

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDY M. HITI

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Randy M. Hiti of Rice Lake, Minnesota.

Mr. Hiti died suddenly on Wednesday while responding to a fire call as a member of the Rice Lake Volunteer Fire Department. During his 26 years of service, I am told that it was a very rare occasion that you would not see him show up when the Fire Department called. He was awarded the Firefighter of the Year Award and taught fire prevention to the Homecroft Elementary School third graders for over ten years.

He wasn't just a firefighter. He was a friend to many in all his volunteer activities, which included the Rice Lake Halloween Carnival and Rice Lake Day. Randy also was an eager volunteer for the Grandma's Marathon each year. He was the kind of guy who would drop anything for a family member, friend in need or anyone he saw outside of his driving hours to provide roadside assistance or help with day-to-day tasks. It was only recently that his daughter, Katherine Hiti, was inducted into the Volunteer Fire Department and I am sure it was a very proud moment.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Laura, his daughters Anne and Katherine, his mother Millie, and his brothers Brian and Leon.

He will be missed in his community as he touched so many lives with his spirit of generosity and time.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MATTHEW EVERETT GREENLEE, MARK ALLEN GREENE, AND ROBERT WAYNE VON BOKERN

HON. THOMAS MASSIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three of my constituents from Owenton, Kentucky: Matthew Everett Greenlee, Mark Allen Greene, and Robert Wayne Von Bokern. These three outstanding power linemen from Owen Electric Cooperative recently volunteered for a project in Haiti that, when completed, will provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to 1600 consumers.

The goal of the project is to build a distribution system that will connect three towns in Haiti and establish its first electric cooperative, the Cooperative Electrique de l'Arrondissement des Côteaux. Upon completion, this diesel-solar hybrid electricity distribution system will provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to rural consumers.

Tragically, less than 15 percent of Haiti has regular access to electricity. So, Mr. Greenlee, Mr. Greene, and Mr. Von Bokern generously gave of their time for two weeks in the town of Roche-à-Bateaux to help solve this terrible problem. My constituents upgraded and installed new lines and service drops. They also trained locally hired linemen in proper construction methods, pole climbing techniques, proper handline use, and important safety practices.

Electricity is essential to the quality of life for those in Haiti's rural communities. It assists in the provision of clean water, healthcare, education, and general economic opportunity. Therefore, I salute my constituents for contributing their time and efforts in Haiti on this critical project. Their selfless service for others truly helps make this world a better place.

HONORING WILLIAM 'ZEKE' GRADER, JR.

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the incredible legacy of William 'Zeke' Grader, Jr., who has tirelessly served California's fishermen and coastal communities and as an environmental champion and community leader for many decades. Always willing to share his vast knowledge and expertise with others, Zeke has helped fishermen to define their interest in battles over offshore oil and gas development, land-use, timber harvesting, water allocation, and other issues of social equity and sustainability.

From an early age, Zeke Grader grew up in the coastal fishing community. His father founded Grader Fish, Co., in Fort Bragg, California, to buy, process, and broker fresh, local fish. Zeke spent much of his childhood on the family dock, helping fishermen to unload their catch. He graduated from Fort Bragg High School and moved south to attend Sonoma State University, where he studied political science and graduated in 1970.

Zeke Grader served his country in the United States Marine Corps before obtaining a law degree from the University of San Francisco and passing the California State Bar in 1975. At that time, Congress was deliberating how to assert our national sovereignty over a two-hundred mile wide economic zone in order to curb foreign overfishing in U.S. waters, allow depleted stocks to recover, and conserve fishery resources. Amidst such explosive public interest in natural resource protection, some in the fishing industry felt threatened by the burgeoning environmental movement. Zeke Grader was asked to serve as the executive officer of the newly formed Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), and he led the organization in a more productive and effective direction by em-

bracing efforts to protect the coastal environment.

With Zeke at the helm, the PCFFA took a leading role in crafting important state and federal legislation to preserve the coastal fishing industry. Zeke lobbied strongly for California's 1988 Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which called for a statewide salmon conservation plan to double the present numbers of wild salmon. He pushed for modernization of the federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act, litigated to expedite water quality restoration under the federal Clean Water Act, and fought for protections of fishing grounds by organizing for the prevention and clean-up of petroleum spills.

In 1988, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration honored Zeke Grader with its prominent Environmental Hero award. For many Zeke has been a hero over many decades and his tireless efforts to protect the wild California Coast have ensured the present vitality of our fishing communities.

Our friend and former colleague George Miller is one of those who counts Zeke as an inspiration. He passed along this message to us to include in the RECORD: "Zeke Grader has been my friend almost my entire time in the Congress. During that time Zeke has been a leader in our state, on the Pacific Coast and in our nation to give voice and rights to the men and women of our vital and historic commercial fishing industry. The Pacific coast fisheries from time to time are threatened with droughts, economic downturns, high fuel prices, habitat destruction, and bad public policy. Through it all, Zeke Grader has led this magnificent group of fishers to maintain and grow our fisheries. So many people in California's diverse economy are dependent on their success. The commercial fishers of the Pacific coast must both catch and protect this magnificent species. Zeke Grader for so many years has successfully advocated for both the fish and the fishers. All of us owe him great thanks."

Today, Zeke continues his strong advocacy by working with and advising leaders at every level of industry and government. His legacy shows us the lasting positive impact that one man can have on countless others and he has shown that you can build a thriving and sustainable economy without depleting natural resources for future generations. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Zeke today for his work in representing the fishing community, and we express our deepest appreciation for his friendship and his service.

RECOGNIZING THE SKANEATELES HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the Skaneateles High

• 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.

School Boys Hockey team in the New York State Championship game on Sunday, March 15th. The Skaneateles Lakers defeated Williamsville East High School by a score of 5–2 for its first title in 26 years.

