at the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, his devotion to helping others and advancing the causes of our community was unmatched.

David's passion for public service and community involvement was fueled by his devotion to God and his church. David actively served his church community by providing religious education to children of all grade levels as well as serving on various committees.

I'm proud to have known David and seen his passion firsthand. I am especially grateful for his unwavering support of NASA and the Johnson Space Center. David worked tirelessly to advance our nation's human space flight program. He also contributed directly to the creation of the "Preserving Aerospace Talent" program, which has enabled aerospace companies to find quality, experienced employees.

Each May, with Citizens for Space Exploration, David would organize as many as 150 volunteers to travel to Capitol Hill to stress the importance of supporting NASA's human space flight program and the Johnson Space Center. In 2014, David organized an effort that enabled the group to meet with 354 congressional offices in just over two days. This unprecedented demonstration of grassroots support for our nation's space program would not have been possible without David's leadership.

David Braun was a great man. He was well-respected and greatly admired by all of those he worked with. His ability to encourage and inspire others will have a positive, lasting impact on future generations to come. We should all strive to be more like David Braun. We should all also work to help fulfill his mission to see NASA be the unquestioned worldwide leader in space exploration.

My prayers and deepest condolences go out to David's wife, Angela, and his son, Michael. David will be sorely missed in our community, but his passion and legacy will certainly live on as he has laid a great foundation for his community.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding southeastern Pennsylvania municipality celebrating its 250th anniversary.

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, is a nearly 13 square-mile municipality that was incorporated in 1765 when the former Whiteland Township was divided into East and West Whiteland. Historians have noted that West Whiteland enjoyed an advantageous location in the Chester Valley, or Great Valley, and that the natural features were conducive to early settlement, agriculture, industry and developments in transportation. In 1855, it was described "with its smiling farms and restful homes as looking like one vast and magnificent garden."

Located near major transportation routes, such as the intersection of Routes 30 and 222 and the Downingtown Bypass, West Whiteland continues to attract new residents and businesses. The Township's population has more than doubled since 1973 to well over 18,000. Still, the Massey House—or Sleepy Hollow Hall—and the Zook House in Exton continue to stand as reminders of the Township's rural and agriculture heritage, as well as a tribute to the character of the Township's earliest residents.

Township officials and members of the community will commemorate the 250th anniversary at the Chester County Library in Exton on Thursday, February 26, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating West Whiteland Township on its momentous anniversary and offering best wishes for continued prosperity, harmony and exceptional quality of life.

TRIBUTE TO EMMA JAKEMAN

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for the past eight weeks, I have had the privilege of hosting Emma Jakeman as an intern in my office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Intern Programme, which brings students from ten of Australia's premier universities to Capitol Hill.

From the very beginning, Emma displayed dedication and good time management in the office. She is very bright with excellent people skills and a thirst for knowledge of the American legislative process. Many times, Emma was the first to volunteer to assist with memos or legislative research and was always delighted to help in any way.

She made the office a warm, welcoming place with her positive attitude and bright smile. Proud of her nationality, she was all too happy to enlighten me and my staff with knowledge of Australian food and traditions, even sharing with us a pavlova in celebration of Australia Day on January 26th.

Although I was only able to have her in my office for a short time, Emma will always be a valued member of Team Davis. I am thankful and proud to have had the opportunity to have hosted such a bright young student in my office. I hope she is able to return to Australia with fond memories of her time on the Hill and I wish her the best as she finishes her studies at Monash University.

RECOGNIZING MS. CATHERINE
BEAUDOIN AS THE 2016
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Catherine Beaudoin as the 2016 Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Throughout her time in Okaloosa County, Ms. Beaudoin has served her students, her colleagues, and her community as an outstanding educator, and I am proud to recognize her success and outstanding achievements.

Ms. Catherine Beaudoin received her Bachelor's Degree in English and K–12 Education from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, and was awarded the Excellent English Major Award for her creativity and strong work ethic. Upon graduation, Ms. Beaudoin moved to Okaloosa County, Florida, to pursue her career in teaching as a sixth and seventh grade Language Arts teacher at Pryor Middle School in Fort Walton Beach.

During her time as an educator, Ms. Beaudoin has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, leading her students and serving the Northwest Florida community in a myriad of roles. As the Sixth Grade SAILS Honor Program Coordinator for the 2013–2014 school year, she helped lead and facilitate the only advanced placement program for middle school students offered in Okaloosa County. Ms. Beaudoin has also served as a member of the Pryor Middle School leadership team, taking on the important responsibility of developing and presenting the school's Writing Plan to the Assistant Superintendent at the Principal's Quarterly Review. In addition, as a strong voice in the teaching community, Ms. Beaudoin is a member of several leadership groups within the Okaloosa County School district, including the OCSD Writing Implementation Group, ELA/Reading Best Practices, and ELA Textbook Adoption Committee.

