

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. GEORGIA HENLEY
ON THE OCCASION OF HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Georgia Henley upon the joyous occasion of her 90th birthday, which will be celebrated with her family, friends, and church family on March 22nd, 2015 at Unity Church of Buffalo.

Ms. Henley was born in Mobile, Alabama on March 21st, 1925. In 1945, during the period of the "The Great Migration" Ms. Henley and her husband joined the millions of African Americans leaving the rural South to find better opportunities in the Northeast. This journey landed her in our beloved Queen City, Buffalo, NY. After a divorce in 1954, Ms. Henley was left to raise 5 small children and often worked 6–7 days a week, from 4 AM and not finishing sometimes until 9 PM. Her strong determination coupled with her propensity for unconditional love allowed her to provide for her children and in turn her sacrifice has blessed her with 10 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

A longtime member of Unity Church of Buffalo, Ms. Henley will also be celebrating her 50th Anniversary of church membership. She is deeply devoted to her church and community and has served on the Unity Church Board, Erie County Senior Services Advisory Board, and received the Network of Religious Communities Religious Service Award.

Ms. Henley is well-known for her generosity and spirit. She has said, "The most important thing and the greatest blessing I've received in life is learning to love unconditionally." Ms. Henley continues to demonstrate this power to love in life, despite challenges and hardships.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the life of Ms. Georgia Henley. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Henley a very happy birthday and congratulate her for reaching this exciting milestone. I wish Ms. Henley and all those who worship with her at the Unity Church of Buffalo all the best for years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELA-
TIONS ACT

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, it has been 70 years since the end of World War II. Seventy years since, as allies, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the United States stood shoulder to shoulder against the forces that threatened the destiny of our two peoples.

In commemoration of another event of the combined interests of our two peoples, the 36th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), we rededicate ourselves to enhance the critical relationship between the people of Taiwan and the United States of America.

The economic and strategic security of Taiwan is of highest importance to our well-being. In these times of worldwide political chaos, we must have dependable allies; Taiwan has proven itself time and time again. In addition to being a dependable ally, Taiwan is one of our strongest trading partners; contributing greatly to our economic stability.

To ensure the viability of Taiwan, which is in our self-interest, we must enable Taiwan under the mandate of the TRA the ability to purchase defensive arms necessary to help them defend themselves.

CLARE EDMUNDSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Clare Edmundson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Clare Edmundson is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Clare Edmundson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Clare Edmundson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELA-
TIONS ACT

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many of my colleagues in recognizing the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act. Through the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a warm and mutually beneficial relationship, which has promoted security and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

I would like to point out another anniversary that will take place later this year of great sig-

nificance to both the people of the United States and Taiwan—the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The contributions of the Republic of China played a key role in the successful victory over the Axis Powers. While many are familiar with figures such as General Joseph Stilwell, General Claire Chennault and the Flying Tigers, few fully appreciate the fact that for eight years, ROC forces tied down Japanese troops in China, preventing Tokyo from throwing its full military might against the rest of the Allied Powers.

The war came at a great cost to the ROC both during and after the war. In the post WW II upheaval, the communists took power, and in 1949, the ROC was forced to relocate to Taiwan.

Despite the seemingly impossible challenges the ROC faced over much of the 20th century, Taiwan has achieved the vision of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other visionaries, who foresaw a modern, democratic state with a great deal to offer to its neighbors and the world. Today, Taiwan is a multiparty democracy with an advanced economy that is an important component of the regional and global economy. Taiwan remains one of our closest economic and security partners, and I am proud to call myself a friend of Taiwan.

I hope my colleagues will join me during this 70th anniversary year, in recognizing the contributions all of our allies made to defeat the Axis Powers and in securing the peace and prosperity of the postwar Asia-Pacific. I thank the Taiwan people for their important contribution.

HONORING CATHY PERKOWITZ
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cathy Perkowski, an extraordinary woman from the sixth district of Illinois. Recently, the Alzheimer's Association named Cathy the 2015 Outstanding Advocate of the Year. This award is given to an advocate who has a deep commitment and strong passion for the Alzheimer's cause.

Cathy's husband, Bill, was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's in 2006 at the age of fifty two. Cathy has been actively involved with the Alzheimer's Association since 2009. Since then, she has dedicated herself to caring for her husband and advocating on behalf of those with Alzheimer's disease. She has been an Alzheimer's Ambassador since the program's inception in 2010 and recently traveled to Springfield, Illinois to attend her sixth straight lobby day on behalf of the Alzheimer's cause.

During her time as an Alzheimer's advocate, Cathy has worked to develop strong personal relationships with elected officials. I can personally speak to this. Cathy was kind enough

• 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.

to invite me to visit her husband Bill in his long-term care facility. This was a special experience for me, and I am grateful for Cathy and her family's willingness to help me understand what it's like to live with and care for someone with Alzheimer's. Not many people are willing to open their lives up that way.