The Lakers fought back from a 2–0 deficit, working as a cohesive team to score 3 goals in under 6 minutes. Sophomore Raymond Falso received the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award, after having missed six weeks of the regular season due to an injury. Senior Captain Owen Kuhns, sophomores Raymond Falso, Reggie Buell, and Patrick Major were named to the All-Tournament team. The Lakers finished their season with a 22–3–1 record due to the hard work of seniors: Briggs Carter, Owen Kuhns, Jarrett McDonald, Cullen McGlynn, James Motyl, Brett Singler, and Trey Wirth; juniors: Karl Adams, Devin Callahan, Sam Clymer, Reece Eddy, Erik Huba, Bennett Morse, Kyle Ochsner, Jacob Patalino, and Benn Russell; sophomores: Matt Benson, Reggie Buell, Dimitris Christou, Ray Falso, Adam Lupo, Patrick Major, and Nick Rottger; freshmen: Matt Leveroni and Marc Welch; and eighth-grader: Luke Lynn. The team was coached by Mitch Major, a former captain of the 1989 Skaneateles Lakers team.

The Lakers have played with dedication and respect throughout the entire season. I commend the hard work, commitment, and teamwork these players have displayed throughout the season and the example they have set for youth throughout the 24th District. Excellence on the ice translates into excellence off the ice and the practice of sacrificing for the common goal, builds character in our children. I could not be more proud to congratulate these young men on their tremendous season.

CONGRATULATING NATHAN ECKERT ON RECEIVING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RACHEL CARSON INDIVIDUAL AWARD

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Nathan Eckert, the recipient of the 2014 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rachel Carson Individual Award. This award is bestowed upon employees of the Service whose outstanding contributions improve the Service's knowledge and management of fish and wildlife resources. Nathan is a mussel biologist at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery in Genoa, Wisconsin, and this recognition—considered one of the highest honorary awards in the Service—is well deserved for his extraordinary work in freshwater mussel conservation.

At the Genoa Fish Hatchery, Nathan has been researching and implementing new techniques and rearing systems for imperiled freshwater mussels. As an expert in mussel identification, Nathan has helped the Genoa facility produce nearly 15 million mussels of 17 species, and his endeavors have directly resulted in the release of more than 50,000 threatened or endangered mussels into waterways in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Nathan's work also includes assisting various

mitigation efforts involving projects that impact freshwater mussel populations, providing rare mussel species to partners such as the U.S. Geological Survey and many toxicology labs to study the effects of pesticides and contaminants on mussel survival.

Nathan's dedication and leadership has proved critical to protecting and sustaining the rich biodiversity of the Mississippi River. It is with great pride today that I rise to congratulate Nathan for receiving the Rachel Carson Individual Award and to sincerely thank him and the Genoa Fish Hatchery for building a legacy of conservation for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF EL CENTRO STUDENTS THIRD PLACE PRIZE IN C-SPAN'S VIDEO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Vallejo, Shelbie Verbrugh, and Kennet Sandoval, seniors at Southwest High School in El Centro, California, for their outstanding achievement in winning Third Prize at C-SPAN's National 2015 StudentCam Competition. StudentCam offers students across the nation an opportunity to showcase their talents in a friendly national competition.

All aspects of the video production, including the research and planning in their documentary, "Salton Sea Restoration," demonstrated the highest level of critical thinking, initiative, and ingenuity. The "Salton Sea Restoration" placed third out of the 2,280 videos submitted, by more than 5,000 students around the country.

This competition is one of our nation's best platforms for our youth to express their opinions on national issues, provide eye-opening and inspiring views of the country, and contribute to the construction of a beloved community.

I want to congratulate these award recipients and encourage more youth involvement in the greater discourse about our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. RONALD L. OWENS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Owens as he celebrates his 25th Pastoral Anniversary as Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Metuchen, New Jersey. Pastor Owens continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Metuchen community.

Dr. Owens attended New Hope Baptist Church as a child and in 1990 was called back to serve as its pastor. Under his leadership, the membership of New Hope Baptist Church has grown immensely. He has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in ac-

tion, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries.

In addition to his service to New Hope Baptist Church, Dr. Owens is also a leader in the Baptist church and an active member of the community. He has served as General Secretary of the General Baptist State Convention of New Jersey, Moderator of the Middlesex Central Baptist Association, Inc. and past president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association. He is also the first Chaplain of the Metuchen Police and Fire Departments, where he continues to counsel, former Vice-Chairman of the Middlesex County Democratic Party and is a member of The Prince Hall Masons of New Jersey, among others.

Dr. Owens is married to Sister Cheryl Owens, formerly Cheryl Jones, and together they are blessed with two daughters and four grandsons. An active member of her faith, Sister Cheryl Owens is also celebrating her 25th anniversary of First Lady of New Hope Baptist Church and I would like to join with the church and community in thanking her for her service.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 25th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Owens. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

CONGRATULATING ELLIE CAMPBELL FOR HONOR ORCHESTRA OF AMERICA SELECTION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ellie Campbell from Richmond, Texas for her selection to the Honor Orchestra of America. She is one of only two Harpists who performed at the Orchestra America National Festival in Indianapolis.

Ellie performs with Virtuosi, a Houston-area orchestra, and the Region 13 Philharmonic Orchestra. With Virtuosi, she had the opportunity to perform the prelude music for Violinist Itzhak Perlman's performance with the Houston Symphony in Jones Hall. Music plays an important role in our lives and talented musicians like Ellie contribute to our ability to appreciate the beauty of classical music.

I commend Ellie for all of her musical accomplishments in Houston and beyond. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again Ellie Campbell for her achievements.

HONORING MS. GAYE LEBARON, SONOMA COUNTY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gaye LeBaron as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Gaye as one of them.

