

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SUMGAIT,
KIROVABAD AND BAKU MAS-
SACRES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I met with a constituent, Marat Khoudabakhshiev, whose family barely survived pogroms perpetrated 27 years ago today against the Armenian residents of then-Soviet Azerbaijan. He recounted how Azerbaijanis who had lived alongside Armenians for generations suddenly turned violent against them, causing Armenian families like his to flee their homes for safety.

Over three days, February 26th to 28th, 1988, a pogrom was perpetrated against the Armenian residents of Sumgait in then-Soviet Azerbaijan. Armenians were attacked and killed in their apartments and on the streets. Although official figures reported 30 deaths, it is believed that hundreds were murdered and injured as a result of the pogrom.

The violence against the Armenians in Sumgait was prompted by a vote, which took place one week prior by the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, to unify the region with Armenia—the beginning of the Karabakh movement. In the days immediately after this vote Azeri civilians and local officials in the city of Sumgait held rallies calling for “death to Armenians”.

On the night of February 27, 1988, Armenian residents in Sumgait were targeted and indiscriminately raped, mutilated and murdered. Calls for help from Armenians were ignored by local police and city officials. Journalists were shut out from the area. The violence raged on for three days before Soviet troops were able to put an end to the pogrom.

Witnesses of the horrific massacres later testified that the attacks were planned, as civilians had gathered weapons and the exits of the cities were blocked in advance to prevent Armenians from escaping. The homes of Armenians were marked so that the Azeri mobs could easily target them.

Unfortunately, the perpetrators of the pogrom succeeded in their ultimate goal—driving out Armenians. Fearing more violence, Armenian families fled Sumgait. Later that year, another anti-Armenian pogrom occurred in Kirovabad, Azerbaijan from November 21st to 27th, which also forced hundreds of Armenians to flee the region. In January of 1990 violent mobs targeted the Armenian community of Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the commemoration of the first genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian Genocide. It is imperative that we honor the memory of Armenians killed in the pogroms of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku, as well as the Armenian Genocide. If we hope to stop future massacres, we must acknowledge these horrific events and ensure they do not happen again.

Recognizing the ethnic-cleansing of the Armenians from Azerbaijan is an important step. However, we need to do more—we need to demonstrate to Azerbaijan that the United States is committed to peace and to the protection of Artsakh from coercion.

As the current government of Azerbaijan grows even more hostile towards Armenians, we must call for an end to all threats and acts of violence by Azerbaijan’s government against the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

Congress should strengthen Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act by removing the President’s ability to waive U.S. law prohibiting aid to Azerbaijan because of its continuing blockade against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. In 1992, Congress prohibited aid to Azerbaijan because of its continuing blockade against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. However, in 2001, Congress approved a waiver to this provision, and administrations have used the waiver since then to provide aid to Baku. Azerbaijan should not be provided aid from the United States as long as they continue a policy of threats and blockades against Artsakh.

I urge the Administration to remove all barriers to broad-based U.S.-Nagorno Karabakh governmental and civil society communication, travel and cooperation.

HONORING NOREEN EVANS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize California Senator Noreen Evans, who recently retired on November 30, 2014 following twenty-one years of public service.

Senator Evans has a distinguished record of serving the North Coast as a public servant and community leader. She has devoted her career to protecting the North Coast’s invaluable natural resources, reforming the California legal system, and advocating for the rights of underserved communities, especially women and children.

Ms. Evans began her career in public service on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission and continued this service as a member of the Santa Rosa City Council before serving three terms in the California State Assembly and one term in the California State Senate. As an Assemblymember, Ms. Evans took on key roles as a Majority Whip, Human Services Committee Chair, and Budget Committee Chair. In the Senate, Ms. Evans led the Senate Banking and Finance Committee, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Legislative Women’s Caucus, and the Senate Select Committee on Wine. Ms. Evans used her leadership positions to champion local issues as well as statewide policy and was able to forge bipartisan consensus among her colleagues.

In addition to her time in elected office, Ms. Evans has practiced law for more than twenty years and litigated before both state and federal courts, up to the United States Supreme Court. In 2011, she became the first woman to receive the Defender of Justice Award from the Judicial Council of California.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Noreen Evans upon her retirement from the California State Senate for her tireless work representing the North Coast by protecting its valuable natural resources and championing its people. We express our deep appreciation to Noreen Evans for her exemplary public service, and convey our best wishes to Ms. Evans and her family as she pursues new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE GALLAGHER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Annie Gallagher, Public Affairs Specialist with the Philadelphia Region Social Security Administration for her 23 years of service to our nation and to congratulate her on her announced retirement.

Annie Gallagher, in her role as the Public Affairs Specialist at the Philadelphia Regional Office, provided assistance to a countless number of my constituents, as well as Virginians across the region and the Commonwealth. Her dedication and extraordinary commitment in providing solutions to those in need has been a credit to the Social Security Administration, which she has faithfully served for the past 13 years. Her efforts on behalf of the public have been in keeping with the highest standards of public service.

I congratulate Annie on a well-deserved retirement and wish her the best as she begins the next chapter in her life.

HONORING JUAN OSORIO ORTIZ,
MR. AMIGO OF THE 78TH AN-
NUAL CHARRO DAYS FIESTA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Juan Osorio Ortiz who has been named Mr. Amigo 2014. A Mexican television actor and producer, Juan Osorio Ortiz’s distinguished career spans almost three decades.

This year from February 22 through March 1, the cities of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, will come together to celebrate the 78th Annual Charro Days Fiesta.

Charro Days unites the bi-cultural, bi-literate and bi-national communities of Brownsville and Matamoros to commemorate our way of

• 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.

life and shared history and to celebrate the interconnectedness of our two communities. The Rio Grande, “El Rio Bravo,” on the southern border of the U.S. and Mexico binds our two communities—one region with family and friends living on both sides of the border. Over generations we have shared memories and built relationships that span beyond any line or boundary.

The current security situation has strained our way of life, and those of us who frequented Matamoros to visit family and friends or to have dinner in the heart of the city have not been able to visit in a long time. In the face of today’s challenges, the annual Charro Days Fiesta recommitments the two communities to our valued friendship. We join in celebration of our shared past, customs, cultures and traditions, and to solidify our resolve for a better tomorrow.

Every year, the Mr. Amigo Association Selection Committee names an individual who serves as a role model for the community. The recipient must be a Mexican citizen who has contributed to friendship and understanding between the U.S. and Mexico, and has excelled in their profession, exemplifying the highest standards in their personal and professional lives.

Mr. Amigo 2014, Juan Osorio Ortiz, was born on June 24, 1957, in Mexico City. His passion for theatre started as a young boy when he would memorize all the lines and roles in school plays and fill in when someone was absent. At a young age, he went to telecentro, a training school for actors and actresses in Mexico. His interest in telenovelas, or soap operas, was sparked when he participated in “El Amor Tiene Cara de Mujer.”

Working his way up the ladder in the entertainment industry, he began as a production assistant and had the opportunity to advance in 1986 when he stepped in as executive director on the soap opera “La Gloria y El Infierno”. Juan Osorio Ortiz has been an executive producer of soap operas ever since. In the past 28 years, he has produced 24 soap operas, including “Mi Corazon Es Tuyo,” “Una Familia Con Suerte,” “Tormenta en El Paraiso,” “Salome,” “Marisol,” and “Clarisa.”

Today, we honor Juan Osorio Ortiz for his years of work bringing real life issues to the small screen in a thoughtful and engaging way. I join Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas in welcoming him to Charro Days.

HONORING SHARON
GOLDSWORTHY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend, Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy on being named the 2015 Germantown, Tennessee Lions Club Citizen of the Year. This award highlights her wonderful career in public service and enhances her legacy of dedication, passion, and commitment for the people of Germantown and all of Shelby County, Tennessee.

Mrs. Goldsworthy and her husband, Jim, moved to Germantown in 1977. Mrs.

Goldsworthy saw a need and became involved with the local schools and the issues they were facing. Involvement with the PTA and other organizations eventually led her to commission and board meetings and a desire to be a part of the decision-making process. In 1992, Mrs. Goldsworthy was elected Alderman, and she was elected Mayor of Germantown in 1994.

Despite the “part-time” job she acquired, Mayor Goldsworthy worked overtime for the betterment of her city. She served on the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board, Governor’s Council on Higher Education, Chickasaw Basin Authority, Regional Rail Steering Committee, and Metro Planning Organization Transportation Board. Her service took her to halls and committee rooms in both Nashville and Washington with the West Tennessee Mayors Association, Tennessee Women in Government, the Tennessee Municipal League, and the United States Conference of Mayors. Through budgets, drainage issues, railroad crossings, public television, and thousands of other issues, Mayor Goldsworthy always fought for those in need and was ever-ready to meet any challenge or lend a helping hand.

The Germantown Lions Club could not have made a better selection for their Citizen of the Year than Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy. Indeed the award is a fitting tribute to the indelible contributions Mayor Goldsworthy provided to the people she served. On behalf of Tennessee’s 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck in retirement and for all future endeavors to the family and friends of Mrs. Sharon Goldsworthy.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On this day in 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. When the violence finally subsided, hundreds of Armenian civilians had been brutally murdered and injured, women and young girls were raped, and some victims were tortured and burned to death. Those that survived the carnage fled their homes and businesses, leaving behind all but the clothes on their backs. The Sumgait Pogroms came in the wake of a pattern of anti-Armenian rallies throughout Azerbaijan, aided and encouraged by high ranking officials in the Azeri government, and touched off a wave of violence culminating in the 1990 Pogroms in Baku.

In a pattern all too familiar to the Armenian people, the Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, as well as denying the role of senior government officials in instigating the violence.

The Sumgait massacres led to wider reprisals against Azerbaijan’s Armenian ethnic minority, resulting in the virtual disappearance of a once thriving population of 450,000 Arme-

nians living in Azerbaijan, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in thousands dead on both sides and created over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Time has not healed the wounds of those killed and hurt in the pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. To the contrary, hatred of Armenians is celebrated in Azeri society, a situation most vividly exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who savagely murdered an Armenian army lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan with an axe while he slept. The two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at the time in Hungary. In 2012, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead, he was pardoned, promoted, and paraded through the streets of Baku in a sickening welcome home. And as we speak, Azerbaijan continues its dangerous and provocative behavior along its border with Armenia and in Karabakh.

Mr. Speaker, this April we will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan’s closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 27 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART
MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Heart Month and commend the staff and volunteers of the American Heart Association, and the organizations in New Jersey and around the country for participating in this year’s successful effort to raise awareness of heart disease and the associated risks.

American Heart Month is a critical public awareness tool that helps promote heart-healthy lifestyles, with a focus on prevention and incorporating a healthy diet and exercise into all of our daily lives.

Last Congress, I was honored to accept the position of co-chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition. For nearly 20 years, the Coalition has served as a resource for all members of Congress and worked to advance federal policies that raise the quality of life for individuals with heart disease.

The partnership of the Association and the Coalition is critical to raising awareness of the disease and ensuring those of us making decisions on funding and policy are educated on how what we do affects those suffering. The Association’s briefings—which they organize throughout the year—are a key component of this strategy.

Heart and stroke patients, as well as their loved ones and caregivers, need vocal advocates on Capitol Hill to ensure access to quality care and treatments. We have a duty to

see that programs aimed at combating cardiovascular disease, or CVD, as well as medical research for prevention and treatment of stroke and heart attacks, are supported appropriately at the federal level.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers and their public health implications are shocking. CVD is the nation's number one killer. A staggering 85.6 million people—1 in 3 American adults—suffer from heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular diseases. An American dies from cardiovascular disease every 40 seconds. It is estimated that by 2030, about 44% percent of all adult Americans will be affected by heart disease—with direct and indirect costs from CVD estimated to reach almost \$1 trillion by 2030.

Further, as both the Association and the CDC point out, heart disease is sometimes thought of as a “man's disease.” Yet, heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases are the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, claiming the lives of 398,035 women per year. According to the Heart Association, nearly half of all women are not aware that heart disease is the leading cause of death for women.