Cathy's involvement also stretches beyond the advocacy field. She is active in a local younger-onset caregiver support group since 2006, when there were less than twelve contributors. Now, Cathy is one of seventy. She also participates in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and her team has been the top fundraiser for the past three years. Since that fateful news in 2006, she has dedicated her life to the Alzheimer's cause. Cathy is the true definition of an advocate.

Mr. Speaker, and distinguished colleagues, please join me in congratulating Cathy Perkowitz on receiving this distinct honor and wishing her and her family many future successes as they continue their advocacy on behalf of those with Alzheimer's disease.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF CAROL BURGESS
EMMOTT, PH.D.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of a dear friend and revered colleague, Carol Burgess Emmott. Born on November 11, 1946, Carol died peacefully at her home in Hillsborough, California on February 25, 2015, at the age of 68, in the arms of her loving husband, Cameron.

Carol was born and raised in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1969 with a double major in History and Political Science. In 1975, while working for the California Senate Pro Tem George Moscone, she earned her Ph.D. from Oklahoma University in Health Policy, studying the California Legislature through UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. After completing her Ph.D., Carol contributed to the health policy research agenda of the Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco.

After her tenure at UCSF, Carol accepted a political appointment in Washington, D.C. working under Joseph A. Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. During her tenure there she managed a third of the health care legislative agenda for the Carter Administration. Carol returned to California as Chief Deputy Director of the State Health Department, working under Director Beverlee Myers. She was later the Deputy of the San Francisco Department of Public Health under Mayor Dianne Feinstein, where she shaped policies to respond to the AIDS crisis.

Carol's commitment to California's public safety net facilities led her to found and serve as CEO of the California Association of Public Hospitals. During her long tenure at CAPH, Carol and her colleagues were successful in bringing billions of dollars of state and federal funds to help support California's health care safety net, facilitating the passage of legislation to rebuild the majority of these vital facilities.

After 15 years in federal, state, and local health policy, Carol complemented her career by contributing to private sector health care through senior level executive recruiting. During the course of her 25-year career, Carol was a partner at three of the top four international recruiting firms: Spencer Stuart, Heidrick & Struggles, and Russell Reynolds Associates. Carol's last 10 years were dedicated to building and leading the Health Services Practice at Russell Reynolds Associates. She was successful in recruiting many of the top leaders in American health care across a broad swath of the industry, including academic medical centers, major health plans, significant health systems, and prominent health policy positions.

Carol's dedication to executive development was manifested in her leadership forums in California and Massachusetts, and her CEO/Innovator's Roundtable. Devoted to her professional colleagues, Carol focused especially on mentoring the emerging young women leaders across the industry. The recent creation of the Carol Emmott Fellowship stands as a testament to her commitment to the success of women in the health care industry.

Carol was deeply devoted to her family. Cameron, her husband of 45 years, was the love of her life. Having met in high school, they were soul mates in all endeavors, most particularly in the nurturing of their son, Parker Emmott. While Carol was a dedicated wife and professional, she was a devoted mother, always prioritizing her connection to Parker, his friends, and his evolution as a unique and talented individual. Carol was predeceased by her parents, Robert Banks Burgess and Mary Gary Bedwell. In addition to her husband and son, she is survived by her sister, Betsy Wright, and many other beloved family members and friends.

Carol was special in every way. She knew how to be a friend. She used her intellect for the betterment of humanity, and she was beautiful inside and out. Once you met Carol, she became unforgettable. I am blessed to have known her, to have learned from her, to have been inspired by her, and to have had her as a trusted friend and colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Carol Burgess Emmott and in extending our deepest condolences to her magnificent family. She strengthened our community and our country, and bettered the lives of countless Americans.

IN HONOR OF 2014 MISS UNITED
STATES ELIZABETH SCOTT
SAFRIT BEING NAMED MISS
WORLD AMERICAS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elizabeth Scott Safrit, a constituent from Kannapolis, North Carolina, who placed 3rd in the 64th Miss World pageant on December 14, 2014, in London, England.

Elizabeth represented North Carolina in the Miss United States Pageant last year, and upon winning qualified to represent our country in the Miss World competition.

The 130 Miss World contestants were judged not only on beauty but also on physical fitness, modeling, social media skills, interview skills, and their philanthropy project, called "Beauty with a Purpose."

Elizabeth represented the United States well, finishing first in the multimedia portion of the competition. She ultimately was crowned 2nd Princess, a 3rd overall finish in the 2014 Miss World pageant, thereby receiving the additional title of Miss World Americas.

So far, Elizabeth has served admirably as Miss United States. She has traveled across the country promoting "Save the Children", advocating for the welfare of children, and has also served as a spokesperson for "Rock the Vote." She will travel much of the world as Miss World Americas.

Her parents, Walter and Lynne Safrit, who I know well, along with Elizabeth's extended family and friends, are very proud of her accomplishments.

It is a great honor and privilege to extend these congratulatory remarks to an inspiring young lady who represents Kannapolis, North Carolina's 8th District, North Carolina, and the United States worldwide in her role as Miss United States and Miss World Americas.