Ms. LeBaron is a renowned columnist for the Press Democrat newspaper, the best known historian of Sonoma County, and has been prolifically telling the story of our county, with over eight thousand articles published. Ms. LeBaron possesses a rare gift: a genuine interest in people and their stories. In even the smallest stories, she saw the larger truth. Her influence and acclaim have grown over the years because of this focus and the level of trust she has built with the general public through her constancy.

As one of Ms. LeBaron's colleagues at the Press Democrat put it: "Readers trust her to tell them the truth about what is going on in their community. The depth of her commitment is palpable and readers respond to that."

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. LeBaron not only for her commitment to telling the story of Sonoma County, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. LeBaron's unyielding dedication to the people and places that make our region unique is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"no" on roll call vote No. 110 (on agreeing to the McClintock amendment to H.R. 749),

"yes" on roll call vote No. 111 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 749, with instructions), and

"yes" on roll call vote No. 112 (on passage of H.R. 749).

EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEERISM: PAM KLEINSCHMIDT AND JERRY LAWSON

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two citizen volunteers from the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Duluth. They have used their talents to give back to the community by assisting with policing efforts.

Pam Kleinschmidt regularly staffs the Lincoln Park and West Duluth police stations by answering phones and assisting with walk-in traffic. Pam, who is often referred to as the "Mayor of Lincoln Park," goes out of her way often at her own expense to take phone calls from concerned citizens at all hours of the day and night. In addition to helping the police build relationships with residents and small business owners in the neighborhood, she organizes monthly meetings for citizens and makes sure their concerns are addressed. Pam has been instrumental each week in keeping an eye on problem areas in the neighborhood and works with the police to help find solutions.

When the police department found itself needing help with managing seized cars used to commit crimes, they were fortunate to find a multi-faceted volunteer in Jerry Lawson. They needed a mechanic, an accountant and a customer service representative. He fulfills all these tasks and the police department frankly says they couldn't manage the impound lot without him. Jerry's volunteer efforts as he helped establish the "Vial of Life" program, which provides medical information to first responders as well as helping expand and improve the citizen patrol program.

They were recently honored by receiving the Police Chief's Citizen Partnerships Awards by Duluth's Police Chief Gordon Ramsay. I stand today to salute these exceptional volunteers who are making a true difference in their community.

DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2015. This legislation will serve to clarify and expand voting rights, as well as assist former felons with their reintegration into our democracy.

The Sentencing Project reports that, since 1997, 23 states have amended felony disenfranchisement policies in an effort to reduce their restrictiveness and expand voter eligibility. These reforms have resulted in an estimate of 800,000 citizens regaining their voting rights. Yet, despite these reforms, an estimated 5.85 million people continue to be ineligible to vote in Federal elections, including more than 4 million who reside in the 35 states that still prohibit some combination of persons on probation, parole, and/or people who have completed their sentence from voting.

I believe that there are three grave discrepancies in State laws regarding felony convictions that lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, there is no uniform standard for voting in Federal elections, which leads to an egregious disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on where a person lives. Second, laws governing the restoration of voting rights after a felony conviction are unequal throughout the country and persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Third, State disenfranchisement laws disproportionately impact ethnic minorities, thus adversely infringing upon citizens of these communities constitutional right to vote.

These concerns about ex-offender disenfranchisement are not rhetorical. In the past two election cycles, flawed voter purges have deprived thousands of legitimate voters of their rights. For example, an erroneous interpretation of state law by the Ohio Secretary of State deprived thousands of ex-felons in that state of even the right to register. Only Federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system.

Like the States, Congress has recognized the need to address the barriers to full citizen-

ship faced by ex-offenders. This voting legislation is the next step in restoring the ex-felon community to full citizenship. Denying voting rights to ex-offenders robs them of the opportunity to fully participate and contribute to their society. Disenfranchisement laws isolate and alienate ex-offenders, and have been shown to serve as one more obstacle in their attempt to successfully reintegrate into society. Moreover, these obstacles adversely impact the voting participation of their families, further undermining the effectiveness of our voting system.

This legislation is a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for ex-felons, while protecting State prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation would only apply to persons who have been released from prison, and it would only apply to federal elections. Consequently, the bill is fully consistent with Constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding Federal voting rights laws.

In past Congresses, voting restoration legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, the National Council of Churches (National and Washington Office), the National Urban League, the Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others.

The practice of many states denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin, and property. Ex-felons who have been lawfully released from prisons have paid their debts to society. To continue denying them the ability to reclaim rights as citizens resurrects historic unenlightened practices of our society. Ultimately, I believe that we fail not only ex-offenders by denying them the right to vote, but the rest of a society that has struggled throughout its history to be legitimate and inclusive. Just like poll taxes and literacy tests, it is long past time that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Katy for receiving the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Award for Exceptional Service. Formed in 1946, the Rotary Club has served Katy for nearly sixty years.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce selected the Rotary Club of Katy because of their dedication to our community. Every year they hold two large fundraisers. To date, they have raised and donated over \$110,000 to local schools and charities in Katy. I thank the Rotary Club of Katy for their selfless dedication and focus on giving back to our community. With an emphasis on community service, Rotary Clubs across America play a vital role in strengthening our local communities.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Rotary Club of Katy for being presented the Katy Area Chamber of

Commerce Exceptional Service Award. We look forward to their continued success in Katy, TX.

HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MINNIE MINOSO TO AMERICAN BASEBALL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great baseball player and human being who passed away on March 1, 2015, Saturnino Orestes Armas Arrieta who was better known as Minnie Minoso, the Cuban Comet and Mr. White Sox.

Minnie Minoso was born November 29, 1925 in Cuba. He played baseball there and had the opportunity to play baseball here in the U.S. in the Negro Leagues, for, being a Black Cuban, he wasn't allowed to play in the Major Leagues. He played three years with the New York Cubans and then because of Bill Veeck, who was one of the leaders in integrating baseball—the American League's Branch Rickey, Minoso had the opportunity to play in the Major Leagues. He was originally signed to the Cleveland Indians but was traded to the Chicago White Sox in 1951, where, because of his unlimited exuberance and effort, he became known as the "Cuban Comet."