Aside from her academic leadership, Ms. Beaudoin has helped students throughout Okaloosa County, leading numerous extracurricular activities as coach of the Fort Walton Beach High School Junior Varsity Girl's soccer team and of the Pryor Middle School Girl's soccer team. Building on her success coaching soccer, this upcoming spring, Ms. Beaudoin will take on a position as coach of both the Boy's and Girl's tennis teams at Pryor Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, and they play an integral role in shaping the future of our Nation. The Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year award is a true reflection of Ms. Beaudoin's tireless work ethic and steadfast

dedication to the students of Okaloosa County. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our Nation, and on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Catherine Beaudoin for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Beaudoin as the 2016 Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year and thanking her for dedication to serving the students, teachers, and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish her all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES BARRETT McNULTY, FORMER MAYOR OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Barrett McNulty for his commendable leadership while serving as the Mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mayor McNulty's earnest commitment to service has led to great strides in revitalizing the economy and rich culture of Scranton. His administration undertook a number of development projects that provided the foundation for successful attractions that the city still offers today.

Born and raised in Scranton, James McNulty is the eldest of six siblings. He graduated from The University of Scranton, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science. His remarkable enthusiasm for helping his community is clearly a key component of his stellar career in public service. He began as an aide to U.S. Representative Daniel Flood, and he eventually sought public office himself, becoming the mayor of the City of Scranton in 1982. Mayor McNulty's outgoing personality and hands-on management style helped him lead the way in restoring Scranton's economy and profile.

Two of Jim McNulty's most prominent projects were the building of a historic rail museum and the refurbishment of a train terminal into the now prestigious Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, both of which brought many jobs and tourists to the city. These endeavors proved to be lasting successes, as both continue to offer educative and enticing windows into the fascinating rail history of Scranton. Both projects helped Scranton's economic past become its economic future. Though he no longer serves as the Mayor of Scranton, McNulty remains widely recognized for his continuing engagement with the city government and the residents it serves.

James Barrett McNulty proved to be a great mayor and outstanding citizen. His leadership has always been rooted in his strong desire to help the people of Scranton. For this reason, I honor the former Mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

THE PASSING OF HENRY T. SEGERSTROM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the passing last Friday of a truly great Orange County farmer and retailer, military veteran and visionary, philanthropist and patron of the arts. Henry T. Segerstrom's story epitomizes the pioneer spirit that helped to make our country great.

The son of Swedish immigrants who found their way to Orange County in 1898, Henry grew up working his family's lima bean fields in Costa Mesa, California. He went to Stanford in 1940 but answered his country's call in World War Two. Severely wounded in combat in Germany, Mr. Segerstrom returned home determined to finish his education graduating with an MBA. At age 25, he joined the family business, C.J. Segerstrom and Sons, and began making Orange County history.

The young executive turned the bean fields into real estate gold developing commercial property including brand new office towers. Henry Segerstrom was now positioned for even greater success. He envisioned one of the nation's premier shopping centers along the 405 Freeway in Costa Mesa and had the will and the skill to open South Coast Plaza in 1967. The Plaza attracted the finest retail stores in the world and became a shopping destination for customers across the globe.

Had he stopped there, his place in Orange County history would have been assured. Instead, Henry Segerstrom reinvented another tract of his holdings in Orange County giving rise in 1986 to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. He served as founding chairman of the new center and remained one of its most generous donors. Mr. Segerstrom followed up this phenomenal success with the opening of a new Concert Hall in 2006 once again changing the cultural landscape of the County for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Henry T. Segerstrom my friend. He will be sorely missed by his family, his fellow arts patrons and the wider Orange County community which will benefit from his generosity and goodwill for years to come.

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, when we come to Congress all of us take an oath to protect our nation, our homeland. Today, we risk undermining that solemn promise due to partisan objections to the President's immigration actions. Even if my colleagues disagree with the President's immigration actions, the answer is *not* to hold hostage funding for homeland security.

Senate Republicans recognize this. The Senate voted 98 to 2 yesterday to begin consideration of a clean funding bill. It is time to Act! Yet, the House continues dawdling as we lurch toward a homeland security shutdown.

Whether it is training first responders, building new firehouses or paying TSA screeners, some things should be above politics. We cannot afford to suspend funding for our Homeland Security.

The time for political games is over. The House Republican Leadership should move a clean Homeland Security funding bill immediately—like that being considered in the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, we only have two more days before funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out.

Two days to ensure that our ports and borders are secure.

Two days to keep our airports and skies safe.

Two days to make sure our first responders are trained and protected.