SUE POSER OF PIERZ

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sue Poser of Pierz, Minnesota who has been named the 2015 Quilter of the Year by Minnesota Quilter's Inc. Not only is she an exceptional quilter, she is also the third generation owner of Gruber's, which many people liken to a "Laura Ingalls Wilder" style shop and community hub—and award-winning quilting mecca in Genola. Her quilting business began with Poser's grandparents and a small general store serving a town of a population of 75 and perhaps another 100 in the surrounding farms and townships. The store eventually included everything from quilting supplies to movie rentals, although it was particularly famous for its meat market and quilting parties. An often-told story in the area tells of a man who brought a bear into the meat market for procession and while negotiating, he saw a group of 50 women enjoying margaritas from the bar across the street for a quilting party. Curious to find out more about the party, he stopped in only to hear one of the spirited women say, "We have to get back to the convent before they lock the doors at eight!"

The meat market, like so many small businesses, no longer operates—though the quilting shop prospered and has expanded to other locations. Gruber's now operates with 20 employees in Waite Park and has been voted one of the best quilt shops in the nation.

Sue is the common thread that binds huge sections of the quilting community together, not only as a crafter but as an encourager helping a lot of people find success in the quilt and pattern-design industry. Some years ago, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis—but that doesn't stop her from doing what she loves. She said, "If God gave me MS, it was to slow me down because otherwise I'd never stop." She is such an inspiration to others.

People who struggle with a recent health diagnosis or life changes often come to her for support and a ready ear to listen.

In our rural areas, weekly or monthly quilting bees are still a time for women to leave their cares at home and join in the laughter, fellowship and wisdom of others—and often a potluck lunch or dinner, and yes, the occasional margarita shared with a group of nuns.

Sue Poser exemplifies the embodiment of utilizing creativity and hard work to build a small business success while staying rooted to family, friends and community.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work and accomplishments of Dr. Marcella Maxwell in recognition of Women's History Month. On Sunday, March 22nd, I joined the 369th Harlem Historical Society for their annual awards dinner dance celebrating Women's History Month at the elegant Marina del Rey in Throgs Neck, New York. This annual salute pays special tribute to phenomenal women of color currently serving and those that have served in our Nation's military. I was very proud to present this year's prestigious 369th Historical Society Women's History Month Award to my beloved friend, Dr. Marcella Maxwell.

Under the leadership of retired Major General Nathaniel James, AUS, the 369th Historical Society was established to collect, preserve and maintain artifacts, relics, books, papers, photographs, films and other artifacts touching on the past history of the 369th Infantry Regiment (also known as the Harlem Hellfighters who were given their name by same German soldiers they help to defeat in the liberation of France and Europe in World War I), its allies and affiliates and of Soldiers who served in the Military Services of the United States. One of the primary services it provides is to exhibit all gathered data to the public and ensure that the contributions of all African Americans and Minorities in the Military are recognized, preserved and accurately presented to the public.

The Society also recognizes individuals who have contributed their time, effort and support for Women Veterans as they transition back to civilian life. My dear friend Dr. Marcella Maxwell is such a person who through her organization, the Greater New York Link's Incorporated has led the way in this very important effort. On Saturday, March 21, Dr. Marcella and the Link's Inc. joined with The Home Depot Chelsea neighborhood Store in New York City, under the direction of CEO Craig Menear, Al Manigault, Mohammed Bello, Vincent Merlo, Leana Baker, and Nalinee Hobert to honor women veterans, by providing "Do it Yourself Workshops, a "Career Fair" and a special ceremony, where I presented congressional certificates to 32 women veterans for their service to our Nation. Dr. Maxwell, whose late husband served under retired Brigadier General George A. Jones, has been an amazing advocate and supporter of not only women veterans, but all veterans throughout this en-

tire Nation. Every year at the NAACP National Convention she convenes and presides over the Association's annual Military Dinner, where one of our United States Armed Forces Services Divisions is featured and honored.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of 12,000 professional women of color in 280 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The members of The Links, Incorporated, such as, Dr. Maxwell, who is the National Eastern Area Chair of the Women's Issues Committee as are influential decision makers and opinion leaders. The Links, Inc. has attracted many distinguished women who are individual achievers and have made a difference in their communities and the world. They are business and civic leaders, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work towards a common vision by engaging like-minded organizations and individuals for partnership. Links members contribute more than 500,000 documented hours of community service annually—strengthening their communities and enhancing the nation.

In addition, Dr. Marcella Maxwell has been an Adult Educator for over two decades. She served as a Founding Dean at Medgar Evers College, CUNY where she sponsored and coordinated the first Women's History Month Conference at the College. Her background and experience in helping women to improve their status and empowering them to transform their lives and the lives of their families lead to her appointment as Chair of Mayor Koch's Commission on the Status of Women and Chair of the City's Human Rights Commission. She subsequently served as the Director of Alternative Education for the New York City Housing Authority where students earned their General Education Diplomas, making them eligible for entering College. Dr. Maxwell earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees with Honors from Long Island University and her Ed.D Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Fordham University on a Ford Foundation Scholarship. She retired from the New York City Board of Education and states that one of the best experiences of her teaching career was living and working in Puerto Rico as one of the first 20 teachers to participate in "Operation Understanding", an exchange program, sponsored by the New York City Board of Education and the Puerto Rican Board of Education.