Minoso was a great White Sox player, one of the greatest players of the 1950s and a great emissary of Latin American baseball players. He was the first Black Latin American player and superstar, the first black White Sox player and the third American League player of African descent.

Minnie Minoso had a great career. He did everything in baseball. He hit for average, he hit for power, he had speed, he was a great fielder, and a great competitor. In his career, Minoso batted .300 eight times, had a career batting average of .298 with 1023 RBIs and hit 186 home runs. He was a seven-time major league All-Star, a three-time Gold Glove Award winner and was one of only two players to play in the Major Leagues for five decades. In 1990, the White Sox wanted him to play in his sixth decade, which would have placed him in a league of his own. At the time, I placed a call to MLB Commissioner Fay Vincent and argued for Minnie being allowed to play in just one game and accordingly have six decades under his belt. Unfortunately Commissioner Vincent respectfully declined.

In addition to Minnie being one of the greatest baseball players of the 1950s, he was simply a great human being. In 1955, I lived in Memphis, Tennessee and was recovering from childhood polio. I went to an exhibition baseball game at Russwood Park where the White Sox were playing the Cardinals. I had a White Sox cap kind of like this one—this is a Minnie Minoso cap—and I had a White Sox t-shirt. I was on crutches and getting autographs when a player came and gave me a baseball. I went to my dad and told him about it; we went down to thank the player. He was a white pitcher for the Cardinals named Tom Poholsky. He said, "Don't thank me. Thank that player over there." That was number nine

for the White Sox, Minnie Minoso. In the entire baseball field of 50 players or more, one cared about a young boy with polio who was a White Sox fan and wanted to do something for him. But in segregated Memphis, a black player didn't feel comfortable doing that, so he did it through a white player. The experience taught me at a very early age about the horrors of discrimination, prejudice and racism.

After that, Minnie became my friend. I visited him in Chicago and went into the White Sox locker room where he gave me his bat and cap. When he came to Memphis in 1960, I visited him at the Lorraine Motel, which was where the black players stayed while the white players were at the Peabody—another lesson in discrimination that taught me well and has taught me to this day to be vigilant against all forms of racism and discrimination. The Lorraine was where Dr. King was killed and now is a great Civil Rights museum in Memphis.

I followed Minnie my whole life. He was like a part of my family. We moved to Los Angeles and we went and visited him at Chavez Ravine. He came up to my dad, and he said "Doc, how's the kid's leg, how's he doing?" He always was concerned.

Minnie was denied one of his life's goals of being voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. I tried to help him with that. Baseball made a mistake; they should have put Minnie in the Hall of Fame for his Sporting News Rookie of the Year season in 1951 and for all his great years on the diamond where he was unquestionably one of the premiere players of the game through 1961, in addition to being the first Black Latin American Major Leaguer and the first Latin American star. While he was not afforded this honor during his lifetime, Minoso's achievements were recognized through his induction into the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983, the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Hall of Fame in 2002, the Latino Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010, and having had his number nine retired by the White Sox, his statue placed at U.S. Cellular Field as he was "Mr. White Sox," and over 35 years of being the White Sox ambassador to Chicago. It is my hope that Minnie will soon be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum as it needs Minnie to remember this groundbreaking and popular diamond star.

Minnie Minoso died Sunday, March 1, 2015. Visitation was Friday, March 6th at Holy Family Church in Chicago and the funeral was that Saturday. I'll miss Minnie Minoso. He is a lesson in why sports are bigger than runs, hits and errors. It is about human beings and humanity and young kids. Thank you, Minnie. Yours was a life well-lived.

HONORING FRANK DEAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Frank Dean who will be retiring from the National Park Service after nearly forty years of dedicated service. Since 1976 when he first joined the National Park Service as a Ranger at Alcatraz Island, Frank Dean has remained committed to preserving the natural beauty and strong cultural heritage of America's National Parks for this and future generations.

Over the past four decades, Mr. Dean has served the American public at parks across the United States, and he will retire in March 2015 as the General Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Since 2009, Frank Dean has taken on the monumental task of managing the GGNRA, which is the nation's largest urban park and is currently visited by an estimated twenty million people each year. As General Superintendent, Mr. Dean has been responsible for overseeing a staff of nearly three hundred federal employees and tens of thousands of volunteers, in partnership with over twenty-five affiliated nonprofit and commercial organizations. Frank Dean's ability to balance the diverse and competing interests of those who enjoy the park has allowed the GGNRA to continue to flourish and expand its appeal while keeping pace with America's changing demographics.

Under Mr. Dean's visionary leadership, world-class art has been incorporated to enhance the park through unique installations, such as Mark di Suvero at Crissy Field and @Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz Island. Frank Dean has pursued the park service's proud tradition of providing youth engagement and educational opportunities through the Park Youth Collaborative. He has overseen critical improvements of park land, notably the restoration of natural ecosystems at Muir Beach to benefit endangered Coho salmon populations. Frank Dean also played a leading role in forging the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative, a groundbreaking five-way partnership to secure a better future for Mt. Tamalpais.

Frank Dean's effective leadership has benefited all who enjoy the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. While he may be retiring from the National Park Service, his outstanding commitment to our parks will continue as Mr. Dean works to preserve and protect Yosemite National Park as the new President and CEO at Yosemite Conservancy. Please join me in recognizing Frank Dean and expressing deep appreciation to him for his long and impressive career, and exceptional record of service to our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SUPER STATE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOLASTIC STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Southwest High School Chess Club for their outstanding achievement in winning First Place at the 2015 Super States Southern California Scholastic State Chess Championship for the K-12 Under 1200 rating section. This championship offers students across the state an opportunity to showcase their chess skills through friendly competition.