Mr. Speaker, the Majority leadership has decided to put our national security at risk and put the economic security of our public servants in jeopardy.

40,000 border agents, 50,000 airport screeners, and 40,000 Coast Guard military members, who are essential workers, will continue to work without pay.

While Congress continues to receive pay.

That is no way to thank Americans who put themselves in harm's way and secure the homeland.

I urge my colleagues to fulfill our most basic duty—to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. SYDNEY GIBSON KING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the nation celebrates Black History Month, I rise to celebrate a Philadelphia treasure, Mrs. Sydney G. King. Because of her love and dedication to dance and her desire to train Black ballerinas, Mrs. King opened the Sydney School of Dance in the 1940's for aspiring African American dancers who were not allowed to attend white dance studios in post war segregated Philadelphia.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1919, King came to Philadelphia with her family when she was just two years old and at an early age began studying ballet under the tutelage of dance pioneer Essie Marie Dorsey.

For more than six decades the Sydney School of Dance trained hundreds of Black children and many went on to receive national and international recognition in the dance world.

Those students include dance professionals such as: Joan Meyers Brown, the founder and director of the much acclaimed Philadanco; Billy Wilson, famed director/choreographer and

soloist with the National Ballet of Holland; Broadway performer Betsy Ann Dickerson; singer/actress Lola Falana; Carol Johnson, a former principal dancer with the Eleo Pomare Dance Company and founder of an aboriginal dance company in Australia; and Arthur Hall, founder of the Afro American Dance Ensemble.

These dance greats in no way diminish the accomplishments of hundreds of her other students who did not choose careers in dance but because of the empowering and esteem building training at the Sydney School of Dance they are today proud and successful professionals in a variety of fields.

Mrs. King, the mother of three children, is a widow and now at the age of 95 sums her life's dedication to dance by saying simply she wanted to, "train and create Black ballerinas."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring her and her lifetime contribution to the arts and the African American community. Mrs. Sydney Gibson King is a treasure!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 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.

Today, it is \$18,148,105,006,223.08. We've added \$7,521,227,957,310.00 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
SHEDERICK ABNER'S 30 YEARS
IN MINISTRY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Reverend Shederick Abner. Rev. Abner has been a dedicated minister and on March 1st, a Pastoral Installation Service will be held for him.

Rev. Abner was born December 10th, 1962, and is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He attended Montgomery Public Schools and completed his undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Ministries and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Selma University in 2007 and 2009 with an Associate and Bachelor of Arts Degree respectively. He earned his Master's of Arts Degree in 2011.

Rev. Abner served in the U.S. Army from 1981–88 as an Army Bandsman. He was employed by the Alabama Department of Corrections from 1988–95 and Albany International Industry from 1995 until his medical retirement in 2001.

Rev. Abner was called into the ministry in 1994 and joined the North Montgomery Baptist

Church. In 1999, he joined the First Baptist Church Greater Washington Park where he has served the congregation faithfully. He also served as pastor of First Baptist Church Pike Road.

Rev. Abner is a member of several civic organizations, including: the Montgomery Metro Ministers' Conference, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Westside Restoration, Inc., Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. and the Ministers' Division of the National Baptist Congress.

He is married to Valarie Abner and has two daughters, Torquoria and Jasmine and one granddaughter, Kyleigh. On Sunday, March 1st, a Pastoral Installation Service will be held at Mary Magdalene Missionary Baptist Church in Shorter, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Reverend Shederick Abner for his Service.

HONORING BRUNETTE CRAWFORD
NELMS ON HER 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we often stand in awe of those who reach their 100th birthday. Well Brunette Crawford Nelms turns 105 this March! She is truly a glowing example of strength and a life well-lived. Her life motto has five points: live well, learn a lot, laugh often, love much, and let your life shine. She attributes her good fortune throughout her life to the goodness of God and his watchful care. "If you are not thinking about it," Brunette says, "time will slip by before you realize it."

Brunette's legacy is one framed by American tradition and innovation, love, education, faith, patriotic duty, pride and joy. Brunette remembers days of buggies and travel on horseback. She grew up on a cotton farm in Ashland, Mississippi. She remembers gramophones, Model-T Fords, washboards, the first planes and the first radios. At the end of WWI, Brunette watched celebrations of the armistice with her twin Blondie. Brunette began teaching school in her early 20s. She taught during the year and attended summer school until she finished her degree from the University of Alabama in 1937. A short time later, Brunette married W.C. Nelms. Once WWII began, the majority of Brunette's family, including Nelms, served in the Armed Forces. As noted on one of his medals, "Major W.C. Nelms' invaluable service and diligent devotion to duty reflect great credit to him and the Armed Forces of the United States." The war ended and Brunette and Nelms had two children. Brunette continued to teach elementary school for 14 more years and retired in 1974. She enjoyed 20 years of retirement with her dear husband and family in Clinton, Mississippi until his passing. In 2005, Brunette moved to the great state of Tennessee, where she now resides in Memphis with family.