Education was always a priority for Dr. Maxwell and her family. Her grandfather donated the land for the first elementary school for African-Americans in Cleveland, N.C.

Today, she forges partnerships with a wide range of organizations to bring new scholarships and educational programs for New York City youth. Dr. Marcella Maxwell is a clinical supervisor of teaching fellows at Brooklyn College, a part of the City College of New York system. In this role Dr. Maxwell trains teaching fellows to foster their professional development, organizes collaboration between principals, teachers and other faculty, spearheads team building seminars, curriculum design and

development and instructional strategies and methods.

In addition to her role as an educator, Dr. Maxwell is a well-known advocate for women's issues, community development, organizational administration, fund development, curriculum development and government relations. Dr. Maxwell is a passionate advocate for Geriatric Education which allows her with several organizational partners to provide information, and education for seniors to help them navigate the challenges of Aging Gracefully.

In the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dr. Maxwell serves as the Vice Chair of the Special Contributions Fund and on the Committee charged with awarding The Spingam Medal for outstanding achievement by an African American. Dr. Maxwell's philosophy and mission in life is to use her relationships and resources to help others in their pursuit of Civil Rights and Social Justice. She is truly an Ambassador for the City of New York as she carries out her responsibilities for The Links Incorporated and as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. Marcella Maxwell, and her efforts that have positively impacted the quality of life for countless citizens across this Nation. Her constant dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of our Nation's highest esteem.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the United States-Caribbean Partnership Act of 2015, along with my friends and colleagues Representatives GREGORY MEEKS, FREDERICA WILSON, ALCEE HASTINGS, BARBARA LEE, YVETTE CLARKE, LOIS FRANKEL, ALBIO SIRES and TED DEUTCH. This bill will establish embassies in the five Caribbean countries where we currently have no physical diplomatic presence—Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Five years ago, President Obama attended the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago and declared that, "It's appropriate and important that we hold this summit in the Caribbean. The energy, the dynamism, the diversity of the Caribbean people inspires us all, and is such an important part of what we share in common as a hemisphere." I could not agree more. As we approach the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Panama next month, the United States must redouble our commitment to the people of the Caribbean. That is precisely why I am introducing this bill today.

I ask my colleagues to imagine countries where tens of thousands of American citizens travel for pleasure or business; where thousands of American citizens go to school; where there is a constant concern about drug trafficking to the United States; but where the United States has no U.S. embassies. Most

people I speak to are surprised to learn that there are five countries in the Caribbean—only a few hundred miles from the United States—where we have no physical diplomatic presence. My legislation will correct this problem by establishing U.S. embassies in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Currently, all diplomatic relations with these countries are run out of the U.S. embassy in Barbados.

While these countries are small, they must not be taken for granted. They are key voting members of the United Nations and other international organizations. As members of the Organization of American States (OAS), their votes are extremely important. Without a U.S. presence in these five countries, it is very difficult to conduct in-person diplomacy with our counterparts on a range of crucial international issues. These countries are also of profound interest and importance to the millions of Caribbean-American citizens in the United States.

Currently, in order to meet with local officials, the private sector or civil society, U.S. diplomats must fly in from Barbados (or Washington) on often expensive, infrequent flights, and stay overnight in often expensive island hotels. Close working relationships with key leaders cannot develop, because our diplomats are not there to establish them. And, our diplomacy is limited to phone calls, emails and faxes, even though we all know that the best interaction is carried out in person. In addition to our stymied diplomacy, U.S. citizens living in these countries do not have full consular services to assist in the event of emergencies.

This bill establishes uses existing embassy construction funding to establish these new embassies. In 2011, I authored a bipartisan amendment with the former Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Congressman Connie Mack (R-FL), to create these embassies which was approved unanimously by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to get this legislation across the finish line and to seeing U.S. diplomats permanently stationed in every country in the Caribbean.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE JOK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Caroline Jok attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in

your opinion, what role should the government play in our lives?

It is said: One can never have too much of a good thing.

While it is certainly true that in many cases it is harder for a good thing to turn bad, it is impossible for this statement to be infallible with the absolute qualifier “never” hanging in the balance. For example, though water is essential to life, if one drinks too much of it they will face hyponatremia, otherwise known as water intoxication. While chocolate is undeniably sweet and pleasant, too much chocolate induces contrastingly unpleasant feelings, sickness, and even dangerous health conditions. Even something as wonderful and essential as freedom—the very virtue this great Nation is founded on, the very virtue that our ancestors fought and gave their lives for—can become a negative force if there is too much of it. The statement “too much freedom” sounds seemingly absurd, however, this is precisely why our founding fathers, despite the hard fought efforts to escape the oppression of one government, worked to build another. Too much freedom can result, ironically, in oppression, in chaos, in exploitation, and in a bloodbath driven by greed. This is where the role of our government comes in.