That's worth repeating, Mr. Speaker. Every minute, one woman dies as a result of CVD or a stroke.

The American Heart Association is leading the charge in raising awareness of this fact through coordinated campaigns, like National Wear Red Day and Go Red For Women.

One organization working in my Congressional district is the Meridian Health Foundation's “Women's Heart Fund.” Since its inception in 2007, the Foundation—focused on promoting heart health in Monmouth and Ocean County—has funded nursing scholarships, equipment for management of the most severe heart attacks and vascular screenings, and boosted funding for the Pediatric Cardiology Program at the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital and the CardioVascular Intensive Care Unit at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center, which opened last year.

While American Heart Month comes to a close tomorrow, it's important we continue these efforts year round. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who are members of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition and urge those who have not yet joined to do so. Help us continue and grow the critical Coalition-Association partnership that is working to improve our constituents' health, families, and future.

HONORING THOR CONSTRUCTION'S
35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founding of Thor Construction, one of the largest minority-owned construction companies in Minnesota, and an industry leader for contracting projects nationwide.

Founded with the objective of becoming the number one minority-owned company in the country, Thor Construction is well on its way to achieving that goal. Since 1980, Thor has led many of Minnesota's largest construction

projects. Its impressive track record includes work on Target Field, the Minneapolis Central Library, the TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Convention Center, and the new Minnesota Vikings football stadium. Thor Construction shows no signs of tiring in its mission to provide top-notch construction work that benefits both workers of color and communities at large.

Richard Copeland, the founder and chairman of Thor, is proud that his company “generates new investments and exponential returns to the communities [they] serve.” This guiding principle of social service in conjunction with high-quality development has led to projects in countless communities around Minnesota, as well as in at least six other states and five foreign countries. These industry leaders have jumped at every opportunity to expand their mission, moving well above and beyond humble Midwestern beginnings to leave a mark on the world around them.

Thor Construction has received accolades from the City of Minneapolis, Black Enterprise, the US Green Building Council, and numerous other groups for their innovative approach to constructing with purpose. By creating good-paying, union jobs for thousands of underserved individuals, Thor Construction continues to ensure that building projects also entail community development.

I am proud to represent the congressional district that Thor Construction calls home, and I eagerly await the day that I can congratulate them for achieving their goal of becoming the number one minority owned company in the United States.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY
TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 613 Azerbaijani men, women, and children killed in Khojaly on February 25 and 26, 1992. Marking the anniversary of such a tragedy is difficult, but it is critical that we remember and honor the precious lives lost.

Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable ally of the United States, and it is appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as our Azerbaijani friends mark the 23rd anniversary of the event.

Despite such hardships, Azerbaijan has been a great support to U.S. efforts in the War on Terror, and the country has made great strides over its short history as an independent nation to promote economic growth and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the town and people of Khojaly who died on those fateful days and in offering our deepest condolences to Azerbaijan on this tragic anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARME-
NIANS IN SUMGAIT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-seventh anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. My district is home to thousands of Armenian-Americans, many who are the sons and daughters of survivors. As they know well, Azerbaijani rioters started a murderous rampage in response to peaceful protests on February 27, 1988, that forever changed Armenia. During those three days, scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were forced to leave their homes and livelihoods behind.

As we recognize this tragedy, we should also take this time to commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh on being the first to demand their right to freedom and self-governance from the Soviet Union. Although a small nation, Nagorno Karabakh sparked the democracy movement that ended decades of dictatorial rule in the USSR and eventually led to the fall of the Soviet Union.

Sadly, the Azerbaijani government continues to act as an aggressor today. In November 2014, Azerbaijani armed forces shot down a Nagorno-Karabakh helicopter participating in a training exercise near the cease-fire line, killing the three crew members on board. This aggression is completely unacceptable and further hurts efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with the proud people of Nagorno Karabakh in recognizing the anniversary of these tragic events. Let today serve as a reminder for each and every one of us to continue advocating for human rights and democratic freedoms around the world.

HONORING THE 2015 ACADEMY
NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JER-
SEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up

and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—and all are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to

defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2015 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Gina-Marie Arrabito, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; John P. Dennehy, Rockaway, Morris Hills H.S.; Fredrik A. Eriksson, Woodland Park, Passaic Valley Regional H.S.; Joshua J. Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.; Christian O. Hedengren, Brookside, St. Peters Preparatory; Leland E. Hemgren, Boonton, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Liam R. Sax, Sparta, Pope John XXIII Regional H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Travis Z. Feather, Pine Brook, Bergen Catholic H.S.; Paul T. Femia, Kinnelon, Valley Forge Military Academy; Maria F. Garcia, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Colleen M. Griffin, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Christian A. Marini, Kinnelon, Seton Hall Preparatory; Luke H. Mayer, Morristown, Delbarton School; Christopher J.L. Morgan, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; Kelly A. Smith, Roseland, West Essex H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Seth M. Abbott, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Mark G. Brown, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.; James E. Crimmins, Madison, Chaminade H.S., NY; Joshua C. Corbett, Mendham, Gill St. Bernards School; Jacob S. Ferraro, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Aaron J. Hanko, Montville, Naval Academy Preparatory School; Warren J. Lee, East Hanover, Oratory Preparatory School; Jay Oh, Madison, Madison H.S.; Austin J. Tighe, Little Falls, Seton Hall Preparatory; Jacob T. Valente, Wayne, Wayne Valley H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Matthew E. Babich, Wayne, Regis H.S. NY, NY; Alexandra R.K. Bruno, Little Falls, Passaic Valley H.S.; Jonathan P. Davis, Chatham, Chatham H.S.; Alexander C. Lagasca, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; John M. Lowe, Parsippany, Gill St. Bernards School; Angela E. Martone, Lincoln Park, Trinity Christian School; Richard R. O'Connor, New Vernon, Miami University; Ivan V. Peters, Boonton, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg; James E. Schoch, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Austin J.C. Williams, Verona, Verona H.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI
DONALD A. WEBER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rabbi Donald Weber on his 30th Anniversary as Rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah in Marlboro, New Jersey. Rabbi Weber is an outstanding leader of Temple Rodeph Torah and an active member of the community whose contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Under Rabbi Weber's leadership, the Temple Rodeph Torah congregation has grown from 66 families in 1984 to more than 350 today. He also began the TRT Cares program

to provide help to those in the community facing financial hardships, which earned the Fain Award for Social Justice in 2011.

In addition to his efforts within Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber is also an active member of the community. He has served as the Marlboro Township Police Chaplain since 2005, is a founding member and Board Chair of the Marlboro Township Ethics Board and is a life member of the Morganville First Aid Squad. He remains an advocate for hunger issues and personal rights, serving as a member and co-chair of the Jewish Leaders' Council of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and a trustee of Planned Parenthood of Monmouth County, among others.

Prior to becoming the first full-time rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber served as Volunteer Chaplain and Supervisor of the Pediatrics Floor at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York and as Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth David in Commack, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Rabbi Donald Weber and recognizing him for his dedication to community outreach and social action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 92, I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

TEXANS KNOW BARBECUE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Killen's Barbecue, a Pearland, TX legendary institution, for being named in the top 10 in GQ Magazine's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

All due respect to other states, Texans know barbecue better than anyone! Don't let the never-ending line to get in stop you from tasting a little bit of heaven. It's well worth the wait. Chef Ronnie Killen is a true master and his culinary skills are keeping true Texas barbecue alive.

I commend Chef Killen for sharing his true Texas Barbecue with the great folks of TX—22. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Killen's Barbecue for being named one of GQ's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

IN RECOGNITION OF LILLI REY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lilli Rey who was chosen as the 2015 Citizen of the Year by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Group. This extraordinary honor is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions to the Hillsborough community, in particular to the education and well-being of our children. I can't think of a more deserving person than Lilli to receive this honor. She is the personification of generosity, grace and getting things done.

I have watched and admired her dedication and commitment since Lilli moved to Hillsborough two decades ago. I feel very fortunate to count Lilli as one of my closest friends and neighbors. The word "no" barely exists in her vocabulary; if there is a project that needs help, Lilli will take it on and bring it to a successful conclusion. She has given her time and energy to countless causes. She served as the President and Executive Board Member for the North School Parent Group, the 2010 Town of Hillsborough Centennial Co-Chair, Girl Scout Leader, 4th Grade North Yosemite Trip Chair, and Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance Tickets Chair. Lilli is part of the heartbeat of the town.

To say that Lilli loves children is an understatement. As the very proud mother of four—Zach, Zoe, Sadie and Cassie—she is devoted to them completely and always puts them first. But her love is not reserved exclusively for her own children, she shares the same care and tenderness for other children, always striving to contribute to their well-being.

Lilli has also been a steadfast and generous supporter of our local schools, Shelter Network, the San Mateo Community Hospital Foundation, NARAL and Protect Our Defenders Foundation. These groups protect the rights and dignity of our children, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, women, victims of sexual assault in the military, and health care for low income women—issues that are very near and dear to my heart and issues that have created a very deep bond between Lilli and me.

To watch Lilli at an event is to watch a symphony conductor. Even though she is working harder than anyone, she makes it look easy and harmonic. She is in the right place at the right time and she makes everything flow perfectly.

Any organization is lucky to have Lilli on board. She will identify what needs to get done and get it done while improving the organization and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize an exceptional woman and philanthropist who tirelessly gives back and never asks for anything in return. Lilli Rey is a treasured gift to the community and truly deserves to be honored as the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Citizen of the Year.

DON NELSON: A LOCAL LEGEND IN BROADCASTING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish a Houston icon, constituent and TV anchor Don Nelson a happy retirement.

Don has been a voice to Texans for 39 years and I have known him most of that time.

In those 39 years, Don has just about done it all.

He did broadcasting at a radio station in Pennsylvania after serving in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years.

And then worked in radio in West Virginia and New Mexico before he made it to the promise land, Texas when ABC 13 News hired him.

From hosting "Dialing For Dollars," "Good Morning Houston," covering traffic, and interviewing celebrities, sports stars and rodeo entertainers, Don is quite the commentator.

Don's genuine, happy personality and work ethic really have made Houston's morning news number one.

Our morning commutes won't be the same without him.

Hats off to you, Don.

You can now sleep in and enjoy your morning coffee.

The people of Houston extend our deepest appreciation.

Congrats on your retirement, you have earned it.

Best wishes in the next chapter of your life.

You are quite the legend in local broadcasting.

And that's just the way it is.

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL'S "HOLY SMOKE" BBQ COOK-OFF**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Church of St. Paul's "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off which takes place each March 6th and 7th, 2015 in the city of Mission, Texas.

The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an International Barbeque Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds going to fund scholarships for area youth.

Talented barbeque chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken, along with beans, fajitas, pan de campo, and desserts. The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas due to the scholarship assistance it provides to students in furthering their education.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star State-style food and music.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN L. CURTICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy, Christian L. Curtice. Deputy Curtice served an honorable thirty-three years with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, and his service is to be commended.

Christian Curtice was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1959, and subsequently moved with his family to California. He graduated from the Pacific Grove High School in 1978. A few years after high school, Christian had moved to the Central Valley and was sworn in as a deputy sheriff with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982. The first few years Deputy Curtice served with the Fresno County Sheriff's office, he also pursued a college education. In 1986 he graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology. Three years later he became a detective with the Sheriff's Crimes Against Persons Unit and became a member of the California Homicide Investigators Association. In 1992 he was promoted to Deputy IV, and was assigned as Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division in 2001.

During his years of service, Deputy Curtice has received many awards and commendations, including being the first deputy at the Fresno County Sheriff's Office to receive the California Highway Patrol's "10851 Award" for vehicle theft recovery in 1989. In 1992, he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" award for the Central Valley area, and in 1993 he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" for the State of California.