As we celebrate Brunette's 105th birthday, we celebrate her faith, her health and the innumerable lives touched by her thoughtful teaching, optimism and friendship. I rise today to honor Brunette Nelms and ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking her for her 105 years of patriotic contribution and service.

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Last summer, as a result of toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie, hundreds of thousands of residents in Toledo were banned from using the city's drinking water, creating a state of emergency for local counties. This incident, which lasted for multiple days, is a reminder of the serious threat these toxic blooms pose to all of our Great Lakes and the communities that rely on them, and not just the immediately surrounding communities.

The Great Lakes account for over 20 percent of the fresh water drinking supply on the entire planet, and they generate billions of dollars each year through the fishing and shipping industries and recreational activities. We cannot ignore the threat posed by these toxic algae blooms and need to do more to protect our magnificent Lakes.

Assuring that we have adequate resources dedicated to monitoring and managing this threat across the entire Great Lakes Region must be a priority, which is why I introduced legislation last Congress to help advance voluntary assurance programs in Michigan and why I have and will continue to support legislative measures like H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Michigan farmers have been leading the way when it comes to protecting our Lakes from damage caused by algae blooms, but they should not carry the burden alone. We must all work together to preserve and protect the health of our agricultural and maritime resources. It is my hope that this important legislation will be promptly approved by the Senate and sent to the President's desk.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ART
COVIELLO ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Art Coviello, a longtime friend and leader in the security industry, on his retirement as Executive Vice President of EMC Corporation and Executive Chairman of RSA, The Security Division of EMC. Art has pushed the envelope in the industry for more than 40 years, and his influence as a thought-leader, as well as his work solving complex challenges in the Age of Information, have truly helped transform the field of security, specifically with regard to cyber-security.

As the new millennium ushered in groundbreaking advancements, Art served as a conductor, helping to guide the industry through new developments in the most technologically dynamic time period the world has ever seen. Mr. Coviello's impact has been felt in both private and public sectors alike as he

pushed us all to a better state of affairs through engagement in initiatives like the National Cyber Security Summit, TechNet New England, the Cyber Security Industry Alliance, and many others. He has also testified in Congress on a number of occasions, lending his expertise to our deliberations here in order to ensure that our nation remains a leader in cyberspace. Art retains the special ability to see beyond the visible arc of technological advances and effectively communicate about an incredibly dynamic landscape in order to positively impact policy.

I am honored to extend my deep gratitude and praise to Art as he retires, and to be able to call him a friend. I wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

FAIRNESS IN STUDENT LOAN
LENDING ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to provide students and families much need relief and protection from crippling student loan debt, Congressman JIM McDERMOTT (D-WA), a senior member of the Budget and Ways and Means Committees, today introduced legislation that would save students and parents thousands of dollars by allowing student loan borrowers to refinance their federal and private student loans. The Fairness in Student Loan Lending Act will also allow holders of private student loans the ability to discharge their debt in bankruptcy, which is not currently permitted.

Federal law currently prevents responsible student loan borrowers with federal student loans in good standing from refinancing their loans to a lower rate. This has left millions of students and parents holding loans with interest rates of 7 percent. Under the Fairness in Student Loan Lending Act, student loan borrowers in good standing will be able to refinance their loans to a rate equal to the 10-year Treasury note on the last day of business of the previous month plus one percent. For example, a borrower who refinances on February 2015 would refinance to a rate of 2.64%.

While federal law allows borrowers to discharge many types of debt during bankruptcy, including car loans and gambling debt, student loans holders are not permitted to discharge their student loans during bankruptcy. The Fairness in Student Loan Lending Act provides a mechanism that allows borrowers holding private loans the ability to discharge these private loans during bankruptcy.

HONORING DONNA WILTSHIRE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Donna Wiltshire who recently retired from the United States Department of Agriculture after serving Illinoisans for over 43 years. In 1971, Ms. Wiltshire began her career with the Farmers Home Administra-

tion as a Clerk Stenographer on the State Office's Housing Staff. After 15 years, she was promoted to Single Family Housing Specialist where she proudly served Illinois for the remainder of her career. She cherished opportunities to posit her own thoughts and to hear the ideas of others, creating a vibrant and constructive working environment for all around her.

Ms. Wiltshire's dedication and passion for rural development is seemingly unmatched and has not gone unrecognized by her colleagues. Ms. Wiltshire worked tirelessly to assist families with the home ownership process, knowing that home ownership has a lasting effect on families and communities.

In her retirement, Ms. Wiltshire looks forward to spending more time with her four grandchildren and continuing her life of service through her church.