Our government serves as a counterbalance to a good thing, not to control all things; it is the protector of this good thing. It is the role of our government to address and settle conflicts from an unbiased standpoint to the best of its ability. It is the role of our government to compose and enforce legislation that will benefit, protect, and create opportunity for its citizens, to set limitations on freedom so that freedom can be preserved and ensured. It is the role of our government to serve as the voice of the nation to the rest of the world, to serve as our representative, as our ambassador. It is the role of our government to serve the people who elected it. It is essential for our government to be involved in the day to day lives of its citizens, be it through the corporate world, cyberspace and security, on a local level, in education, immigration, in the health industry, and countless other niches, not to control these realms, but to serve as an equalizer, safeguard and creator of opportunity in each of these.

Professor of Communication at American University, Leonard Steinhorn comments, “[if many] Americans feel ‘unease’ toward [our] government’s role in our daily lives, it is either because they take much of what the federal government does for granted, or because the media tend to give a disproportionate voice to those whose ideological temper tantrums against government make for good copy and sound bites.” Our government’s involvement in day-to-day life proceedings is essential to balance and preserve a very good thing: freedom. This is precisely the role our government plays in our lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #130—NAY

Roll Call #131—YEA

EGAN WALKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Egan Walker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Egan Walker is a 10th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Egan Walker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Egan Walker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on March 23, 2015. I was delayed in arriving in Washington because I was in attendance at a funeral for a beloved family within our community. The Columbia community and the University of South Carolina worshipped in thankful memory for the life of Charles “Charlie” Leverett Adams Terreni, Jr.

H.R. 360—Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act—NAY

H. Res. 162—Calling on the President to provide Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity—AYE

JASON SHORT OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jason Short of International Falls, Minnesota and the work of the Falls Hunger Coalition under the leadership of Nancy Anderson.

I am sure many of my fellow Members have seen the nightly weather reports indicating that International Falls has the coldest temperatures in the United States.

Jason is a young adult working as a delivery driver for UPS in the International Falls region that covers a 300-mile route. On one brisk day, one of his package recipients noted that Jason was wearing shorts and told him he

was crazy for dressing like that in the cold weather. He took that craziness and his love of wearing shorts to Facebook to initiate a challenge to his friends and posted, "Until I raise 1,000 dollars for the Falls Hunger Coalition Food Bank, I'm going to wear shorts no matter if it's snowing, 30 below, rain, sleet, or snow."

Soon the amount turned into \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000, \$5,000, \$6,000 to \$7,192 at the end of the year.

The comments on his Facebook ranged from, "We need to dress this young man," or "I don't know, maybe we want to keep Jason in shorts all winter. However, he did stop wearing his shorts when he reached \$5,000 with contributions from friends and strangers all over the United States. He modestly says, "It's all about paying it forward. Everyone can use a helping hand once in a while and you never know if the shoe was on the other foot, you never know if you're going to need something yourself so why not get out there and help somebody."

The Falls Hunger Coalition served over 8,000 people in 4,178 households in calendar year 2014. That added up to over 164,000 pounds of food distributed through Bonus Bucks, Senior Select, the Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors, and the Summer Snack Packs and Summer Meals. Population wise, it's a small county but the coalition is doing an outstanding job of serving the needs of many.

I understand that Jason is planning to hatch another fundraising later this year and as a former UPS employee during my college days and spending time on a ride-along-driver "in the browns" this past summer in Duluth, I know he has the determination to once again achieve great success. With one out of five children in this country going to bed hungry every night, I am so proud of this young man for stepping up and trying to alleviate the issue of hunger in his own community.

Let's just hope for warmer temperatures during his next fundraising phase.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MAJOR GENERAL CASSIE STROM
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR NA-
TIONAL GUARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's 1st district, I am proud to honor one of our most distinguished constituents and home-grown heroes, Major General Cassie Strom of the United States Air National Guard. In June of this year—2015, General Strom is retiring, after an incredible 31 plus years of dedicated service.

General Strom received her commission by direct appointment and began her active duty career with the Air Force in February 1984. She has served at all levels—Department of Defense, Combatant Command, Headquarters United States Air Force, Major Command, wing and base legal offices. She previously served on active duty for six years at the base legal offices at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, Osan Air Base, Korea and Torrejon Air Base, Spain. General Strom is admitted to

practice law in the State of Missouri and the State of Nebraska.

General Strom transferred to the Air Force Reserve with an assignment as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. She then moved to the Missouri Air National Guard in 1990 as a traditional Guard member. She has deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina and augmented the Army Civil Affairs mission, worked a variety of international peacekeeping exercises, served in the Department of Defense Office of General Counsel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, acted as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, United States Transportation Command, and as a Supervising Senior Attorney at the United States Air Force Academy.

Major General Cassie A. Strom concludes her achievement filled career as the Air National Guard Assistant to The Judge Advocate General. In this position, she is the principal adviser and liaison to The Judge Advocate General on Air National Guard legal matters. In addition, she serves as a senior representative on The Judge Advocate General's Air National Guard Council, providing leadership, strategic planning and management of the entire Air National Guard Judge Advocate program, encompassing over 440 judge advocates and paralegals at Air National Guard legal offices throughout the United States.