Apart from his awards, Deputy Curtice has been recognized in many instances in which he was integral to solving cases and saving lives through his use of ingenuity and bravery, often putting his own life at risk. Deputy Curtice was one of the principal investigators on the Ewell triple murder in the Sunnyside area of Fresno County. The case received major national news coverage and eventually led to the arrest and conviction of Dana Ewell and Joel Radovich. Following their conviction, Deputy Curtice and his partner, Detective Souza, wrote the book "Catch Me If You Can," which chronicled the investigation.

Outside of his position as Deputy and Detective, Deputy Curtice has been a firm believer in giving back to his community. In 2008, he worked with the Central California Blood Center to launch the Holiday Heroes Blood Drive, which is now held every year during the week before Christmas, and continues to become increasingly more successful. He also made it a personal priority to revamp the Fresno County Sheriff's ailing website by hiring a dedicated IT specialist. Working with the IT specialist, Deputy Curtice helped launch a redesigned, user friendly website. Additionally, by creating new Facebook and Twitter pages for the agency, Deputy Curtice played an integral role in ensuring the Sheriff's Office is able stay in contact with the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

the distinguished career of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy Christian L. Curtice, and to wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC/MORRIS COUNTY CHAPTER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ARC/Morris County Chapter, located in Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

The ARC/Morris County Chapter, a non-profit organization, is Morris County's largest provider of services for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. ARC/Morris strives toward supporting and advancing these people and their families, and imagines a world where people with intellectual disabilities are valued by society. This organization participates in activities and projects for the purpose of helping people with intellectual disabilities achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency. With facilities in four towns, ARC/Morris is prominent in the Morris County region. By offering multiple training facilities, ARC/Morris presents convenient locations, which better serve members of the community with intellectual disabilities.

Formally incorporated as the Morris County Unit of the New Jersey Association for Retarded Children in 1954, ARC/Morris has created Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, Supportive Living Programs, and Supported Employment Programs. Over its 60-year history, ARC/Morris has formed a culture of assistance through the implementation of training programs. These programs, offered at ARC/Morris adult training facilities, provide adults with intellectual disabilities with the necessary skills to live independent and self-sufficient lives. Currently, over 200 individuals receive support from ARC/Morris at its several Morris County centers, while numerous families also receive assistance through ARC/Morris' After Care and Saturday Drop-Off Respite Programs. The caregiving services provided by ARC/Morris both support families in need of a helping hand. ARC/Morris currently provides individuals twenty-one years or older with housing options, including nineteen group homes, two respite group homes, and a variety of apartments and condominiums.

To serve individuals with intellectual disabilities, ARC/Morris holds various fundraising programs and events. The organization is innovative in its fundraising approach. For example, through the AmazonSmile Program, a portion of Amazon.com's profits is donated to ARC/Morris whenever an individual shops through smile.amazon.com. ARC/Morris has also implemented a Car Donation Program, where individuals can donate a car to the Charity Car Donation Center for the purposes of donating it to ARC/Morris. Volunteers are widely accepted by ARC/Morris and anyone looking to help persons with intellectual disabilities is welcome to assist in enhancing this cause.

ARC/Morris holds many events to raise awareness of its goals and achievements. Included in these events are the 26th Annual

ARC/Morris Foundation Golf Outing, the 10th Annual Wine Tasting and Fine Art Exhibit, and an upcoming webinar on Social Security benefits for parents of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. On September 21, 2014, ARC/Morris held the 11th Annual Foundation Walk. This walk, which serves as a way to support the programs and services ARC/Morris offers, featured over 300 walkers and raised over \$28,000. Events like these help ARC/Morris continue its mission to create a society in which acceptance of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is the norm and not the exception.

I commend the members and the Board of Directors of the ARC/Morris County Chapter for assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities in Morris County. This organization has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to ensuring that these valued residents receive proper care and sufficient training in order to live a happy and self-sufficient lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the ARC/Morris County Chapter as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA: A SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I held a hearing to examine the state of human rights in Cuba, which is a very timely topic indeed, given the Obama administration's sea change in policy toward Cuba announced at the end of last year.

I have repeatedly asked whether in undertaking this change in policy, the Obama administration used the considerable leverage that it wields to seek to better the condition of the Cuban people, or whether, as I fear, an opportunity was squandered in its haste to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough and create a legacy for the President.

The hearing was not only about Castro regime accountability, but also Obama administration accountability, with Congress exercising its role of both oversight and as a bully pulpit for reminding the world that Cuba remains a Communist dictatorship which continues to arrest political dissidents—over 200 so far in 2015—and one whose caudillo, Raul Castro, has declared would not change, even in response to the Obama administration's concessions.

This Castro regime continues to harbor fugitives from justice such as Joanne Chesimard, who was convicted in the 1973 murder of a state trooper in my home state of New Jersey, Officer Werner Foerster. Indeed, earlier this month, we had the Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere Roberta Jacobson appear before the full Foreign Affairs Committee. I asked her what the response of the Cuban Government was when she raised the issue of the return of Joanne Chesimard to justice. She replied that the Cuban Government stated that it was "not interested in discussing her return."

This is unacceptable. I received a statement from Christopher J. Burgos, the President of

the State Troopers Fraternal Organization of New Jersey, wherein he states on behalf of our Jersey State Troopers that "We are shocked and very disappointed that returning a convicted killer of a State Trooper was not already demanded and accomplished in the context of the steps announced by the White House regarding this despotic dictatorship."

We had with us three very brave and uniquely qualified witnesses to the brutality of the Cuban dictatorship, three human rights activists who at great personal cost to themselves and their families stood up for human dignity.

We heard about the deplorable state of human rights in Cuba, how Afro-Cubans in particular face discrimination on a day-to-day basis, and the brutality with which human rights activists, including women, are treated. We heard of murders sanctioned by the government, of beatings, of arrests and re-arrests.

And I would also like to point out that after testifying here, in public, two of our witnesses returned to Cuba. They know that one day the regime will exact a price against them for their temerity. Yet they insisted on appearing, so that they can share the truth of what is happening in their beloved isle. What bravery!

I therefore would like to dedicate the hearing I held to the Cuban people, who have suffered for so many decades under the brutal regime of the Castro brothers, and to thank our witnesses for testifying. I also would like to thank in particular my dear friend and colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership day-in-and-day-out, in good weather and in bad, on behalf of the people of not only Cuba, but in countries such as Venezuela, China, and Vietnam, where the people continue to suffer under oppressive rulers. Thank you, ILEANA, for your leadership and moral clarity.

It is thus my belief that there should be no easing of the pressure until Cuba has met definitive and concrete human rights and democratic milestones. Among these milestones are 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 is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list.

To that end, I would like to state that I intend to introduce legislation that will complement our existing legislation on Cuba, in particular Helms-Burton, making sure that important human rights milestones are met before our government makes concessions that are effectively unilateral, squandering leverage.

HONORING DAVID GOUDY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, David Goudy has made the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich his life's work. Over the three decades of his vigorous and enlightened service,

David has led the Montshire Museum from a fledgling enterprise to a nationally recognized center for science learning.

Under David's leadership Montshire Museum has developed their capacity for high-quality science education. He helped form the Montshire School Partnership Initiative that supports science education in the region's rural K-8 schools by building capacity and infrastructure for high-quality science programs. Montshire Museum has become a national model, attracting research and program support from numerous private foundations and federal agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Education (DOE), National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As Montshire's executive director, David was instrumental in creating the partnership between Dartmouth College and the Montshire Museum, known as the Dartmouth-Montshire Institute for Science Education, a collaborative effort drawing upon the resources of these two leading institutions to better serve the educational needs of Vermont and New Hampshire. During David's tenure, Montshire became an official interpretive site for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in 1995.

David's leadership extends beyond the Montshire Museum. He currently serves on the executive committee of the New England Museum Association and key committees of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. He serves as an evaluator for the Museum Assessment Program of the American Alliance of Museums. David has been recognized with the first annual New Hampshire Corporate Fund Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management, and represented Montshire at a White House reception with President Clinton recognizing Montshire as the first recipient of the National Award for Museum Service.

Mr. Speaker, David has provided the Montshire Museum with many years of remarkable service and his lasting legacy is immediately clear to anyone who visits the museum. While we will miss his exemplary leadership, the Board of Trustees is fully committed to maintaining the high standards that he has established for the Montshire's educational programs, exhibits, facilities and visitor services.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR
MICHAEL B. RYAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honorable Michael B. Ryan on his retirement as Mayor of Lake Como, New Jersey. As a mayor, union member, and United States Army Veteran, Mayor Ryan embodies the American spirit and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Mayor Ryan has been an outstanding public servant and labor advocate for both New Jer-

sey and his home state of California. Mayor Ryan's introduction to labor and politics began in his native California, but he continued his efforts upon moving to New Jersey after marrying his wife, Marlene Brown. Mayor Ryan dedicated many years to leading his community as a council member, council president and mayor. Although retiring from elected office, Mayor Ryan remains active in local and state politics. For nearly 20 years, he has been Democratic Municipal Chairman of South Belmar and Lake Como. He has also been elected to the New Jersey State Democratic Committee and previously served as President of the South Belmar Democratic Club. Mayor Ryan is also committed to protecting labor rights, currently serving as Secretary Treasurer of the Monmouth and Ocean Counties Central Labor Council AFL-CIO and as a member of Teamsters-GCIU 612M.

In addition to his work in the public and labor sectors, Mayor Ryan is an Account Representative at Dimensional Management Corporation and is an active member of the community, volunteering at Camp Zehnder YMCA, serving as an usher at St. Rose Church and as a member of the Friendly Sons of the Shiloh of the Jersey Shore and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mayor Michael Ryan on his retirement. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking him for his leadership and service to the Borough of Lake Como.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT THOMAS
TROMMELEN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Sergeant Thomas Trommelen who, after 30 years of service to the City of Paterson as Supervisor of the Paterson Police Department's Special Investigations Unit, is being honored for his retirement celebration tonight on Friday, February 27, 2015.

A native son of Paterson, Detective Sergeant Trommelen has devoted his career to serving the community that raised him, most notably serving as Detective Sergeant in the Special Investigations Unit.

A graduate of Paterson's Don Bosco Technical High School, Detective Sergeant Trommelen first pursued his passion for public service as an emergency medical technician for Paterson's Fire Department. After displaying exemplary valor serving those in critical need, Detective Sergeant Trommelen was appointed as a Patrolman for the Passaic County Park Police Department and then, on November 4, 1985, found his true calling as a Patrolman with the Paterson Police Department.

During his time as a Patrolman for the Paterson Police Department, Detective Sergeant Trommelen strived to uphold the department's mission, which is, "to preserve the peace and to protect and serve all who live or work in, as well as those who travel through,

our city and in so doing, make a meaningful contribution to the quality of life in our community." Detective Sergeant Trommelen's enthusiasm for public service and extraordinary work ethic in the Patrol Division prompted him to be assigned a permanent position to Paterson's Narcotics Division, a move that would greatly benefit the City of Paterson over the next three decades. Tasked with addressing the city's vice issues, Detective Sergeant Trommelen proved to be a formidable force within the department, receiving commendations, awards and respect amongst his colleagues and peers alike. He has also served at the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office as an 'Expert Witness' in the area of narcotics enforcement working with the DEA, FBI and other Federal Agencies in combating the plague of narcotics in and around the City of Paterson.

Residing in Clifton, Detective Sergeant Trommelen has been married to this wife Joann for 25 years and they have two adult children, Alyssa and Tommy. Detective Sergeant Trommelen and his family sustained a life changing event in December of 1997 when he lost his older brother John, a Port Authority Police Officer, to a heart attack. However, he took tragedy and turned it into a positive force through serving his community, the Knights of Columbus and St. Phillips the Apostle Parish, for many years. Just in the past few years, he has solicited the donation, managed the collection of and organized the distribution of thousands of jackets and pairs of shoes for Paterson's children.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I am honored to acknowledge Detective Sergeant Trommelen who has been a tremendous leader, mentor, and public servant in my hometown of Paterson. There is no doubt, in the minds of his family, friends and colleagues that the civic minded Detective Sergeant Trommelen will continue to 'Serve & Protect' for many years to come.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Detective Sergeant Thomas Trommelen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sgt. Trommelen's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Detective Sergeant Thomas Trommelen.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 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 \$18,133,356,358,144.49. We've added \$7,506,479,309,231.41 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 93, I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 86–90 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted no on #86, no on #87, yes on #88, yes on #89, and yes on #90.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK EDWARD “ED” RAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Edward “Ed” Ray on what would have been his 94th birthday. In a 1976 incident, Ed helped save 26 students from a kidnapping attempt in the city of Chowchilla. Recognizing such heroic actions, it is fitting and appropriate that the City of Chowchilla has chosen to name its largest park “Ed Ray Park.”