I would like to recognize the Southwest High School Chess Club for providing instructors, equipment and curricula to after-school programs. These programs are designed to promote problem-solving, higher-level thinking

skills, and improved self-esteem, which are crucial to developing the young minds of our children.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Southwest High School Chess team for a job well done!

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DAWN
HOBBY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and Emmy award-winning journalist, Ms. Dawn Hobby. Dawn has worked at WALB-TV in Albany, Georgia for more than 20 years and currently serves as the News Director. She will be retiring on March 20, 2015.

For many years, Dawn was a familiar face on the evening news in Albany, Georgia. Indeed, she has built quite an impressive career which began when she worked as a producer at WALB. She later became a reporter and then an anchor. She launched the news operation for Albany station WFXL, before returning to WALB five years later.

A prominent investigative reporter, Dawn has received numerous honors and awards for her work. In 2011, she won an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast for her work on the "Gulf Oil Crisis" special report. In 2007 and 2009, Dawn was awarded the Gabby Award for "Best TV On-Air Personality" by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters. She also holds three prestigious Golden Viddy Awards from the National Academy of Television Journalists for "Best Female Anchor" and "Best Investigative Reporting." She has been honored by the Associated Press Broadcasters Association, the Green Eyeshade Awards for Excellence in Journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists, Georgia Trend magazine, and numerous other organizations and publications.

Dawn is a 2011 graduate of the Raycom Media Leadership program and a 2012 graduate of the Poynter Leadership Academy at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Associated Press and was appointed to the Raycom Media News Directors Advisory Board in April 2014.

Dawn's work at WALB, the NBC- and ABC-affiliated television station for Southwest Georgia, has made her a household name in Albany and the surrounding areas. She anchored WALB News 10 alongside Ben Roberts for more than 20 years, covering many of Southwest Georgia's most memorable events. I have had the pleasure of working with her throughout the years and I know she will truly be missed on the air and at WALB.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Dawn has given her time and talents to keeping the residents of Southwest Georgia informed about current events taking place throughout the state of Georgia, our great nation, and the world. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her exper-

tise are unparalleled. Albany, Georgia shined a little brighter because of Dawn Hobby.

Dawn has accomplished much in her life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of husband, Russell, and her son.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Dawn Hobby upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career in journalism.

HONORING STEVE BROWN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Steve Brown, an extraordinary community leader, an accomplished businessman, and a friend, whose life was tragically taken when he was killed riding his bicycle last April.

Steve was a man who lived his life the right way every day. He grew up in Illinois and moved to Florida in 1978 to start his career. Steve was a master salesman, who built Brown's Furniture in Boca Raton and Jupiter, Florida into landmark furniture and design stores. Steve believed his business should be built on the hallmarks of honesty, integrity, hard work and devoted service. He would do anything for his customers, even loaning them furniture until they had chosen what they wanted, so that their homes wouldn't be empty in the interim. Steve was extraordinarily loyal to those who worked with him; the average employee of Brown's has been with the company for more than twenty years.

Steve was a dedicated member of his community. He was very active on the board of the Florence Fuller Child Development Center and helped to manage their thrift shop. He served on the board of Temple Beth El of Boca Raton for many years and chaired the membership committee. Steve was active in helping resettle Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union when they came to South Florida, and he would regularly loan his company's trucks to needy or vulnerable families if they needed help with a move. He was active with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and an ardent supporter of America's bond with the State of Israel through Israel Bonds.

Most important to Steve was the love he shared for his family. He was a loyal son to his father and mother Carol and Murray Brown, a dedicated brother to David and Pam, and a loving and devoted husband to his wife Dana, the love of his life. Most important to Steve were his children: his daughter Susie and her husband Micha, his son Andrew, his wife Jennifer, and his youngest son Jordan. If only he could have lived to see the birth of his granddaughter Sara, born last August.

I am glad to take this opportunity to celebrate Steve's life and legacy, and I join with my friends at Spanish River Community High School in my district who will be honoring Steve's memory on March 28, 2015. For all of us who were privileged to know Steve or were touched by his vibrant life that was all too short, Steve's memory truly is a blessing.

HONORING JOHN THOMAS DODSON

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Thomas Dodson, Music Director of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra, and to thank him for his impact on the musical life of the Adrian community over the past 14 years.

Many years ago, I served on the Board of Directors which brought John Dodson to the symphony, which he has energetically overseen since 2001. During that time, he elevated the artistic level of the orchestra while collaborating with artists of the highest quality. His authority at the podium and willingness to engage new formats and audiences will certainly be missed when he steps down from his position next month.

His talents have been recognized beyond the walls of the Dawson Auditorium, as Mr. Dodson was awarded the 2008 Lenawee Arts Award from the Crowell Opera House. He also earned the Ross Newsom Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2009 by Adrian College where he taught from 2001–2013.

On April 19, 2015, he will direct Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, the final complete symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, and fittingly, Mr. Dodson's final classical concert performance with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. I know the Adrian community looks forward to one last inspiring performance and wishes Mr. Dodson the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MS. CYNTHIA ORTIZ
GUZMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Cynthia Ortiz Guzman as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Cynthia as one of them.

When meeting Ms. Guzman for the first time, you are immediately taken in by her personal warmth, keen sense of humor, friendly smile and her enthusiasm for life. In 2011, Ms. Guzman was diagnosed on her 63rd birthday with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. Not one to accept her challenges without a fight, Ms. Guzman moved to Napa to be closer to her family, and began raising awareness and advocating for increased research funding for this terrible disease. She has been an active member of the Alzheimer's Association and has been spreading her personal story throughout the region.