Her service to our country does not stop with her time in military status—she runs the Veteran's Advocacy Project for the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry, which is housed in Scott Hall, in our own St. Louis University School of Law!

As further testament to her exceptional service, General Strom's military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long, Air Force Longevity Service (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with 1 Gold Hourglass) Air Force Training Ribbon, and NATO Medal!

General Strom has set a truly inspiring example of dedication to the defense of freedom, service before self, and what it means to be an Officer. She has been a trailblazer—as one of the first JAGs to deploy into Bosnia to become the first female ANG Advisor to Air Force Special Operations Command's Staff Judge Advocate to becoming the first woman to become a Major General Air National Guard Judge Advocate! The people of the first district of Missouri—thank General Strom for her service and wish her well in her future endeavors!

CHARLIZE GALLEGOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Charize Gallegos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Charize Gallegos is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Charize Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Charize Gallegos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO KANIKA
DRAKSHARAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Kanika Draksharam attends Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should the government play in our lives?

In my opinion, the role of the government in our lives should be to protect and help the people of the country when they are not able to do those things themselves.

The topmost priority for a government should be the safety of the people living in that country. If the people are not safe, then the country will fall apart. Providing safety for the people includes a police force, military, a fire department or emergency response team, and an emergency medical system. Without a working police force, society would not be stable, as there would be large amounts of crime. This should be provided from a local government. A military is vital to a country's protection. A government must ensure that the borders of a country are protected. Federal protection is necessary in order to maintain the safety and well being of the people. The military should be provided from a federal level however. Federal and local law enforcement must be enforced. If a country did not have a fire department or emergency medical system, the

safety of people would be threatened, and lives would be lost and endangered. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that people are safe.

Another role the government must play in people's lives is to provide basic necessities such as education and infrastructure. It should be prioritized, that the citizens of a country are educated and are able to support themselves and benefit to the country. Providing education should be one of the roles of a state or local government to determine the standards of. Providing infrastructure lies in the role of the government, because water, roads, waste collection and electricity are needed. These things are required for a country to be functioning and to ensure the well being of the people. An equal priority, of the government should be to provide a democratic federal justice system. If an individual violates a law, the role of the government is to make sure this person is brought to justice.

In conclusion, when we consider the role of the government in our lives today, my opinion is the role should be to provide defense, protection, infrastructure facilities, quality education, and a democratic justice system. These things all benefit the people themselves, but at the same time, do not have complete control over them.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL GRAZIANO,
FILMMAKER, AND THE DOCUMENTARY FILM
RESISTANCE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Graziano and his extraordinarily talented team at Uji Films who have created a fantastic documentary called Resistance. Michael recently joined me along with a panel of experts on antibiotic resistance for a screening of Resistance in my district of Rochester, New York, to an amazing response. The film uses microscopic footage, harrowing personal stories and expert insight to delve into the history of antibiotic resistance, starting with the mass production of antibiotics 70 years ago and tracking the rise of superbugs into the 21st Century.

Resistance does a tremendous job laying out the issues at hand, explaining that eighty percent of the antibiotics sold in this country are used on the farm, mostly with healthy animals to "prevent disease," and how that impacts human health and modern medicine. The World Health Organization said in a recent report that antibiotic resistance is, "a problem so serious that it threatens the achievements of modern medicine." In ten years, surgeries, procedures, and illnesses that rely on antibiotics could be fatal. Pulling your teeth. Hip replacements. These could all be rendered obsolete without antibiotics. Strep throat could be fatal.

We must preserve medically important antibiotics for the treatment of humans, and for sick animals. That is exactly what my bill, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, or PAMTA, would do. Tomorrow I will reintroduce that bill for the fifth time.

The American people need to understand that while I am fighting every day in Congress to highlight this issue, consumers, neighbors, doctors, and parents will be the ones who turn

the tide of antibiotic resistance. Citizens taking a stand and asking grocery stores like Costco or fast food chains like McDonald's and Chick-Fil-A to sell meat and poultry raised without unnecessary antibiotics has made a difference. Resistance is making a difference. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the film and the filmmakers for making an important contribution to fighting the public health crisis of our time.

IN HONOR OF DR. BARRY
SHEPHERD'S CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Barry Shepherd for his faithful service as the Superintendent of the Cabarrus County School system in the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina.

When Dr. Shepherd became Superintendent in 2008, he brought a unique vision that transformed Cabarrus County Schools during many challenging years. In spite of reductions in funding, Dr. Shepherd continually emphasized the value of people and his students.

As a result of this approach, students from Cabarrus County Schools are scoring higher on end-of-year assessments, graduation rates have increased, and the school system was able to open eight new schools during his tenure.

Today, Cabarrus County Schools boast some of the most unique learning experiences offered in the country. Specifically, Cabarrus County Schools have a partnership with the Center for International Understanding at the University of North Carolina called Confucius Classrooms. This program features a reciprocal agreement where teachers and administrators from Cabarrus County visit schools in China to fine tune best practices in education. As part of this program, Chinese educators come to Cabarrus County Schools to learn from their successes as well.