Frank Edward Ray was born in Le Grand, California on February 26, 1921. One of eight children of Frank and Marie Ray, he moved to Chowchilla with his family and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1940. In 1942, he married his wife, Odessa, and bought a ranch where they raised dairy cows and grew corn. Ed then worked for the Dairyland Union School District as a bus driver for nearly 40 years.

Ed was the driver of the school bus packed with summer school kids that was hijacked in Chowchilla in 1976. They were later escorted into a buried moving truck in a quarry, where Ed led them to safety after he and two older boys dug their way out. During the time inside the quarry, Ray gave comfort and hope to the school children. No one was hurt and astonishingly he was able to recall significant details of the escort van’s license plates, assisting in the police investigation.

Ed was a humble and quiet man; he rarely spoke of the ordeal. He did not flaunt himself as a hero. In his final days, Ed was visited by several of the schoolchildren he helped save from the kidnapping. They will always remember him as their hero. A few years after retiring in 1988, he bought the bus for \$500 because he did not want it to become scrap metal at a junkyard. He donated it to a nearby museum in Le Grand, California. Ed’s selfless nature made him a pillar of the Chowchilla community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the memory of Frank Edward “Ed”

Ray for his brave acts in 1976. May his brave deed and care for the children he drove to and from school every day never be forgotten.

EDUCATION WEEK SPOTLIGHT:
THE COMMON-CORE STANDARDS’
UNDEMOCRATIC PUSH**HON. MIMI WALTERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article by Williamson M. Evers, published online on January 13, 2015.

One of the most influential books in social science in the last 50 years is economist Albert O. Hirschman’s *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*.

In this pivotal 1970 book, Hirschman discusses how individuals react when services they rely on deteriorate. The basic responses available to us are “exit” and “voice.” Hirschman points out, where exit means turning to a different provider or leaving the area, and voice means political participation.

We tend to think of these responses as stark alternatives. Hirschman, as a social scientist, wanted us to consider the interplay between them.

Exit usually has lower costs than voice for the individual. With exit, you can avoid the long slog of politics and simply turn to someone else or move somewhere else.

But there is a limiting case: Exit can have high costs when individuals are loyal to institutions—thus the third component in Hirschman’s trio of exit, voice, and loyalty.

In the 1830s, when Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States, he found Americans intensely loyal to their local schools. Americans saw schools as extensions of their families and neighborhoods. They viewed public schools as akin to voluntarily supported charities and as part of what social scientists today call civil society.

Tocqueville described township school committees that were deeply rooted in their local communities. State control of local public education took the form of an annual report sent by the township committee to the state capital. There was no national control.

Today, Americans retain much of the sentiment about local schools they had in Tocqueville’s day. But, increasingly, parents and taxpayers view the public schools as an unresponsive bureaucracy carrying out edicts from distant capitals. Today, we are dealing with a deteriorating situation in a declining institution, namely widespread ineffective instruction in the public schools.

The Common Core State Standards have come to the fore precisely at a time when civically active individuals care much more than they usually do about exit, voice, and loyalty. But the common core has denied voice and tried to block exit.

The common core’s designers have taken the existing bureaucracy and increased its centralization and uniformity. By creating the common-core content standards behind closed doors, the authors increased the alienation of the public from schools as institutions worthy of loyalty. The general public had no voice in creating or adopting the common core.

The other approach in times of a deteriorating public service is offering better exit options. But the common core’s proponents have created an almost inescapable national cartel.

There has long been a monopoly problem in public education, which was why economist Milton Friedman called for opportunity scholarships (also known as vouchers) to create a powerful exit option. But even in the absence of opportunity scholarships and charter schools, we had some exit options in the past because of competitive federalism, meaning horizontal competition among jurisdictions.

Economist Caroline Hoxby studied metropolitan areas with many school districts (like Boston) and metropolitan areas contained within one large district (like Miami or Los Angeles). She found that student performance is better in areas with competing multiple districts, where parents at the same income level can move to another locality, in search of a better education.

We have also seen competitive federalism work in education at the interstate level. Back in the 1950s, education in Mississippi and North Carolina performed at the same low level. North Carolina tried a number of educational experiments and moved ahead of Mississippi. Likewise, Massachusetts moved up over the years from mediocre to stellar.

The common core’s promoters are endeavoring to suppress competitive federalism. The common core’s rules and its curriculum guidance are the governing rules of a cartel. The common core’s promoters and their federal facilitators wanted a cartel that would override competitive federalism and shut down the curriculum alternatives that federalism would allow.

The new common-core-aligned tests, whose development was supported with federal funds, function to police the cartel. All long-lasting cartels must have a mechanism for policing and punishing those seen as shirkers and chiselers, or, in other words, those who want to escape the cartel’s strictures or who want increased flexibility so they can succeed.

The new leadership of the College Board by David Coleman, one of the common core’s chief architects, is being used to corral Catholic schools, other private schools, and home-schooling parents into the cartel. The proponents of the common core have now established a clearinghouse for authorized teaching materials to try to close off any remaining possible avenue of escaping the cartel.

What was the rationale for the common core? The name given to the Obama administration’s signature school reform effort, the Race to the Top program, promotes the idea that the federal government needs to step in and lead a race. Central to this rhetoric is the idea that state performance standards were already on a downward slide and that, without nationalization, standards would inexorably continue on a “race to the bottom.”

I would disagree. While providers of public education certainly face the temptation to do what might look like taking the easy way out by letting academic standards decline, there is also countervailing pressure in the direction of higher standards.

If state policymakers and education officials let content standards slip, low standards will damage a state’s reputation for having a trained workforce. Such a drop in standards will even damage the policymakers’ own reputations.

In 2007, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute looked empirically at state performance standards over time in a study called “The Proficiency Illusion.” The study showed that, while states had a variety of performance standards (as would be expected in a federal system), the supposed “race to the bottom” was not happening. The proponents of the common core are wrong in their claims that state performance standards were inevitably on a downward slide.

The common core, in fact, provided relief from competitive pressure from other states. Sonny Perdue, the governor of Georgia at the time that the common core was created (the initiative was launched in 2009, and the standards were released in 2010), did not like it when the low-performing students of his state were compared with students in other states with standards different from Georgia's. He became the lead governor in bringing the National Governors Association into the national standards effort.

Nationalizing standards and tests eliminated them as differentiated school reform instruments that could be used by states in competition over educational attainment among the states.

The common core undermines citizens' exit option and competitive federalism. It was designed to do so. It likewise evades and negates the voice option. But the makers of this malign utopia have forgotten a few things.

They forgot that the desire for a voice, the desire for political action, can become particularly intense when people are faced with the prospect of nowhere to exit to. They forgot that hemming in parents and teachers would create a demand for alternatives and escape routes. Alternatives to the national common-core-aligned tests have arisen. States are dropping these national tests. States are also struggling to escape the common-core cartel itself. Parents are opting out of common-core testing.

By trying to block exit and voice, the designers and proponents of the Common Core State Standards have caused blowback: A large parent-, teacher-, and community-based movement has arisen to oppose the common core and its national tests.

DEDICATION TO RESEARCH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Arturo Hernandez, Pearland, Texas resident and University of Houston professor, on receiving the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award. This award honors his groundbreaking research on how the brain processes and learns language.

Dr. Hernandez's research on language study merits such recognition not only because it is an outstanding accomplishment in its own right, but also because it opens the gate to a new and undiscovered field of study at the convergence of language processing and genetics.

I commend Dr. Arturo Hernandez on his dedication to research that promises to inform and meaningfully impact the education process. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Hernandez for receiving the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 92, 93, 94 I was unable to cast my vote due to attending a speaking event on the impor-

tance of U.S. Cyber Security. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

NIGERIA ON THE BRINK?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and is the continent's largest economy. Unfortunately, Nigeria is beset by various challenges that threaten the peace and stability of this African giant. The terrorist group Boko Haram continues its bloody reign of terror, now threatening to establish a "caliphate" on the model of ISIS in the Levant. Religious and ethnic discord, which pre-dates Boko Haram's emergence, continues unabated. Lower oil prices have serious damaged an economy significantly dependent on oil revenues. Meanwhile, the prospect of a violent repeat of the 2011 post-election scene has ratcheted up tensions in Nigeria even further. A hearing that I recently held examined the situation in Nigeria and the U.S. efforts to maintain positive relations with the largest U.S. trading partner in Africa and a major ally in international peace-keeping.

U.S.-Nigeria relations were understandably rocky during the military rule of Sani Abacha in the 1990s. However, the advent of democracy with the 1999 elections ushered in an improved atmosphere of cooperation. Nigeria consistently ranks among the top recipients of U.S. bilateral foreign assistance and is the second-largest beneficiary of U.S. investment in Africa. In recent months, though, our relations have deteriorated. Apparently, some in the government of President Goodluck Jonathan feel the United States is meddling in their internal affairs, especially when it comes to our noting deprivation of the due process rights of citizens by Nigerian military and security forces. Our view is that friends don't just stand by when friends commit human rights abuses.

The subcommittee that I chair held a hearing last July 10th to examine the complaints that human rights vetting was a major obstacle to U.S. counterterrorism. What we found was that the State Department estimated that half of Nigerian forces would pass our vetting process, which we found is slowed by too few staff working on these important issues. Still, the Nigerian Government must be more cooperative. Some units in larger divisions may have human rights issues, but if replaced by units without such baggage, there would be created an entirely acceptable division for training. Late last year, the Nigerian Government cancelled the counter-terrorism training of one of its battalions, which now places the entire training program on hold. We are making arrangements for discussions in the near future with Nigerian Military officials and Members of Congress and the Obama administration to overcome the current stalemate and resume the cooperation necessary to meet the challenge posed by Boko Haram.

This terrorist group has wreaked havoc on the people of Nigeria, particularly in the northeast. It is estimated that more than 5,500 people were killed in Boko Haram attacks last year alone, representing more than 60% of the more than 9,000 deaths caused by this group

in the past five years. As many as 2,000 people may have perished in the Boko Haram attack on the town of Baga and nearby villages last month. More than a million Nigerians have been displaced internally by the violence, and tens of thousands of others are now refugees in neighboring countries. Clearly, Boko Haram violence is escalating drastically.

Boko Haram has become part of the global jihadist movement and threatens not only Nigeria, but also Cameroon, Chad and Niger. While the terrorist group may not be an official affiliate of al-Qaeda or ISIS, they appear to be trying to create an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria. Various press reports estimate that the group has seized as much as 70% of Borno state, with additional territory under its control in neighboring Yobe and Adamawa states. In fact, Reuters calculated that by mid-January of this year, Boko Haram was in control of more than 30,000 square kilometers of territory—an area the size of the state of Maryland. For approximately two years, I pressed the administration to designate Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist organization (FTO). I argued that, like cancer, early intervention can mitigate its spread, severity and duration. I traveled to Nigeria twice and convened three hearings during the last Congress on why an FTO designation might help, only to be told by then-Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson that "the phenomenon of Boko Haram is one of discrediting the Central Government in power for its failure to deliver services to people."

On the very day of our hearing to consider a bill on FTO designation, the state Department, led by Secretary of State Kerry announced that Boko Haram was being designated a Foreign Terrorist organization.