Ms. Guzman's story has been published in multiple books, magazine, and newspapers. She has come to my office in Washington, D.C. as a part of the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum and I'm proud to have participated multiple times in her Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Guzman not only

for her commitment to fighting this terrible disease, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Guzman's unyielding dedication to raising funds and awareness and guiding our policymakers in Napa County is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her continued success.

HONORING MARGARET HARFIELD

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Harfield, who is celebrating her 105th birthday this month. Margaret is a remarkable woman who has made significant contributions to the film industry, where she established herself as one of the first female professionals in a field once dominated by men.

Margaret grew up in New Jersey, where she had the special privilege of working with the world-renowned escape-artist Harry Houdini as his projectionist and assistant film editor. At a time when few women were able to enter the film industry, Harfield's unprecedented work for Mr. Houdini and beyond demonstrated her extraordinary talent, hard work and dedication to her profession. Margaret continued to break barriers with her work on movie tone newsreels and national commercials, later joining the film technicians union where she continued to thrive as an editor. Later, she became one of the founders of the National Film Editors Guild. In 1944, Margaret became an assistant editor for Paramount News and was quickly promoted to be an editor for the Life Stories Divisions, where she worked on film biographies used in newscasts and movie theatre reels. Margaret married the love of her life and late husband Harry Hartfield in 1933, and lived together with him in Florida for more than 50 years.

Today, Harfield still lives in South Florida where she is a proud mother, grandmother and great grandmother. 105 years young, she is still an active member of her community and can be found at the local Bingo hall every Tuesday night and at many other functions across town.

It is a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to represent a district with citizens like Margaret Harfield. Harfield is a woman of great accomplishment, and I am incredibly pleased she is continuing to enrich the lives of those around her. On behalf of my entire district and the United States Congress, Happy Birthday, Margaret!

RECOGNIZING FREDRICK "WILL" WILLIAMS

HON. RALPH LEE ABRAHAM

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fredrick "Will" Williams on the occasion of his retirement from the SourceAmerica Board of Directors, through which he has helped identify and create work opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities in Louisiana and in communities across America.

Mr. Williams served in the U.S. Army from February 1983 to March 2006. He is an Iraq War Veteran and two time Purple Heart recipient. He was acting as a convoy escort managing a team of 14 soldiers escorting dignitaries through the war zone when there was a suicide bomb attack resulting in injuries leading to his retirement from the Army. He later became employed by Training, Rehabilitation and Development Institute (TRDI) where he worked as a security monitor. While at TRDI he became a knowledgeable and vocal advocate for people with disabilities and the AbilityOne Program and received recognition for his efforts through the SourceAmerica 2007 William M. Usdane Award.

Mr. Williams is also a mentor in the Boys and Girls Club of Monroe and works with young adults who have disabilities and are struggling to find their purpose. Mr. Williams is a deacon of True Vine Baptist Church and has served on the Finance Committee. He is also a member of the AbilityOne Speakers Bureau and has spoken to groups around the nation about the difference employment makes in an individual's life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Williams for his heartfelt commitment to improving the lives of those with disabilities, and wish him well as he departs from the SourceAmerica Board of Directors.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUTH HYMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ruth Hyman as she is honored by the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group at their Ruth Hyman Spiritual Support in the Jewish Tradition Hospice Program Tree of Life Donor Wall Dedication.

A lifelong resident of Long Branch, New Jersey, Ruth Hyman continues her philanthropic endeavors to improve the well-being of New Jersey's residents. As the recipient of a generous donation by Ms. Hyman, the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group has named its hospice program's special services for Judaic pastoral care in her honor. The Ruth Hyman Spiritual Support in the Jewish Tradition program will continue to provide important spiritual and pastoral care and comfort to individuals and their families. The Visiting Nurse Association Health Group's mission to make the community a better place reflects Ms. Hyman's passion for helping others.

The largest non-profit visiting nurse association in New Jersey, the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group provides an invaluable service to our communities through compassionate home health care and support services. Its skilled health aides continue to meet the needs of over 120,000 individuals in the comfort and security of their homes each year.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Ruth Hyman and the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Douglas Gorman of Katy, TX for being named the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year. He selflessly donates his time to serve the people of TX-22.

Mr. Gorman has been a strong volunteer since he moved to Katy in 2008. He serves on the advisory board for the Fussell Senior Citizen Center and volunteers weekly at Katy Prairie Conservancy and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He is also a board member of the Katy Home Savers Association, and an advocate to preserve safe home environments for the elderly. We are lucky to have such a committed civil servant living in Katy. His selfless dedication to community service strengthens our community.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Douglas Gorman for being selected as the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year. We appreciate your service and continued successes.

RECOGNIZING HILARIO "LALO" RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hilario "Lalo" Rodriguez of Laredo, Texas on the occasion of his retirement. For the last 42 years, Mr. Rodriguez has become a renowned and respected member of both the Laredo and HEB communities.

Lalo Rodriguez began his career with HEB in 1972 as a carryout at the original Laredo 3 store. From there, he rose in the ranks, serving as a department manager in Carrizo Springs, Hondo, and Eagle Pass and then as top store leader in Crystal City in 1984. Most recently, Mr. Rodriguez served as a Unit Director in Laredo stores 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. As a result, he has emerged as a tenet of the HEB organization in Laredo.

Over the last 42 years, Mr. Rodriguez has developed a reputation as an exemplary leader and role model at HEB. His colleagues describe him as "one of Laredo's most iconic top store leaders" and credit him with helping to position HEB as "the retailer of choice" in Laredo. During his 42-year tenure, Mr. Rodriguez has been a "positive role model," helping to empower the next generation of leaders in Southwest area stores.

Mr. Rodriguez is celebrated for his business acumen and love of the job. Many have attributed the rise of HEB in Laredo to his leadership and hard work. Overall, he will be remembered as being an effective business owner and merchant, as well as an exceptional developer of people.