Dr. Shepherd is a native of Wilkes County, North Carolina, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He went on to receive his Doctoral Degree in Education from Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Shepherd served as Superintendent of Elkin City Schools and as Assistant Superintendent in the Mooresville Graded School District before arriving in Cabarrus County. He also held various administrative positions in the Iredell-Statesville Schools, Lexington City Schools, and Thomasville City Schools.

It is truly an honor to extend these remarks congratulating Dr. Shepherd on his retirement and to thank him for his esteemed service to our local community as a visionary educator.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 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 \$18,152,412,192,314.93. We've added \$7,525,535,143,401.85 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.

DAISY SHAW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daisy Shaw for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Daisy Shaw is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daisy Shaw is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daisy Shaw for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK E. GILKISON

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Frank E. Gilkison, a longtime Muncie attorney and a truly admirable Hoosier.

Frank was a devoted husband to his wife Donna, the loving father to five children, and stepfather to two step-sons. After initially serving as an Air Cadet for two years in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Frank diligently attended IU Law School before moving to Muncie. He started his 62-year law practice with a predecessor firm to Beasley and Gilkison and remained a member until his retirement in 2012. Not only was Frank one of the longest practicing attorneys from East Central Indiana, but he also served on the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Character & Fitness for 35 years. Additionally, he was the CEO of Home Beverages, Inc., a small beverage distribution company for 45 years.

Frank and Donna are also my close friends, who both played a key role in my career. They

were among the first friends in Muncie to step forward in support of my initial Congressional pursuits. I will always be grateful for their friendship and early leadership.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Frank Gilkison. My thoughts and prayers go out to Frank's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

GLEN STEVENS FROM NORTH BRANCH

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a story of how a conversation at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Conventional last year in Dallas turned into a transformational life experience. Glen Stevens, who serves as the Assistant Principal at North Branch Area High School, was offered an opportunity to have an expense-paid volunteer trip to the Dominican Republic to help in the building of a vocational center of a local school. He submitted an application and his name was thrown into a large pool of educators willing to have the experience. He said, "When you're 13 or 14 in the Dominican Republic, and you're done with elementary school, unless you have phenomenal talent or potential, you're not going to high school." Because sixty percent of the Dominican Republic's vegetables come from the Constanza area where he was volunteering, many of these families only find work in the fields, earning perhaps \$4 to \$5 a day. Stevens could see the disparity of the income gap between workers and the wealthy land owners.

Fortunately, Glen was able to speak some Spanish, but it took him a while to understand what the school children were trying to communicate when they kept saying "espaldas." After a short time, he found out the children wanted to ride on his big, strong shoulders. During his volunteer stint from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm each day, he was moving blocks and mixing concrete all day. Though he had a short break for lunch, children would come clamoring for attention and suddenly his weariness was gone. He explained, "It was like a big 'boom' and your energy level would be back up again." He was heart-warmed from the warm reception he received from all the Dominicans. "Even though most of the volunteers spoke little or no Spanish, and the Dominicans didn't speak English, a bond had formed between them than transcended language.

He said he came back a different person and knows the next group of volunteers coming to finish painting and completing the electrical work will find the same spirit.

This school, founded by Pastor Angel Moreta, will give children more options than working in the fields after elementary school. They will be adding programs for culinary arts, beautician trades, music and woodworking in addition to building on their skills in reading and mathematics.

Glen Stevens has hopes and dreams for these children to achieve success with newfound skills. I am certain he came home with far more than he brought with him and will

share this new message to the students at the North Branch Area High School.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIC LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick as it prepares to celebrate its 70th anniversary at a gala celebration on March 28, 2015. I would also like to join with the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick in congratulating its gala honorees, Mayor James Cahill, Richard Kaplan and Charlene Brown.

Since its inception, the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick has striven to strengthen the minority populations of central New Jersey. Its efforts have created several programs and services to advance opportunities and improve the quality of life of all residents. Its focus on employment and housing services helps develop a foundation to better the well-being of individuals and families. Through its youth programs, the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick offers tutoring and enrichment activities to students and builds leadership skills. The Civic League of Greater New Brunswick continues to fulfill its mission of an equal society for all through the enhancement of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick on its 70th anniversary and recognizing the outstanding efforts of the Civic League and the gala honorees.

HONORING JUDE KIBODEAUX

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jude Kibodeaux attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

Making landfall on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina was the most destructive disaster in United States history. A Category 3 storm with winds faster than 100 miles per hour, the storm took a great toll on the country. Its social cost, at least in New Orleans, is obvious. Nearly 2,000 of its citizens were killed by the storm, and thousands

more were displaced by the grievous destruction it caused. Even today, nine years later, the city is still recovering from its losses. But the effects of Hurricane Katrina were not limited to just the area hit. The winds of Katrina were felt throughout the entire nation, if not through physical destruction then through economic downturn and political discontent.