Meanwhile, Nigeria faces the prospects of post-election violence after presidential voting. The race pits President Jonathan against former Nigerian military ruler General Muhammadu Buhari in a re-run of the 2011 elections. This time, however, Buhari's All Progressive Congress (APC) is a coalition of major opposition political parties and includes defectors from President Jonathan's People's Democratic Party (PDP), such as Speaker of the National Assembly Aminu Tambuwal.

Some PDP officials have referred to their opponents as "Nigeria's Muslim Brotherhood," while APC officials accuse the Jonathan administration of representing only Christian southerners. Party spokesmen on both sides have warned of potential violence if their candidate doesn't win. Out of nearly 69 million registered voters in Nigeria, political observers believe this race could be decided by as few as 700,000 votes. Lack of action by the government to ensure that internally displaced voters can participate in the elections, delays in the distribution of voter cards and in the recruitment and training of poll workers places in question the effectiveness of the February elections.

Moreover, the election laws require that a winning presidential candidate must achieve a majority of the votes and at least 25% of the vote in two-thirds of the states. With so much territory in the control of Boko Haram or under the threat of their violence in the North, the northern-based APC likely would question a loss even though they have refused to accept a delay in voting to ensure that pre-election preparations are complete.

According to a recent Gallup poll, only 13% of Nigerians have confidence in the electoral

process. This makes the “Quick Count” being planned by a coalition of Nigerian civil society groups vital in providing any confidence that the vote on February 14th reflects the will of the people.

In the face of all the challenges faced by Nigeria, its allies—such as the United States—must understand fully the context of this situation in order to determine how best to be of help. We hope that the Nigerian Government resulting from the February elections will be accepting of outside advice and assistance. Nigeria is the proverbial “too big to fail” nation. A collapse of its economy, increase in refugees to its neighbors or spread of its homegrown terrorism to the region and the broader international community clearly will be problematic for more than just Nigeria. Religious extremism already is a problem elsewhere in the Sahel region. Last month, Muslim extremists destroyed more than 40 Christian churches in Niger because of what they felt was irreverent depictions of the prophet Mohammed—not in Niger but in Europe. The hearing was just the beginning of our renewed efforts to help Nigeria address the problems that threaten its stability. We must be honest with Nigerians and ourselves about the difficulties we both face. This is why we have asked our witnesses to give their honest assessments of where we are in the various situations Nigeria encounters and to suggest what actions our Government can and should take to be most helpful. It is in our mutual interest to do so, and therefore, we will continue our efforts to restore full military and security cooperation between our two countries.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL
BROADCASTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service that local broadcasters bring to North Carolina's 8th Congressional district.

From coverage on the most serious issues facing our communities to commentary on local sports teams, we often turn to our local television and radio stations to provide us with timely and relevant news coverage.

Just this week, North Carolina experienced a winter storm that impacted my constituents. It was local broadcasters who were there to deliver emergency communications, weather forecasts, tips on staying safe, and information regarding school closures.

Time and time again, the tireless efforts of our local broadcasting teams produce in-depth reporting that keeps citizens informed on a variety of topics that are important to their lives.

They often lead the way in generosity in our communities and encourage citizens to lend a helping hand to their fellow neighbor.

It is an honor to extend these remarks thanking the local broadcasters in North Carolina's 8th Congressional district for their service to our communities.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—
WEEKSVILLE (BROOKLYN, NY)

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, I would like to share with you the untold story of Weeksville. Weeksville, though rarely mentioned among the historically black and vibrant neighborhoods, was very dynamic and was founded by African-American free men in Brooklyn during the 19th century.

In 1838, a former Virginia slave named James Weeks bought land from another free African-American man. Several African-American investors, political activists and other free men from the South started moving to this plot of land bought by Mr. Weeks. As more and more people moved to this Promised Land, it became known as Weeksville. By 1850, more than 500 African-American free men were residing in Weeksville.

According to historical reports, the population of Weeksville was quite diverse, two of the residents were born in Africa, 40% of the residents were south-born and the rest of the inhabitants were from all over the East Coast. Not only was Weeksville diverse, but it was also a successful and independent community. One-third of the men in the neighborhood over the age of 21 were landowners, the community had its own churches, had a school which was the first school in the U.S. to integrate both staff and students, and a newspaper called “Freedman's Torchlight”. In the 1860s, the national headquarter of the African Society Civilization was located in Weeksville and the neighborhood also housed an orphanage called the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum.

Today, all that remains of Weeksville are four small cottages known as the Hunter Road houses. Fortunately, the Weeks Heritage Center formed in 1972 has managed to raise funds to preserve the houses as National Historic places. Preserving such landscapes is important to educate our children and to embrace the beauty of their heritage.

If you want to learn more about Weeksville, I invite you to read the book “Brooklyn's Promised Land: The Free Black Community of Weeksville, New York” by Judith Wellman. In this book, Professor Wellman provides details about the everyday lives of the inhabitants of Weeksville and also narrates the rise and fall of this promising community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2015 my vote on roll call no. 98 was not recorded electronically. I would like to state that I intended to vote “no”.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRINITY COLLEGE BANTAMS MENS SQUASH TEAM—2015 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2015 National Team Championship (NTC) Men's champions, the Trinity College Bantams. On Sunday, February 22, the men secured their 15th national title and Potter Cup.

Their accomplishments continue to raise the standard for athleticism and achievement. I would like to congratulate each member of the team, Coach Paul Assaiante, and all the fans and supporters who made this great victory possible. Also, the Trinity's women's squash team deserves special recognition for their strong season under Coach Wendy Bartlett.

I cannot communicate these achievements more articulately than the Hartford Courant did in its editorial published on February 23rd: Trinity College Bantams Rule Men's Squash Roost.

I submit the text of that article.

[From The Hartford Courant, Feb. 23, 2015]

TRINITY COLLEGE BANTAMS RULE MEN'S
SQUASH ROOST

Congratulations to Trinity College's men's squash team, which defended its home court Sunday and brought home its 15th national championship since 1998. The Bantams reclaimed the crown they have lost only lost four times in 19 consecutive finals appearances. Once the mouse that roared among the indoor racket game's longtime Ivy League establishment, Trinity has gone from upstart to pacesetter.

Under the steady tutelage of coach Paul Assaiante, who has guided the team's remarkable rise to the squash elite, the Bantams won a handy 7-2 victory over St. Lawrence University, which was making its initial appearance in the national finals. It was the first time that no Ivy League team was in the Potter Cup finals since the championship began in 1989. Among college champions crowned since 1942, only the U.S. Naval Academy and Trinity have supplanted Ivy League schools as national champions. In a sign of the sport's broadening reach, the University of Rochester and Franklin and Marshall College were other non-Ivy contenders this year.

Trinity's women's squash team, the 2014 national champions, deserves its own congratulations for a strong season that fell one win short of defending its title. The women, under coach Wendy Bartlett, lost in the national finals to the Harvard University women on Feb. 15.

RECOGNIZING DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S (DIA) 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denver International Airport's (DIA) 20 years of service to the people of Colorado. The airport started serving flyers on February

28, 1995 and has brought travelers to and from Denver safely and swiftly ever since.

Today, Denver International's CEO, Kim Day, and the airport staff operate the fifth-busiest airport in the country. DIA has become an economic engine for the state of Colorado, stimulating more than \$26 billion in annual revenue for the region.

Additionally, DIA now supports more than 183,000 jobs, with an estimated annual payroll of nearly \$8.5 billion. The airport has grown to serve more than 170 nonstop destinations around the world in nine countries, representing new gateways to cultural and economic opportunities in Asia, Central America, Europe, and beyond.

In addition to serving the people of Colorado, DIA set the standard for environmentally responsible airports. Denver International's translucent fabric canopy takes advantage of our 300 days of sunshine per year to create a passively lit interior. Additionally, the airport hosts a 9,000 panel solar array that produces 3.5 million kilowatts of power.

For me, DIA's distinctive profile that mimics both the snow-peaked Rockies and the Native American teepees of Colorado's history means that I have arrived home.

I congratulate everyone involved with the airport in reaching this milestone anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for their continued success and service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON
FRANKEL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ron Frankel who was chosen to receive the 2015 Community Care Award by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Groups. This award is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions that have broadly touched the lives of our children. Not only is he a terrific science teacher, but you will not find anyone in Hillsborough or the entire school district who doesn't sing the praises of Mr. Frankel as the best administrator of the 6th grade Outdoor Ed program.

The 6th grade Outdoor Ed program is a one-week field trip to Jones Gulch for all 6th graders in the school district—that is approximately 200 students each year. This is no ordinary field trip, it's a life-changing experience for our children. It also is no ordinary field trip to coordinate; it is a complex, time-consuming and detail oriented process that most teachers would not want to lead. But then there is Ron Frankel, the outstanding science and music teacher who has singlehandedly coordinated the Outdoor Ed program for over 15 years. He spends countless hours before, during and after the trip arranging for teachers to attend, booking high school aged counselors, figuring out cabin assignments, holding parent information meetings, fielding all questions, and most importantly, putting the children at ease while they prepare for their big adventure away from home. Outdoor Ed is undoubtedly one of the most memorable experiences for all Hillsborough City School District students.

Ron's enthusiasm for this program is unmatched and he deserves credit for making it

so successful. As a former student of Crocker Middle School and a teacher there for almost two decades, he has a unique connection to the students and the school. He lightens up the campus environment with music and laughter. Among his wonderful creations are the Ro-Sham-Bo World Championship, Pickle Day, Open Mike during recess and the 6th grade music appreciation class. Ron's quiet, gentle and understated way of teaching instills an honest and deep passion for learning in all of his students. He sets them on a path to become caring and engaged citizens.

I had the good fortune to have both my children taught by Mr. Frankel who said his passion for science made even the mundane interesting to 12 and 13-year-olds. Awesome! Words from children say it all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize a model teacher in Hillsborough, California whose embrace of his students, science and life are an inspiration to parents and his colleagues. Ron Frankel truly deserves to be honored with the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Community Care Award.

RECOGNIZING DR. KNEELAND
YOUNGBLOOD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kneeland Youngblood, a physician, businessman, and former presidential appointee, who will be recognized by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus on March 1 for his marked achievements and distinguished success as a prominent African-American business leader and compassionate and dedicated civil and public servant.

Born from the town of Galena Park, Texas on December 13, 1955, Dr. Youngblood has led a remarkably storied life. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in political science at Princeton University in 1978. During his studies at Princeton, Dr. Youngblood attended courses at Wamborough College in Oxford and the University of Stockholm in Sweden. He went on to earn his Medical Degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1982. While at the University of Texas, he broadened his studies at the Cairo University Medical School.

Dr. Youngblood completed his medical residency in emergency medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine and subsequently returned to Texas and began medical practice at the Medical Center of Plano. In 1997, Dr. Youngblood left the medical profession and co-founded the Pharos Capital Group, LLC, which manages over \$200 million in technology, business services, and healthcare company investments.

During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Youngblood was appointed to the Board of Directors for the United States Enrichment Corporation charged with providing nuclear fuel to countries hoping to utilize nuclear power as a sustainable energy source. He took his work to South Africa in 1998 where he met Nelson Mandela and was inspired to pen From Sit-In to Soweto, the famous essay that details his

reflection on time he spent as a student activist protesting South African businesses at Princeton to his work in South Africa. Furthermore, Dr. Youngblood was a part of First Lady Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force.

Since then, Dr. Youngblood has served in various senior management roles for a plethora of corporations and organizations. Some of these notable organizations include: the Teacher Retirement System of the State of Texas; AMR Investments; Starwood Hotels & Lodging; Burger King, and The Gap.

Please join me in recognizing Dr. Kneeland Youngblood for his immeasurable contributions to the Dallas community, the great state of Texas, and to the legacy of African American entrepreneurship in America.

HONORING SHERMAN L. JENKINS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherman L. Jenkins, who was named Outstanding African-American of the Year by the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board.

Mr. Jenkins has been a key figure in the growth and development of the city of Aurora, Illinois. From 1991 until his retirement in 2012, Mr. Jenkins worked as assistant director and then as executive director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission. Under his leadership, the Aurora Economic Development Commission fostered the creation of the city's first downtown Master Plan, formed the Seize the Future Development Foundation, and worked to bring the Chicago Premium Outlets and many other infrastructure and business projects to Aurora, Illinois.