In addition to his 42 years of exemplary service to HEB, Mr. Rodriguez is a devoted husband and father of four daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Hilario "Lalo" Rodriguez

for his 42 years of service to HEB and the people of Laredo.

TRIBUTE TO ABILITYONE AND BOSMA ENTERPRISES

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary partnership between the AbilityOne Program and Indiana's own Bosma Enterprises.

AbilityOne is an extraordinary initiative that helps people with disabilities. It is the largest single provider of employment for people who are blind or face other significant disabilities. The Program puts more than 47,000 Americans to work by providing products and services to both federal government and commercial customers.

For twenty five of the past 100 years that Bosma Enterprises has been in business it has partnered with the AbilityOne Program to serve hundreds of Hoosiers each year through Community and Center-Based Services; services that have helped disabled Hoosiers achieve a greater level of independence and self-esteem. Their partnership has also enabled many people to gain employment in good paying Indiana jobs. Nearly 60 percent of all employees at Bosma Enterprises are blind or suffer some degree of visual impairment. But Bosma's partnership with AbilityOne is about more than just the number of people. It is about the individuals that are being assisted.

One such man was stay-at-home dad Don Green. Retinitis pigmentosa left Don totally blind making it very difficult for him to reenter the job market after taking time off to care for his twins. On more than one occasion he was asked why potential employers "should have to make accommodations for someone who is blind." Almost 200 applications later, Don was disenchanted, dismayed and about to give up when a friend encouraged him to check into the opportunities provided by Bosma Enterprises. That application changed his life as Bosma hired Don as a material handler in its warehouse.

Bosma Enterprises was able to offer Don a job because of its contracts through the AbilityOne Program. Through this important program, Bosma provides exam and surgical gloves to VA hospitals across the country and has created nearly 100 jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired in Indiana. Today, just six years later, Don is the Production Supervisor managing 40 people working on the exam glove lines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work Bosma Enterprises is doing in partnership with the AbilityOne Program and ask all Hoosiers to join me in recognizing the life altering work they do each and every day. They open doors of opportunity and help make the state of Indiana a better place to live. In the words of Don Green, "It means everything to be able to have a job. I am so glad that I am able to take care of my family and give them a better life."

STRONG COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two members of the Brazos Valley Community-Girl Scout Troop 28028—Sarah-Leanne Sherman and Katie Stone. These young women received the Silver Award, the second highest Girl Scout award and the highest award at the middle school level.

Sarah-Leanne and Katie have continually showed their commitment to changing society and helping their community. They were awarded the Silver Award after running a cheer and dance camp for the children staying at the Fort Bend Women's Shelter over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. At the end of the camp, the children were able to perform their routine for their mothers.

I am proud to represent two young leaders who possess a strong commitment to service. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sarah-Leanne and Katie for earning this distinguished award. I look forward to seeing what Sarah-Leanne and Katie do in the future.

HONORING MS. KAREN TAYLOR, SOLANO COUNTY'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Taylor as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district and I am proud to recognize Karen as one of them.

Ms. Taylor is a considerate woman with a loving and giving heart, and is always seeking to help the less fortunate in our community, especially youth, homeless, and elders. From block parties that she put on as a teenager to field trips to take kids to Lake Tahoe to see snow for the first time, she has been a fixture in her neighborhood and the Vallejo community. Forming activity groups, such as Karen's Tiny Tots and Karen's Girls Clubs for kids and teenagers, she has helped young people in Vallejo experience and see the best in themselves.

Ms. Taylor has strived to improve our community for more than thirty years. She has worked with kids to perform plays, has hosted meetings on pregnancy prevention for teenage girls, and has devoted countless hours of work to the Solano AIDS Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Taylor not only for her commitment to bettering the lives of the less fortunate around her, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Taylor's unyielding dedication to the people that make region unique is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her continued success.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Brain Awareness Week and the importance of educating students and the general public on brain science in the United States and around the world. I'd like to highlight an issue that's important to me and the people of California's 14th District. Traumatic brain injury, known as TBI, affects over 1.7 million people in the United States each year and costs Americans almost \$77 billion annually in direct and indirect medical costs. The effects of TBI on the brain vary greatly. TBI includes concussions, which may not show brain damage on an MRI, but can lead to headaches, fatigue, behavioral changes, and long-term effects on cognition or personality. More severe TBIs may lead to loss of consciousness for over 30 minutes, and can result in severe headaches, seizures, loss of motor coordination, and agitation. TBI can result from falls, car accidents, or due to combat trauma or athletics.

TBI has been called the signature wound of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and many of the TBI cases from these wars are due to injury from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The DoD states that since 2000, more than 287,000 U.S. service members have sustained a TBI. Research indicates that TBIs are related to development of PTSD or major depression in veterans, and being able to accurately diagnose and treat TBI is an important step in caring for the mental and physical health of our veterans.

TBI is also an issue in athletes of all levels, ranging from high school sports to professional sports. It is estimated that 300,000 sports-related concussions occur each year. In recent years, repeated concussions in athletes have been shown to be related to chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) that leads to increased irritability, and eventually dementia. Many people with traumatic brain injury never get diagnosed, and there are not reliable treatments available for those who do get diagnosed. Being able to accurately identify and then treat TBI is important for the health and long-term well-being of high school athletes, professional athletes, service members, and veterans.

In an effort to improve diagnosis and treatment of TBI, the University of California, San Francisco is leading several federally-funded research initiatives. UCSF will be directing an \$18.8 million award from NIH that will support research on how to improve diagnosis and treatment for TBIs, which are frequently undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, and under-treated. UCSF has also received a \$17 million Department of Defense award that aims to improve clinical trials for TBI which may lead to better treatments. Researchers will use data from thousands of patients to identify effective measures of brain injury and recovery using brain imaging, biomarkers, and other tools. This may lead to the first successful treatment of TBI.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that thousands of dedicated scientists are making to unlock the mysteries behind the human brain.