I am proud to honor Donna Wiltshire today and would like to wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement and thank her for her service and dedication to the entire community.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
CURTIS RAINES, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr., President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia and beloved Pastor of New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia and Mount Zion Baptist Church in Bolingbroke, Georgia.

Sadly, Rev. Raines passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2015. He leaves in his wake many heavy hearts among his church family, his supporters, and his community. On Friday, February 27, 2015, a memorial service will be held in his honor at New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, followed by a Homegoing Celebration on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Fellowship Bible Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Rev. Raines was born on September 22, 1947. He studied at public schools in Upson County before attending the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Tennessee, the Georgia Baptist Theological Seminary, and Mercer University in Macon. He was licensed in the ministry in 1980 and ordained as a minister in 1981. He earned a Bachelor of Theology degree and a Master of Pastoral Ministry degree from Emmanuel Bible College in 1995 and 1997, respectively.

Rev. Raines worked at Warner Robins Air Force Base as Production General Manager of Sheet Metal Manufacturing for more than 27 years until his retirement in 1993. He has served as Pastor of New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church for 30 years and Mount Zion Baptist Church for 27 years. Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Raines became Vice President and, later, President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. (GMBC). Founded in 1870, the GMBC is the largest organization of African Americans in the state of

Georgia. A revered leader, Rev. Raines oversaw a membership of over 800 churches, representing over 550,000 African-American Baptists in Georgia.

He further enriched the spiritual lives of those around him by serving as President of Congress of the Mount Pleasant Association, Secretary of the Union Baptist and Educational Association, Chairman of the Board for the Adopt-A-Role Model in Macon, President of the Sixth District-General Missionary Baptist Convention, President of the Bellevue/Hillcrest Ministerial Association, and member on the Board of Directors for Parents to Support Public Schools, Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., and Board of Trustees at Wesley Glen Ministries.

A charismatic leader with an infectious spiritual zeal, Rev. Raines was known and loved in the Middle Georgia area and throughout the state. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his good works in Macon and in Bibb County. Rev. Raines was truly a man of integrity who exuded the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." Through his impact on the spirit, the faith, and the very wellbeing of his community, Rev. Raines certainly fulfilled his higher calling. We are all so blessed that Rev. Raines passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long.

Rev. Raines accomplished many things throughout his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his beloved wife, Barbara, and children, Shun, Curtis, Jr., Varina, and Bryant.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr. for his outstanding accomplishments in the ministry and for his dedication to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Rev. Raines's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED J. EARLE BOWDEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of one of Pensacola's most influential and beloved citizens, J. Earle Bowden. A native and near life-long resident of the Florida Panhandle, Mr. Bowden was known throughout the community for his decades as a journalist and editor-in-chief of the Pensacola News Journal, as well as for his tireless work preserving the local historical sites and natural treasures. All of Northwest Florida mourns the loss of a true icon.

J. Earle Bowden was born and raised in the small town of Altha, Florida, and after his high school graduation, he studied journalism at

Florida State, where he also wrote for the Florida Flambeau. Following his college studies, Mr. Bowden joined the United States Air Force, where he served as a military journalist during the Korean War. After completing his military service, Mr. Bowden moved back to Northwest Florida to raise his family and pursue a career in journalism, and in the fall of 1953, propitious circumstances and his considerable talent landed Mr. Bowden a position as a writer with the Pensacola News Journal.

First a sports writer and cartoonist for the paper, Mr. Bowden's journalistic talent, dedication to the Northwest Florida community, and assiduous work ethic saw him rise through the ranks, becoming editor of the News Journal's editorial page in 1965 and editor-in-chief of the entire paper one year later. It was in his position heading the paper's editorial pages that Mr. Bowden began to forge his legacy and cement his impact on the greater Pensacola area. We are blessed to have perhaps the world's most beautiful beaches located in Northwest Florida, and, in 1965, Mr. Bowden began advocating for the creation of a national park as a way to preserve this natural beauty. Thanks in large part to his efforts, Mr. Bowden's dream was realized just a few years later when legislation was signed into law on January 8, 1971 to establish the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Today, Gulf Islands National Seashore is one of the most visited components of the National Park System, and, in recognition of his work, the road linking eastern Pensacola Beach to Navarre Beach is named Earle Bowden Way.

In addition to his successful work preserving the Northwest Florida environment, Mr. Bowden was also deeply dedicated and involved with the preservation of the many important historical landmarks in Northwest Florida. He helped found several important organizations, including the Seville Square Historic District and the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board. He also served in numerous leadership capacities, including as president of West Florida Historic Preservation Inc., whose headquarters is named in his honor, president of the Pensacola Historical Society, president of the University of West Florida Foundation, chairman of the City of Pensacola Architectural Review Board, president of the Pensacola Bay Area Coalition on Literacy, and general chairman for the Galvez Bicentennial Celebration, amongst many others.