In addition to his business career, Mr. Jenkins has been committed to serving his community. He is a member of the Ely Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, Rotary Club of Aurora, Past Chairman and Board Emeritus of the Aurora Public Library Foundation, a board member of the Northern Lights Development Corporation, and an Advisory Council member of the Board of Directors for the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Jenkins is the President of SLJ Development Corporation and SLJ Communications, Inc., publisher of the monthly digital magazine Tell Me Somethin' Good, which focuses on African-American life outside the City of Chicago.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Jenkins as he receives the Outstanding African-American of the Year Award from the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board and thank him for his service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to the tragic shooting of three young Muslim students in my district, I was unable to vote during Roll Call 79, the motion to recommit H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive

Act, as well as Roll Call 80, final passage of H.R. 644.

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call 81, the motion to recommit H.R. 636, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, as well as Roll Call 82, final Passage of H.R. 636.

Had I been present, I would have voted for both the motions to recommit and voted against H.R. 644 and H.R. 636 on final passage.

HONORING THOMAS H. WARREN,
SR.

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as we close out Black History Month, I want to recognize a leader in my community in Nebraska, Thomas H. Warren, Sr., the President and CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska. Prior to assuming his leadership role at ULN, Mr. Warren served for 24 years with the Omaha Police Department, serving 4 years as the Chief of Police—the first African American to assume this position. Mr. Warren transformed the struggling Urban League of Nebraska into an organization serving the public's interest and advocating for social justice. Today, ULN provides programs in youth development, employment services and violence prevention—services that were not previously offered in our community. Thomas Warren's record of public service is extensive, but it is safe to say that Omaha would not be the same without him. He has been recognized on both the local and national level for his dedication to our community, and it is with great honor that I recognize him here on the House floor. On behalf of our community, I want to say thank you to Mr. Thomas Warren, Sr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #95, a recorded vote on the Kennedy of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #96, a recorded vote on the Grothman of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #97, a recorded vote on the Castro of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #98, a recorded vote on the Quigley of Illinois Part B Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #99, a recorded vote on the Moore of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

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:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the "Student Success Act," which would harm the education of our nation's youth.

I thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, and all the members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their work to improve education for our nation's children.

Unfortunately, the bill before the House for consideration, should it become law, would harm our most vulnerable children, including those who attend urban and rural schools, and special needs children who need equal access to an excellent education.

The bill as it exists now allows for the establishment of separate, lower standards for students with developmental disabilities.

As a result of these standards, opportunities available for students with disabilities later in life would suffer considerably.

H.R. 5 converts much of the funding currently directed at English learners, migrant students, or at-risk students into block-grants, which would enable those funds to be spent outside the target populations.

Support for these students would also be eroded by suspending requirements that school districts improve the English-speaking ability of such students.

One of the most dangerous provisions of this bill is the proposal to allow "portability" of funds under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This proposal, if enacted, would allow states to redirect funds away from districts with the highest concentrations of poverty, and into more affluent districts with less need for such support.

This proposal is especially harmful for Houston school districts, where an estimated 31.5% of children live below the poverty line. The vast majority of these children are Black or Hispanic.

As legislators, as Americans, we have a generational responsibility to enhance the lives of those who will follow us, especially the most vulnerable.

It is sobering to me, as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and someone who has long advocated on behalf of young people from all backgrounds, to see a bill that would have such a negative impact on the very children who need our help the most.

In addition to these sad truths, the bill currently under consideration would strike a devastating blow to our schools' ability to provide the variety of programs that our children deserve.

It repeals dedicated funding for programs such as student safety, after and summer school programming, STEM education, education technology, arts education, literacy and

block-grants support, forcing high-need districts to choose between funding vital services.

It should not be overlooked that one of these programs that is considered expendable is STEM-focused education, an area of importance both nationally and to my constituents in Houston.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently ranked the No. 1 US manufacturing city by Manufacturers' News Inc.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

These jobs, and truly the middle class of this decade as a whole, are dependent on workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy" reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

The same report stressed that fully half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

To eliminate federal funding aimed at enhancing STEM education is to cripple an entire generation of America's youth, leaving them without skills that may be essential in securing their own future and the economic prosperity of our nation.

Finally, it must be addressed that the defining characteristic of our primary and secondary education system has been to prepare our students for college.

H.R. 5 does not contain any provisions that states consult with institutes of higher education in order to ensure that their academic standards are consistent with what will be demanded of those students once they graduate.

As a result, many students, even after receiving a high school diploma, will find themselves unprepared to pursue a college degree if they choose to.

Furthermore, the bill eliminates the current requirements that districts take action when their schools are under resourced and unable to meet the needs of all students.

Together with the lack of consideration and support for at-risk and low-income youth, this will result in those students being marginalized and denied educational opportunity rather than given the support and resources they so desperately need.

There is no greater testament to the substantial and wide-ranging harm done by this bill than the coalition of organizations that have voiced their opposition, including:

National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
Committee for Education Funding
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)

American Association of People with Disabilities

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

National Council of La Raza
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Business Roundtable

I urge all members to join with me in heeding their counsel and opposing H.R. 5.

RECOGNIZING DUBLIN POLICE
CHIEF TOM MCCARTHY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dublin Police Chief Tom McCarthy as he leaves his current position for a new role as Executive Director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA).

For 32 years, Tom has worked diligently to keep the East Bay safe. He started with the Alameda County Sheriffs Office as Deputy Sheriff in 1983.

Tom rose through the ranks and in 2009 was named Commander. In that job he worked to improve regional disaster response across the San Francisco Bay Area.

For the last four and a half years, Tom has led the 50-person police department in Dublin. Beyond leading the effort to protect the residents of Dublin, he has been an active member of our community.

Tom has spoken often at schools, community meetings, and other events across the city. He also has led discussions on critical public health and safety issues facing Dublin.

Tom is committed to openness and engagement with residents. He has hosted a popular "Coffee with the Chief" program, which gives the people of Dublin a chance to meet and get to know Tom and other members of the Dublin police force.

Tom is a well-respected leader in Dublin, and the people of Dublin are better off due to his service.

Now Tom will be moving on to lead the EBRCSA, which is responsible for interoperable communications among dozens of agencies in the East Bay. I know he will continue to serve the people of the East Bay well in this new role, and I wish him all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF PERLA
IBARRIENTOS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Perla Ibarrientos, an outstanding volunteer and citizen of San Mateo County, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Perla currently serves on the Daly City Personnel Board and volunteers her time and energy to a long list of organizations benefiting everyone in our community, in particular our children. I am honored to count Perla as a dear friend and close adviser whom I have known for over three decades.

Perla turned her life into the American Dream. Born in the Philippines, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and worked in her family's pharmacy. Her husband Mig, an engineer, worked for the electric company. During the 60s and 70s they lived under the repressive regime of President Ferdinand Marcos

and dreamed of a better life for their family. In the early 70s, Mig, Perla and their three children, Glenn, Joy Ann and Gladys, left their home in the Philippines to create a brand new one in the United States. They settled in Broadmoor, California, and Perla immediately started to get involved in her new community. She volunteered as a teacher's aide at Garden Village Elementary and as an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

A few years later, the family moved to Daly City where they still live today. Perla served on the PTA Board and Parents Advisory Board at Westmoor High School. She recruited qualified Filipino teachers to address a significant shortage of diversity and to better reflect the population. Daly City, which is located in my 14th Congressional District, has one of the largest Filipino communities in the world.

Perla is a tireless advocate for equality and access to education. Inside and outside of the classroom, she has instilled in children a passion for learning and set them on a path to become engaged and contributing citizens. Her own children are shining examples of her values. Glenn serves as the Director of Nursing for San Mateo County and is a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Joy Ann serves as Vice President of John Wells Production at Warner Brothers. Gladys is Assistant CEO of the San Mateo County Employees Retirement Association.

In the 1980s, Perla became a U.S. citizen, one of the proudest moments in her life. She never tires of civic engagement and seeking ways to help others. She serves a long list of organizations, including as the Chair of the Filipino Bayanihan Center in Daly City, Vice-President of the North Peninsula Food Pantry and Dining Center and Director of the American Baptist Homes of the West/Hillcrest Senior Housing.

Perla is a true trailblazer. She became the first Filipina to serve on the Daly City Library Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1995 and the Daly City Personnel Board since 2007. Her humility and resolve make her an effective leader, an inspirational role model and a wonderful person to be around. Her warmth, beautiful smile and embracing personality have earned her the love and respect of everyone in the community.

She has been recognized by numerous distinguished organizations. In 2013 and 1997, she was awarded the State of California Legislative Woman of the Year for the 19th Assembly District. In 2007, she was named one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S.A. by the Filipino Women's Network and Outstanding Filipino American Women by the FilAm Coalition. In 2005, she was named Daly City Citizen of the Year and in 1999, she received the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award. These awards reflect the great contributions Perla has made to the lives of Daly City residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join to me in saying happy birthday to my friend Perla Ibarrientos and to recognize her for her decades of outstanding service to the community she loves. Her work and commitment have made Daly City a better place for all residents.

ANOTHER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Regas, Cinco Ranch High School senior, for winning his fourth consecutive wrestling state championship. Ricky also ended his high school career with an undefeated season.

Despite being injured at regionals, Ricky was able to battle through to defeat his opponents. His parents and coaches also deserve credit for helping to play an important role in providing you with the tools to achieve success. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ricky Regas for winning a fourth consecutive state championship. We wish him luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 91–99 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted no on #91, no on #92, no on #93, no on #94, yes on #95, no on #96, yes on #97, yes on #98, and yes on #99.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 94 I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS
OF SUMGAI POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Sumgait pogroms—violent riots that resulted in the murder of hundreds of Armenians. This was perhaps one of the most gruesome atrocities in a series of hostile acts against the Armenian people.

In 1988, Armenians living in the town of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were burned alive, thrown from windows and senselessly murdered by Azerbaijanis. Hundreds of people were killed, raped, and maimed simply because they were Armenians.

The police forces turned a blind eye towards the situation and allowed the crimes to continue for three days without intervention. Since then, Azerbaijan has sought to cover up these crimes and rewrite history.

As we prepare to observe 100 years since the Armenian Genocide, these more recent acts of violence against Armenians remind us that the work towards peace in the region continues.

Today, we recognize the anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms and to call attention to the work we have ahead of us. We have a shared responsibility to speak out when groups of people are targeted with oppression and violence just because of their ethnicity.

Along with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus, I continue my efforts to try and shed light on these events so that those lives lost are not forgotten. We will continue to promote mutual understanding and security through the Caucasus region.

It is my hope that we can all join together in condemning acts of violence in the past, and renew our commitment to vigilance in the future.

RECOGNIZING ST. MARK'S SCHOOL,
SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Mark's School for its dedication to academia, guidance, and personal growth.

St. Mark's School, located in Southborough, Massachusetts, serves high school students from across the globe. With a dedicated faculty and a motivated student body, St. Mark's School is a model for high schools throughout the nation. St. Mark's School lays a foundation for young men and women, emphasizing a well-rounded education to spur creativity and analytical thought. With its roots in the Episcopalian tradition, the school values cooperation over self-interest, and encourages every student to explore their place in the world after high school.

For 150 years, the St. Mark's School has educated students in order to prepare them for adulthood. Joseph Burnett, St. Mark's founder, sought to create an institution that offered high-quality education. With this goal in mind, St. Mark's began with a single two-story building, painted with yellow and green blinds. This modest campus then started to grow, with the additions of a large schoolroom and dormitory in 1866. This growth continued through the 1890s until the campus grew to fill 250 acres. Today, St. Mark's is still expanding, with recent additions including a new athletic center, dormitory, and performing arts center within the last two decades. Joseph Burnett's dream currently benefits a class of 350 students from 19 states, the District of Columbia, and 15 nations.