HONORING MALCOLM JAMES
"JIMMY" KEEP FOR HIS SERVICE
AND BRAVERY AS A MARINE
WITH THE FOURTH MARINE DIVI-
SION DURING THE PACIFIC CAM-
PAIGNS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Malcolm James "Jimmy" Keep, a life-long Memphian and a veteran of World War II who fought bravely against Japanese forces on Guam, Saipan and Iwo Jima. Keep, now 88 years of age and one of two surviving veterans in the Memphis area who fought on Iwo Jima, served with the Fourth Marine Division after joining the Marines in 1943 at just 17 years old. On March 17, Mr. Keep and his son, Mickey, will travel to Iwo Jima with the help of Memphis-based nonprofit organization Forever Young Senior Veterans to join 70 other Marine veterans for a 70th anniversary gathering.

Assigned to reconnaissance duty early in his career along with his partner from training, Charlie Ciulla of Massachusetts, Keep experienced the brutality of war that many people can only imagine through Hollywood films. Keep remembers fighting on Saipan as the bloodiest thing he had ever seen as Japanese soldiers employed Banzai charges, or human wave assaults, on Marines who were firing 50-caliber machine guns—essentially guaranteeing their own deaths. Even though Keep was trained in fighting and all too familiar with death, he took no satisfaction from the number of Japanese lives lost to his gun fire. On Iwo Jima, Keep and Ciulla found themselves exposed to enemy fire from all sides when their amphibious tank was disabled near Mount Suribachi, causing them to evacuate on foot. The two Marines then ran across the island without injury, earning them both the nickname "rain-walkers." It was believed that if they could survive that kind of heavy fire without being hit, then they could walk through rain without getting wet. Their mission was not in vain as they saw the American flag raised on Suribachi.

Also on Iwo Jima, the American Marines fell under fire from seemingly ghost bullets, which were claiming the lives of many. It was discovered that Japanese fighters were using huge tunnels from which they launch their attacks. As a recon man, Keep was responsible for clearing out the tunnel, and in doing so, he found himself fighting a squad of roughly 15. He performed this task every other day for two weeks. In addition to helping his fellow Marines depart the island safely; Keep was photographed helping a wounded Marine back to the beach. He recalled telling the Marine, "You're getting off this rock. I'll trade places with you." Jimmy Keep is a true hero.

After returning to Memphis, Tennessee, Jimmy became an electrician and started a family. Today, he still resides in Memphis and is an ardent fan of the Memphis Grizzlies. When Jimmy and his son travel to Iwo Jima, Jimmy will no doubt be filled with emotions as he is united with other Marines who also fought valiantly during World War II. While

there, Keep plans to visit Japanese Shinto shrines to ask Japanese gods for forgiveness for the lives that he took as a result of war. This show of sorrow and respect is to be commended. It is my hope, however, that he also remain mindful of the countless lives that were saved because of his selfless decision at such a young age to fight for his country against those forces that sought to do harm to America and the American way of life. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Malcolm James "Jimmy" Keep for his service and bravery as a Marine with the Fourth Marine Division during the Pacific campaigns of World War II.

HONORING MS. PAMELA PHILLIPS,
LAKE COUNTY WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Phillips as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Pamela as one of them.

Over her exemplary five decade career as a public servant, Ms. Phillips worked her way up from receptionist to Field Manager of the Lakeport Social Security Office. I've worked with Ms. Phillips for the past sixteen years and her work ethic and dedication to our mutual constituents was outstanding. She always did her utmost to alleviate the immediate personal need in every dire situation and to see that every question was answered and every beneficiary was well-served.

Employees such as Ms. Phillips are often underappreciated, overworked and their important work sometimes goes unrecognized, but she has always been patient, compassionate and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Phillips not only for her commitment to public service, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Phillips' unyielding dedication to every recipient of Social Security benefits in Lake County is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her a most enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER WATERBURY

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the unveiling of the newly renovated Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury.

On March 19, 2015, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury opens its doors to our community, unveiling recently completed upgrades. I was proud to help secure the

\$750,000 in state bonding funds for improvements to enhance the overall structure and amenities of the facility.

For over 125 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury has shaped successful members by fostering leadership skills, developing educational enrichment programs, and designing activities focused on health and wellbeing. The club continues to demonstrate its commitment to our children through a variety of invaluable programming from promoting a healthy lifestyle to achieving academic success.

Thank you to the Boys & Girls Club for the countless hours you serve as youth advocates for children from all backgrounds. Your sense of purpose and passion creates an environment where boys and girls are welcomed for their diversity and encouraged to build strong character and responsible citizenship.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury transforms lives by expanding opportunities and empowering youth. I offer my congratulations and sincere thanks to the Boys and Girls Club for all of these contributions to our community. I wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING MS. MAUREEN TOMS,
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maureen Toms as one of the Fifth District of California's Women of the Year as we celebrate Women's History Month. I regularly have the privilege to work with extraordinary women across our district, and I am proud to recognize Maureen as one of them.

Ms. Toms has been a strong supporter of the Special Olympics; as a parent of a child with Down Syndrome, she has been a tireless advocate for children with disabilities. She has also donated hundreds of hours as a volunteer on numerous planning committees that have led to improving the quality of life for the families and residents in the City of Pinole and West Contra Costa County.

Ms. Toms grew up in a family that believed in serving their community, and that philosophy became a lifelong passion. From helping children with intellectual disabilities overcome barriers through sports and shatter stereotypes with the Special Olympics to helping beautify her local neighborhood by obtaining grants to plant trees in a local park, she has been a tireless advocate for the people and places that make our community special.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Toms not only for her commitment to improving the lives of children with disabilities, but also for her commitment to our community. Ms. Toms' unyielding dedication to the people that make our region unique is greatly appreciated by our entire community and we wish her continued success.