Mr. Bowden was also deeply committed to advancing the field of journalism and writing, as evidenced by his long tenure teaching journalistic writing at the University of West Florida, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1985. Mr. Bowden was also a widely published author of non-fiction, fiction, and illustration books. Among his published writings are the novel "Look and Tremble," his memoir "Always the Rivers Flow," a pictorial history "Pensacola: Florida's First Place City", and the non-fiction book "Gulf Islands: The Sands of All, Preserving America's Largest National Seashore." He also contributed writing, editing, and illustration to several books on Pensacola history including: "Florida in the Civil War: 1860 through Reconstruction"; "Siege! Spain and Britain: Battle of Pensacola"; "Iron Horse in the Pinelands: Building West Florida's Railroad 1881-1883"; and "Guardians on the Gulf and Pensacola: Spaniards to Space Age."

In recognition of Mr. Bowden's incalculable contributions to Northwest Florida, he has re-

ceived dozens of awards from a wide range of organizations including: the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's Florida Preservationist of the Year; two national awards for editorial writing from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge; the Pensacola Kiwanis Club Civic Award; the BIP Awards' Professional Leader of the Year; Pensacola Junior College's Distinguished Citizen of the Year; the Law Day Liberty Bell Award; the PACE Pioneer Award; FSU Distinguished Alumnus; and three statewide awards from Florida Architects for his work in historic preservation.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his long and distinguished life, J. Earle Bowden worked tirelessly on behalf of the Northwest Florida community that he loved. Although he was a man of letters, his impact on our community cannot be fully captured in words, and his legacy will forever live on in the many historical sites and natural resources that he worked so judiciously to protect. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and lasting legacy of J. Earle Bowden. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Mary Louise Bowden; sons, Steven Earle Bowden (wife, Pamela House) and Randall Clark Bowden; granddaughter, Jessica Johanna Bowden; brother, Franklin Lamar Bowden; nephews, Franklin Lamar Bowden, Jr. and James Marlon Bowden; and the entire Bowden family.

HONORING HARLON BLOCK, ON
THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Texas native Harlon Block. Seventy years ago, he was one of six men who were part of an iconic photo that would lift the spirits of an entire nation—the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Born in Yorktown, Texas, in 1924, Corporal Block later moved with his family to Weslaco, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley.

Harlon Block attended Weslaco High School, where he led the Weslaco Panther football team to a conference championship and was named All South Texas End. Before the end of his senior year, Corporal Block and seven of his teammates enlisted in the Marine Corps. As a result, the school accelerated their studies and held a special early graduation ceremony in January 1943.

Harlon Block left for Marine Corps basic training in February 1943, and he then attended parachute training school. Corporal Block was assigned to the First Marine Parachute Regiment. After the Parachute Regiment was disbanded, he was transferred to Company E, Second Battalion, 28th Marines, Fifth Marine Division.

On February 19, 1945, Corporal Block and his company took part in the invasion of the heavily defended island of Iwo Jima. One day into the battle, Corporal Block and the 28th Marines began their assault on Mount Suribachi, a 550-foot-high extinct volcano. After a three-day onslaught, the unit reached the top and defeated the last remaining Japanese defenders. Corporal Block, along with

Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal René Arthur Gagnon, Corporal Ira Hayes, Private First Class Franklin Runyon Sousley, and Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John "Doc" Bradley, defiantly raised the U.S. flag atop the mountain. Corporal Block guided the base of the pole into the volcanic ash while the others raised the flag upward. This is the scene that was captured in the famous photo at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Corporal Harlon Henry Block was killed in action on March 1, 1945 and never saw the famous photo.

His remains were interred beside the Iwo Jima Memorial at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, which is a replica of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. On several occasions I have had the opportunity to visit the memorial located in my Congressional District, and each time I am moved by the courage and dedication of those who fought to win World War II. This memorial is a special place for the Rio Grande Valley, and serves as a reminder that our armed forces and our nation can overcome the greatest of odds. Today, we remember the bravery and valor of Corporal Block and all those who fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the devastating atrocities that took place in Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Thanks to Armenian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forces over the course of 22 hours, 613 civilian lives were lost. Innocent children, women and elderly men were brutally murdered.

Since this tragedy took place in the early 1990s, Azerbaijan has worked to heal and become a successful country, with a booming economy. As a result, the economy of Azerbaijan is the fastest growing among the CIS states. In the turbulent geopolitical region, Azerbaijan is a reliable partner of the United States. Moreover, Azerbaijan is a close ally and trade partner with another strong American ally—Israel—in the region.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand close by our allies. That is why I urge my colleagues to recognize the human tragedy that occurred in Azerbaijan 23 years ago. Please, join me and all of our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the lives lost during the Khojaly massacre.