Though St. Mark's began as an all-boys school, it currently educates both young men and women. In the 1970s, St. Mark's reached an agreement with the Southborough School to offer coordinated education for all students. The faculty and staff of St. Mark's understood the importance of spreading Joseph Burnett's dream so that all types of students could benefit from the educational opportunities offered by this establishment. St. Mark's continues to include students and faculty with diverse backgrounds, particularly those who have experi-

enced prejudice or disadvantages. The St. Mark's community embraces all types of students, which empowers every St. Marker.

The St. Mark's motto, *Age Quod Agis*, or "Do and be your best," is instilled in every St. Marker. These students are challenged every day, but receive constant support. Students do their best by receiving the best training in the most ideal academic setting. With a student to teacher ratio of 6 to 1, the classroom forms into a personal setting, tailored to the needs of the students. St. Mark's encourages students to do their best in the academic arena, on the athletic field, and in their campus community. St. Mark's school week traverses six days a week to instill personal discipline and academic excellence. The school week compliments the fact that St. Mark's is a boarding school. Students attend class together, work together, and live together, creating a school culture and community important for personal growth and socialization.

I commend the trustees, faculty and staff of St. Mark's School for spending their time and effort ensuring that their students achieve success. St. Mark's School has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to helping these students receive a proper education to prepare for the future. The St. Mark's faculty and staff inspire both students and professionals, and I am happy to recognize them today for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Mark's School in serving such an important role in the lives of generations of high school students, both past and present.

SUPPORTING A CLEAN DHS
FUNDING BILL

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House on the dangerous position in which my Republican colleagues have placed the American people by refusing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Republicans in the House of Representatives voted in January to fund DHS only if we threaten millions of undocumented parents and children with deportation. Unless Republicans stop playing games with our national security and vote to fund DHS, the agency will not have the ability to maintain critical operations by the end of February.

We have a responsibility to demonstrate to the people of the United States and the leaders of other nations that we are capable of supporting national security without concern for politics. The partisan interests that have convinced many Republicans to oppose the Obama administration on immigration are not in the interest of our nation as a whole. The position of the Republicans imposes serious risks on the American people. The failure to fund DHS, as President Obama has recently reminded us, will impact one hundred forty-three thousand Department of Homeland Security workers who are responsible for the safety of our families and children. In New York City, DHS resources support our police and fire departments to protect the city and

the millions of visitors from around the world from attacks. Undermining the funding of the DHS threatens their safety and the security of our communities across the nation. House Republicans should not hold our national security hostage to a narrow agenda.

In the community I represent in Brooklyn, New York, the many first-generation and second-generation immigrants will suffer irreparable harm if we fail to fund the DHS. Who among would want to know the fear that a knock on the door in the middle of the night or a citation for a minor infraction such as jaywalking could result in permanent separation from their children?

Mr. Speaker, instead of playing games with politics, Republicans should focus on avoiding a shutdown of the DHS by enacting a bipartisan bill to fund the DHS through the rest of the 2015 fiscal year.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOK-IT REPERTORY THEATRE IN SEATTLE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Book-It Repertory Theatre (Book-It) in Seattle and to salute the company's commitment to bringing great literature to life on stage.

Since its founding in 1990, Book-It has established itself as the nation's leader in narrative theatre, and over that time has transformed more than one hundred works of literature into a repertory of works of live theatre. Book-It's adaptation style has also been honed into a highly effective tool for teaching literature of all kinds, resulting in the current launch of its Literacy Initiative with Washington State schools.

Twenty-five years after it began as an artists' collective, the company's mainstage works are seen by 20,000 theatre-goers annually, and its prolific Arts and Education programs serve as many as 62,000 students through performances, workshops, and residencies State-wide.

Classic works by vaunted authors like Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy, Edith Wharton, Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, John Irving, Maya Angelou, Michael Chabon, and many more have been adapted into Book-It plays alongside treasured writers who live in the great State of Washington including Ivan Doig, Garth Stein, Stephanie Kallos, Jim Lynch, Jess Walter, and David Guterson. And Book-It adaptations have gone on to productions in regional theatres across the U.S.

The Arts and Education Programs, through alliances with school districts throughout the state, have helped to bring vital arts programming where it's needed, serving student audiences through performances of literature for youth, including bilingual plays for young people in areas with high immigrant populations, notably in Central Washington's food- and wine-growing regions.

Book-It's commitment to literature and literacy fosters community through partnerships with Seattle and regional libraries, as well as King County's 4Culture, which connects Book-It artists with regional historical, cultural, and

social service organizations to help tell their stories in meaningful ways. The performances resulting from these partnerships are often the only arts experience a group may have.

Founding Co-Artistic Directors Jane Jones and Myra Platt were named among seven Unsung Heroes and Uncommon Genius by The Seattle Times for their contribution to life in Seattle; The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation awarded them a 20th Anniversary Founder's Grant; in 2010, Book-It was given a Mayor's Arts Award; and in 2012, the Governor's Arts Award.

As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Book-It Repertory Theatre, I would like to convey my congratulations to Book-It on its steadfast commitment to delivering broad, high-quality live theatre experiences to its constituents in Seattle and throughout all of Washington.

THE SHAME OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the administration seems keen to reach a nuclear accord that relies on trust in the Iranian regime and perhaps even a de facto collaboration in the fight against ISIS, it is wise to consider and scrutinize the dismal human rights record of this country with which we are currently conducting negotiations based on good faith. How they treat their own people is illustrative of how they see and will treat outsiders. A hearing I convened yesterday provided a critical examination of human rights in Iran—which is important and necessary in its own right—and also placed it in the context of the administration's efforts to partner with this regime on critical issues.

According to a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, between July 2013 and June 2014, at least 852 people were executed in Iran. Shockingly, some of those executed were children under the age of 18. Iranian human rights activists place the number of people executed by the Iranian regime at 1,181.

The current Department of State human rights report states that Iranian human rights violations include disappearances; cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including judicially sanctioned amputation and flogging; rape, politically motivated violence and repression, harsh and life-threatening conditions in detention and prison facilities, with instances of deaths in custody; arbitrary arrest and lengthy pretrial detention, sometimes incommunicado.

While the Iranian constitution grants equal rights to all ethnic minorities and allows for minority languages to be used in the media and in schools, minorities do not enjoy equal rights, and the regime consistently denies their right to use their languages in school. In addition, a 1985 law, the Gozinesh (selection) law, prohibits non-Shia ethnic minorities from fully participating in civic life. That law and its associated provisions make full access to employment, education, and other areas conditional on devotion to the Islamic Republic and the tenets of Shia Islam.

The regime disproportionately targets minority groups, including Kurds, Arabs, Azeris, and

Baluchis for arbitrary arrest, prolonged detention, and physical abuse. These groups report political and socioeconomic discrimination, particularly in their access to economic aid, business licenses, university admissions, permission to publish books, and housing and land rights.

Because of severe religious freedom abuses, our Government has designated Iran as a Country of Particular Concern since 1999. The frequent arrest and harassment of members of religious minorities has continued, following a significant increase in 2012. The government severely restricts religious freedom, and there have been reports of imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on religious beliefs. There have been continued reports of the government charging religious and ethnic minorities with "enmity against God," "anti-Islamic propaganda," or vague national security crimes for their religious activities. Those reportedly arrested on religious grounds faced poor prison conditions and treatment, as with most prisoners of conscience.

One of those imprisoned on religious grounds is Pastor Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen and father of two—Rebekkah Grace and Jacob Cyrus—and a Christian imprisoned in Iran because of his faith. Pastor Abedini was imprisoned by the Iranian regime nearly 1,000 days ago, when members of the Revolutionary Guard pulled him off of a bus and placed him under house arrest. He was later taken away—in chains—to Evin Prison, where he has endured periods of solitary confinement, beatings, internal bleeding, death threats, and continued psychological torture, all because he would not deny his Christian faith.

What was Pastor Abedini's crime? According to the court, he was a threat to the security of Iran because of his leadership role in Christian churches in 2000–2005. President Obama promised Pastor Abedini's son Jacob that he would do all he can to gain his father's release by the boy's birthday next month. Earlier this week, Secretary of State John Kerry, in answer to my question on this matter, said the administration was working quietly to gain Pastor Abedini's release as soon as possible. Let's hope.

Meanwhile, Iran is repeatedly cited for virtually unrelenting repression of the Baha'i community, which Iran's Shiite Muslim clergy views as a heretical sect. Baha'is number about 300,000–350,000. At least 30 Baha'is remain imprisoned, and 60 were arrested in 2012. A February 2013 UN report said in that 110 Baha'is were in jail, with 133 more expected to start serving jail time. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the regime has executed more than 200 Baha'is. The regime frequently prevents many Baha'is from leaving the country, harasses and persecutes them, and generally disregards their property rights. Iranian regime officials reportedly offer Baha'is relief from mistreatment in exchange for recanting their religious affiliation.

Iranian courts offer no recourse to the monstrous violation of human rights because without an independent judiciary, Iranians (and foreigners tried in those courts) are routinely denied fair public trials, sometimes resulting in executions without due process. This also results in ineffective implementation of civil judicial procedures and remedies and allows arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence.

This is the regime the administration trusts to make agreements and honor them. I call on the administration to do more than acknowledge these facts—it must take more seriously the blatant disregard of the rights of people and factor this into any interactions we have with this predatory regime. How can we make any binding agreement with such a dishonorable regime? That question remains to be answered.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANNA BARRY AS THE 2016 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Anna Barry as the 2016 Escambia County Teacher of the Year. Teachers are amongst our Nation's most valuable public servants. They are responsible for mentoring our students and ensuring that our next generation emerges ready to lead our Nation in the future. Mrs. Barry's assiduous work ethic, unbridled enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to student engagement exemplify the characteristics of an exemplary teacher.

For more than a decade, Mrs. Barry has served the students of Northwest Florida, inspiring them to strive for excellence and empowering all those who pass through her classroom to reach their full potential. Her dedication to her students' success fosters an atmosphere of achievement, and her commitment to a layered curriculum teaching method, where each individual student can take ownership of their education, helps ensure that students remain engaged and conscientious.

Mrs. Barry began her career teaching U.S. History, Science, and Geography at Ernest Ward Middle School. Despite being new to the profession, Mrs. Barry tackled her position head on and immediately began making an impact on her students. She also took on leadership positions at the school and helped to coordinate instruction amongst all grade levels.

Following her successful years at Ernest Ward, Mrs. Barry began teaching at her high school alma mater, Northview High School, where she once again established herself as an exceptional teacher and leader. At Northview, Mrs. Barry has served as a Faculty Leader, History Department Chair, and a member of the Florida Standards Team, which helps ensure that teachers are ready to meet the updated state education standards. While at Northview, she has also taken the lead in several other initiatives, including forming the first-ever Model United Nations (UN) Team for Escambia County and working with the local community to secure the funding necessary to have her students travel to Orlando to participate in Model UN. Mrs. Barry also serves as the coach for the Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleading teams, produces the Miss Northview High School Pageant, and is a co-sponsor of the Student Government Association.

Thanks in large part to her success within her own school environment, Mrs. Barry has

also served in district-wide positions, including service on the World History Leadership Committee, where she helped to construct the district pacing guide, prepare essential questions to accompany units of study, and lead the district's new content session to help World History teachers integrate new standards into their curriculum. Mrs. Barry has received several previous recognitions for her excellence in the classroom, including being named the Escambia County High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year, as well being recognized by the Florida Council for Social Studies.

The importance of teachers is unquantifiable. Mrs. Barry clearly understands the important position that teachers serve as role models for their students. Being a role model demands an incontrovertible commitment to professionalism in all aspects of life. Mrs. Barry treats her students, their parents, faculty, and staff with the utmost respect, and, in turn, this respect inspires her students and helps engender success in future endeavors. Mrs. Barry also understands the importance of working together with other teachers to improve the educational experience of their students, and, by sharing her experience with all of her fellow colleagues, Mrs. Barry improves the quality of her own classroom, as well as the entire school.