DEFENDING OUR GREAT LAKES ACT OF 2015

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to come from the State of Michigan, the Great Lakes State. In Michigan, our very identity is defined by the Great Lakes. For so many of us from Michigan, our lives revolve

around the Lakes. Whether it is tourism, agriculture, shipping, fishing, or recreational boating, the Lakes are vital to our very livelihood.

The Great Lakes face many challenges these days, but there is nothing more threatening to the health of the Lakes than the infiltration of Asian carp—an invasive species that are about 40 miles from our doorstep.

For this reason, today I introduced the Defending Our Great Lakes Act of 2015. This is a bill that will prevent the spread of Asian carp once and for all.

This bill does three things: First, it authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to update the infrastructure and install necessary technologies and measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site. Second, it requires the Army Corps to develop a long-term plan, in consultation with federal agencies as well as the Great Lake states and impacted business and environmental communities. Finally, this bill reaffirms the need to continue to examine the ongoing needs across the entire Great Lakes region for measures that protect our waterways from invasive species.

The Defending Our Great Lakes Act, by design, provides a broad authorization for the Army Corps, and it authorizes the use of the best technologies, including, but not limited to, electric barriers. The importance of this broad authorization is that it will allow them to use new, yet-to-be-developed technologies going forward.

It is important to note that this bill also instructs the Army Corps to consider the protection of the area's ecosystem to the greatest extent feasible so that no native populations are inadvertently harmed as we attempt to remove the threat of invasive species. Additionally, this bill also instructs the Army Corps to ensure the efficient flow of navigation so that there is no unnecessary impediment to commerce. Including these provisions further demonstrates the dynamic nature of the Great Lakes and how we must work with all interested stakeholders to accomplish the goal of preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes basin.

This bill was introduced with a broad bipartisan cross section of members from across the Great Lakes basin and in partnership with Senator DEBBIE STABENOW who will introduce companion legislation in the Senate.

In the many years I have been so honored to serve in Congress, the protection of our magnificent Great Lakes has been one of my primary advocacies.

I remember well battling the scourge of invasive species like zebra mussels, the sea lamprey, Eurasian Milfoil and phragmites.

All of these invasive species have taken an ecological and economic toll on our Great Lakes, and we have spent billions over the past two decades trying to mitigate their damage.

With Asian carp, however, we cannot afford to respond to the untold damage they are certain to have on our Lakes.

They represent the most grave threat we have faced, and they must be dealt with using preventative, proactive measures.

The Asian carp threaten our \$17 billion tourism industry and our \$7 billion fishing and recreation industry.

They threaten our very way of life, and potentially billions of dollars every year to our regional economy. We simply cannot turn our backs on this threat.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Defending Our Great Lakes Act and help ensure the long-term health and beauty of our precious Great Lakes. The Lakes are vital to our identity and livelihood.

BARBARA JORDAN—PATRIOT OF
THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas lost quite the political patriot. A dear friend and tenacious community warrior, Barbara Jordan of Kingwood, Texas will be greatly missed. It gives me honor to recognize a lifelong volunteer, advocate and inspiration to the Kingwood community. The City of Houston and, indeed, the entire State of Texas, lost a dedicated leader and friend on February 22, 2015.

Barbara was born November 28, 1939 in Eagle Lake, Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have described her as "the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

As her friend Pauline Adams put it, "Barbara was a force to be reckoned with. She was funny, irreverent and loved by everyone who knew her because she always had a smile on her face and a kind word for all. However, underneath the graciousness was a true Southern 'Steel Magnolia'. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her."

Barbara was a political activist. She was a pioneer for the GOP in Houston and Texas back when there were not that many Republicans in Texas. She served on numerous boards and organizations throughout the years. She was past President and founding member of the Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club.

Barbara Jordan had an infectious spirit. She came to me along with Patti Johnson and Peggy Englehardt and suggested that I leave the D.A.'s office and apply for the vacancy in the criminal district court in Harris County.

With these women's help, I obtained appointment by then Governor Clements and then they helped me get elected as one of the only Republican criminal district judges in Harris County in 1982. I have Barbara to thank for the 22 years I spent on the bench. But Barbara wasn't through.

Barbara and other Republican women can be credited with getting me elected to Congress in 2004. She served as President of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women from 1996–1997, and she is responsible for designing a pin for the Greater Houston Council officers and club presidents. The tradition of presenting a pin to officers and club presidents continues to this day. She has also been a member and an officer with one of the most powerful women's political organizations in Texas, the Texas Federation of Republican Women. Most GOP elected officials credit their elections to the Texas Republican Women like Barbara.