Each and every teacher should be commended for their commitment to our Nation's future. To be selected as Teacher of the Year, chosen from a large pool of extremely qualified applicants, is a reflection of Mrs. Barry's tremendous work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Northwest Florida. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our Nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Anna Barry for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Northview High School and in the Escambia County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Barry, and we wish her all the best.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHIEF TIBBET

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Tibbet of the Fairfield, California, Police Department on the occasion of his retirement. Chief Tibbet's career has been impressive. He began as a Police Officer with the Alameda Police Department in 1972. In 1980, he transitioned to the San Jose Police Department and was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain before returning to the Alameda Police Department in 2006. After serving as Chief of Police for four years in Alameda, he was appointed as Chief of Police for the Fairfield Police Department on July 6, 2010.

Chief Tibbet had an immediate impact on the Police Department and the city. In the midst of staffing shortages due to the Great Recession and the State's release of more than 30,000 felons, he oversaw the Depart-

ment's response to a series of high profile violent incidents. The Department remained extremely high functioning and proactive. Chief Tibbet was also a consummate advocate for the community. He fostered partnerships to expand the Department's outreach with neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and churches. His work with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District to establish the Public Safety Academy and Sullivan Interagency Youth Services Center stand out in addition to his commitment to growing the P.A.L. program. Chief Tibbet was also a strong supporter for improving efficiencies through the use of new and enhanced technologies. Under his leadership, the Department secured numerous grants to maintain services during difficult financial times and deployed innovative technologies to protect the city.

Chief Tibbet has been a valued colleague and leader, and his commitment to the City and community was evidenced on a daily basis.

HONORING MR. RANDY SWAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor longtime Broadcast Journalist and news anchorman, Mr. Randy Swan, of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, upon the occasion of his retirement from WDAM, Channel 7, a television station covering the region known as the Pine Belt.

Ask anyone in the northern half of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District who delivers their nightly news, and they will likely answer, "Randy Swan." For over 50 years, Randy's voice has narrated important events to the people of South Mississippi, first over radio, then television. For the past 38 years, it has been Randy's face in hundreds of thousands of Pine Belt homes as he reported the days' events on the evening news.

Randy was born and raised in broadcasting. At the time of his birth, in 1947, Randy's father, Jimmy Swan, held a contest on WFOR radio station to name his newborn son. Out of more than six thousand entries, the winning name, James Randolph, was chosen to honor the memory of a young local man who had died fighting in World War II.

Randy's broadcast career began at the age of three, talking on the radio while sitting on his father's lap, at WFOR. At the age of fifteen, he was working full-time in radio broadcasting while also attending high school. In the 1950s, Randy took to the television screen, singing on his father's music variety show, McCaffrey's Showtime.

After graduating from Hattiesburg High School in 1965, Randy attended the University of Southern Mississippi, earning a bachelor's degree in broadcasting in 1970. It was 1976, the year of our nation's bicentennial, when Randy began his career at WDAM, as morning anchor and reporter for the station covering a large portion of South Mississippi. Within a short six years, Randy was named News Director and soon became the main anchor for the station—his was the face many area residents turned to for their news.

In the 1990s, Randy served as Station Manager, News Director, and lead anchor at

WABG in Greenville, Mississippi, but he returned to the Pine Belt and WDAM five years later.

The span of his career has given Randy the privilege of sharing some of the best and worst moments in history. He claims that one of the most fulfilling aspects of his career is in helping others through the sharing of information. For example, Randy and his team remained steadfast in their on-air coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of residents relied on WDAM and the trustworthiness of Randy Swan to assist them with finding needed supplies and assistance in the recovery.

His dedication and professional integrity earned Randy distinction in the Mississippi Associated Press Hall of Fame (2006) and the University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communications & Journalism Hall of Fame (2010). Randy has four children and is married to the former Millie Ivey. The family resides in Hattiesburg. I am proud to honor Mr. Randy Swan for an outstanding career in radio and television broadcasting in South Mississippi. We extend our appreciation for a job well done, and wish him all the best in retirement.

HONORING MAE YATES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mae Yates, a wonderful woman who contributed significantly to the Florida community and enriched the lives of those around her. Mae raised her three children with a strong sense of fairness, compassion, and empathy for others, values that were imbedded in Mae herself and evident in all of her work.

Mae grew up in Brooklyn with a positive attitude and influence on those around her, always making the best of any situation. She excelled in her studies at Brooklyn College, and married the love of her life, Sam Yates. Together, they traveled to South America, Europe, and Asia, spending half a year living in India. They lived in various states on the East Coast of the United States, and Mae truly made a positive impact on Palm Beach County after moving to Florida 36 years ago.

Mae Yates was active in civic life and dedicated to the improvement of her community, both locally and nationally. Her public engagement included organizing volunteers for Delray Hospital when it first opened and personally logging over 13,000 volunteer hours at that same hospital. She served as President of her children's school PTA, her condominium section in Kings Point, and the Atlantic Democratic Club. Mae was Director of the Area Agency on Aging, clerk of her voting precinct in Palm Beach, and worked in the South County Courthouse. Her many important contributions to the community include bringing a hospital to Delray Beach, bringing a fire station closer to the senior community, having traffic lights installed, and working on legislation to support victims of domestic abuse.

Mae believed in me when I first ran for office, and I always turned to Mae for insight and inspiration. It is a privilege to represent a

district with citizens who work tirelessly to strive to make a difference. Mae was a woman of action who made every day count, and she will be greatly missed. I am fortunate to have known Mae Yates.

IN HONOR OF HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN DWIGHT BAZILE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a brave firefighter and exceptional man, Houston Fire Department (HFD) Captain Dwight Bazile of Houston Fire Station 46.

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, Captain Bazile suffered a cardiac arrest after assisting in the extinguishment of a fire at a duplex in south Houston. Two days later, Captain Bazile, aged 57, passed away at Memorial Hermann Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Bazile; his college-aged son, Dwight Bazile, II; and his mother, Charlotte Felder.

The loss of this intrepid fire captain, father, husband, and son is inestimable. Captain Bazile, as with all of our firefighters, selflessly risked his life and limbs to save people in the most dire circumstances. While our community is emotionally devastated, we are also in awe of the leadership, dignity, and courage of the late Captain Bazile.

Mr. Speaker, as we sadly bid farewell to Captain Bazile, we must find consolation in knowing that in his 37 years in HFD, Captain Bazile saved and comforted many all while "in the line of duty."

HONORING ELLY FAIRCLOUGH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elly Fairclough's exemplary public service.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Seventh Day of February, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Elly Fairclough will retire after twenty years of dedicated public service to Yolo County and Northern California communities; and

Whereas, Elly began her distinguished career with California Supervisor and Assemblymember Helen Thomson, continued with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and concluded her service with Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI; and

Whereas, Elly's family, friends, and colleagues are thrilled about this most auspicious occasion and wish to acknowledge Elly with the recognition, love, and respect that she has most deservedly earned; and

Whereas, Elly has been a bridge for local seniors, veterans, home owners and immigrants with her assistance as they navigated through the various agencies of the state and federal government; and

Whereas, Elly represents the highest values of her community and has been a leading

voice promoting women's equality; therefore be it

Resolved, that we, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California's Fifth District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Elly Fairclough, as well as offer her our best wishes for a happy retirement, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS THE LAW OF THE LAND WHETHER OR NOT IT'S CONVENIENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when this Administration doesn't get its way, it sets aside the Constitution and does what it wants anyway. Much to the displeasure of the White House, Congress has defended the Second Amendment from the President's efforts to infringe on Americans' right to bear arms. So, the White House has now announced through an executive edict by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) a ban on common rifle ammunition used by millions of law abiding gun owners in the United States.

Instead of addressing the problem, those who unlawfully possess and use firearms, the ATF is now focused on disarming those who follow the law and exercise their constitutionally protected right. ATF's own mission statement says its duty is to protect our communities from dangers like "violent criminals" and "acts of terrorism." Mission aborted. Suppressing the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans for political points is its new objective.

This country was founded on a system of checks and balances with certain enumerated powers and limitations. Restricted power is not always convenient, but that's what our Founders intended. This Administration views the Constitution as a suggestion and not the law of the land. It views Congress as a nuisance that gets in the way of its agenda. So, it has used almost every agency of non-elected bureaucrats to achieve a political goal by bullying through kicking, stomping and ignoring the constitutional rights of the people. The President cannot obtain his government oppression of rights through the lawful legislative process. Thus the IRS targeting conservative organizations; the FCC imposing an unprecedented system to control the Internet; HHS restricting the religious liberty of companies; the Department of Justice wiretapping reporters to silence them; the NSA snooping on millions of Americans without a warrant; and the Department of Homeland Security imposing amnesty on this nation are clear violations of the Constitution. There are many other examples and now the ATF's proposal to ban AR-15 ammo is further proof that this Administration sees the Constitution as a mere suggestion, rather than the law of the land.

The natural right to bear arms is long ingrained in the soul of the people of this nation. The Administration forgets that America's War of Independence started when King George's Redcoats tried—unsuccessfully—to take the

firearms away from the colonists. Further the Texas War of Independence began in a similar way when the Mexican Dictator tried—unsuccessfully—to take away the guns of Texans in 1835. The guarantees of the Second Amendment are intertwined in our nation's history, and the Constitution is the supreme law of the land whether or not it's convenient to the Administration.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORIAM OF STANLEY EDWARD KRZYZANOWSKI

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the life and contributions of Stanley Edward Krzyzanowski, a lifelong resident of Tucson, Arizona. Stan passed away on February 13, 2015 at the age of 77.

Stan made significant contributions to the arts and sciences in Arizona and throughout the world. He served as President of Ballet Tucson and was a member of the Tucson-Pima Arts Council. A self-taught amateur paleontologist, Stan even had a species of dinosaur named after him: *Krzyzanowskisaurus hunti*.

Some of the fossils Stan discovered in Arizona are on display at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, where according to curator Spencer Lucas, they are viewed by nearly 250,000 visitors per year.

Stan's friends and family remember him for his curiosity, kindness, and love for life. One friend described him as "an inspiration—enthusiastic, tireless, devoted to the arts, interested in everything," while another said, "Stan was such a special man, positively inspiring and encouraging."

Stan is survived by his brother, David and his wife Martha; a son, Stephen; a daughter Karen Kowal and her husband David; and three granddaughters, Kasia Krzyzanowski, and Sarah and Katie Kowal.

Stan's lack of formal education in no way hindered his archaeological work. In describing his method of finding what others don't see, he said "I don't have that Ph.D. That's what I'm doing: I'm looking, not thinking."

HONORING MR. MIKE READER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor longtime Broadcast Meteorologist, Mr. Mike Reader, of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, upon the occasion of his retirement from WLOX, Channel 13, a television station covering our beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

Mike Reader, a veteran of the United States Navy, began working part time at WLOX as a weekend weathercaster in 1983. When he retired from naval service in 1988, Mike became the morning weatherman and was soon promoted to Chief Meteorologist.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and raised in Louisiana, it seems Mike's eyes have always

been set on the skies. His twenty year career in the Navy trained him in weather observation and forecasting around the world. It was only natural that the man, who some call "Winnie" because of his likeness to the famous bear, would become the most trusted name in weather along the Gulf Coast.

One of Mike's most challenging assignments entailed flying with the Hurricane Hunters into numerous storms, collecting data for national forecasts. In the span of his thirty year career with WLOX, Mike has safely

weathered countless weather threats to our area, but Mike's dedication and passion for the safety of Gulf Coast residents shone under the stress of three major hurricanes, each of which had a serious impact along the coastline: Hurricane Elena in 1985, Hurricane Georges in 1998, and of course, Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Mike holds a certificate in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. He is also a member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Asso-

ciation. His WLOX weathercast has received the coveted AMS Seal of Approval. He is married to Delores, the woman he calls his "best buddy." They have one son and three grandchildren.

I am proud to honor our friend, Mr. Mike Reader, for an outstanding career in weather broadcasting along Mississippi's Gulf Coast through WLOX news. We extend our appreciation for a job well done, and wish Mike "smooth sailing" in retirement.