In 1999, Barbara was named Chairman of the Texas Federation of Republican Women State Convention. Barbara was ever working for God, home and country. She had a pas-

sion to keep America strong and Texas RED. Many Republicans owe her thanks. Her drive helped get other Republicans elected in Harris County.

My thoughts are with the love of Barbara's life, Ken Jordan—her husband of 54 years. The passing of Barbara has left four sons in mourning of their mother—John, Mark, Scott, and Todd. She also leaves behind four daughter-in-laws and seven cherished grandchildren. Her memory will live on, in the many lives she touched along the way. Last summer, I visited with Barbara and Ken at their home in Kings Forest.

Barbara was always gracious and welcoming; she simply was the best hostess. She was a loyal friend to me, and although I am saddened by her loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship that we shared. She will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a mentor, genuine friend and a great patriot.

My Grandmother used to say there was nothing more powerful than a woman—that has made up her mind. Barbara was one such unique woman.

Barbara was truly a remarkable Texan who achieved extraordinary things in her lifetime and for her community, state and political party. And for that, Texas and our people are better because of Barbara Jordan.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROLAND J.
"ROCKY" GANNON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Roland "Rocky" J. Gannon, a resident of Florence, South Carolina and join with his friends throughout the Pee Dee area of South Carolina in celebration of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Gannon is a decorated veteran, having served thirty-seven years in the Air Force before retiring in 1980. His service began in 1943 while he was a high school junior when he entered an Air Force pilot training program, from which he graduated one month after D-Day. During his decades of service, he flew more than 6,000 hours in thirty-four different types of aircraft. Fourteen of those years were served overseas and included 387 combat missions in Vietnam. After the end of World War II, "Rocky" spent three years in Iwo Jima, Japan. His service in these theaters, as well as in the Korean War and Belgian Congo, earned him fifty military awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and ten Air Medals.

After his retirement from the Air Force in 1980, Mr. Gannon took his expertise to the private sector as an independent aviation consultant and was subsequently named Executive Director of the Florence Regional Airport. In 2001, commemoration of his accomplishments in both civilian and combat aviation, he was named South Carolina Aviator of the Year and was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Association Hall of Fame.

"Rocky's" passion for aviation is matched only by his dedication to the Boy Scouts of

America. He joined the scouts when he was twelve years old and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout before joining the Air Force. He credits the training he received as a Boy Scout to much of his success in military and civilian life. He has given back to the scouts throughout his career and in 2009 received the Distinguished Eagle Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gannon on this milestone and thanking him for his outstanding contributions to Florence, the Pee Dee area, to South Carolina, and to our great country. I wish him Godspeed and a happy and healthy 90th birthday celebration in the company of his friends and family.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This bill undermines the fundamental purpose of the Ele-

mentary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was created to ensure that disadvantaged children are provided a high-quality education that allows them to compete on a level playing field with their more-advantaged peers.

Among its many problematic provisions, this bill cuts crucial education funding, fails to hold states and districts accountable for supporting and improving the achievement of all students, eliminates and weakens protections for disadvantaged students, and lacks critical support systems for our nation's educators.

I believe No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is flawed and must be reformed, and reauthorization presents a tremendous opportunity to make much-needed improvements and bring our education system into the 21st century. However, instead of fixing the problems of NCLB, the Student Success Act does not reflect best practices and fails to strike the appropriate balance between flexibility and accountability.

Reauthorization should support college and career-ready standards, address the overuse of testing in teacher and school evaluations that currently forces educators to substitute test preparation for instruction, and feature an accountability system that includes meaningful targets for improving student attainment that gives schools and districts flexibility in how they achieve those goals.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5 and instead support reauthorization that restores our nation's commitment to providing equal opportunity for all students regardless of their background and protect our country's stu-

dents including the most vulnerable, which was the intention of this landmark civil rights law.

KINGWOOD PARK HIGH SCHOOL
SWIM TEAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, the boys from Kingwood Park High School in Houston, Texas won another state swim title. This marks the fourth state championship for the high school. According to the team's head coach, Greg McLain, this wasn't even supposed to happen. But, he said that they believed in each other and worked hard, noting that they didn't do it with superstars, but "as a team."

The Kingwood Park Panthers swim team pays homage to the old saying: "when it comes to talent versus hard work, hard work will always win."

Congrats to Kingwood Park's State Championship team: David Amoruso, Spencer Balog, Brenden Bennett, Austin Bradshaw, Eric Broussard, Matt Crowe, Trae Floyd, Christian Frey, David Johnson, John Johnson, Hunter Lang, Ryan Logan, Sam Poulin, Tate Stevens.

Go Panthers!

And that's just the way it is.