The cost of the storm can be measured not only in deaths but also in dollars. This latter loss was not as tragic as the former, but it was significant enough to impact the rest of the country. The damage caused cost, according to the lowest estimate, a staggering \$96 billion, only \$40 billion of which was insured. And this does not even account for losses in the various affected industries. Its most serious impact was on oil production. Oil pipelines and offshore rigs were destroyed, causing national oil prices to rise and pushing the government to tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The sugar industry, worth \$500 million annually in Louisiana alone, was also severely damaged. Chemical plants in the area, which accounted for one-fourth of the country's chemical production, were not spared either. The losses suffered by these important industries were great enough to stunt the economic growth of the whole country. After Katrina, national GDP growth decreased from 3.8% to 1.3%. With all of these losses taken into account, the total cost of the hurricane amounts to \$250 billion. It was undoubtedly a severe setback for the economy.

The government stepped in to try and alleviate the storm's effects, but its efforts were not as cohesive as many would have hoped. On the federal level, it was days before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an organization created for this kind of situation, got its act together in New Orleans. And even once it had established itself, FEMA lacked an effective strategy and had a minimal impact on the recovery. The organization was evidently unprepared to do its duty. The director of FEMA, Michael D. Brown, was forced to resign in the fallout, and the popularity of President George W. Bush plummeted, the beginning of a trend that ended Bush's political career. There was also much criticism at the local level. Most was directed toward the mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, for having understated the severity of the storm before it hit and responded inadequately in the aftermath. He managed to stay in office but faced serious criticism, making it difficult for him to implement policies. In all, Katrina caused just as much a political disturbance as an economic one.

The winds of Katrina had proven themselves the winds of change as they caused great disturbances to the society, economy and government of this nation. Homes destroyed by the hurricane can still be seen today in New Orleans, serving as a testament to the lasting effect this storm has had.

DEVORAH LINFORD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Devorah

Linford for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Devorah Linford is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Devorah Linford is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Devorah Linford for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 130/131 my flight was cancelled due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on both.

THE 4 CHAPLAINS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, anywhere there is someone in the military, there will be chaplains. They are men of God, doing God's work. Bringing faith in a time of misery, pain and sorrow, chaplains serve their spiritual duty on the battlefields alongside our servicemen and women. Chaplains help battle demons in every sense of the word. While their efforts are spiritual in nature, their courage deserves to be celebrated.

The Chaplain Corps was created in 1775 by the Continental Congress to be an essential part of the Army while ensuring American soldiers would have spiritual guidance available anytime. The corps is made up of both ordained clergy who are commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers who serve as chaplain assistants and they can be assigned anywhere they are needed.

One of the most famous stories about these brave faith warriors is the tale of the Four Chaplains. It was February 3, 1943. The U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* made up a three ship convoy that was moving from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. The ship was at full capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Only 150 miles from its destination, the *Dorchester* became a quick target for a German submarine. The hit was detrimental.

It was 12:55 a.m., when 902 lives were completely turned upside down. The *Dorchester* began rapidly taking on water. It was sinking. The ship's captain, Hans J. Danielsen, gave orders to abandon the ship.

The fate of the ship however was not much better; the icy waters gave many of the men

hypothermia, even killing some of them. All alternatives were bleak.

The torpedo hit killed and wounded many of the men. Those who were still alive were desperately trying to get aboard lifeboats and rafts and struggling to find life preservers. As mass chaos erupted aboard, four men remained calm and brave. Aboard the ship were four Army chaplains: Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Witnessing the situation in front of them, the chaplains took charge. They began quickly handing out lifejackets, prayers and words of encouragement. Rabbi Goode even gave his own gloves to a soldier. When there were no more lifejackets, the chaplains simply removed their own and handed them out, no questions asked.

In a mere 20 minutes, the ship slipped below the surface of the sea, drifting to its final resting place in the Atlantic. 672 men died. Only 230 survived. Among the casualties were the four selfless chaplains. They were an earthly liaison and a light of peace during a time of complete turmoil. It was a German death wish, but death was defeated by faith, the divine won that day at sea.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously as well as a posthumous Special Medal of Heroism; The Four Chaplains' Medal was approved by Congress and awarded by the President in 1961.

They were from different denominations and even religions, but bound together by a God's love and their faith in his eternal promise. The chaplains lived by a unifying example that transcends religions, countries and generations: laying down their lives for others, there is no greater love.

The epitome of selflessness, they fought a silent battle. While in a literal sense they lost, they gained all in the eyes of their creator.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY YMCA

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Kentucky YMCA by recognizing March 1st as Kentucky YMCA Day in Lexington, Kentucky.

On March 1, 1890, the Kentucky YMCA was incorporated by an Act of the Kentucky General Assembly. For 125 years, the YMCA has supported families and communities across our Commonwealth through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, social responsibility, and that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Nineteen YMCA Associations throughout Kentucky proudly serve more than 367,100 individuals, including 160,000 children and youth as well as 32,700 seniors. They also provide nearly \$7 million in financial assistance for families to participate in YMCA programs and membership. YMCAs mobilize almost 8,300 Kentuckians each year to volunteer and serve their local communities, including over 100 students in the Y-Corps service learning program who collectively perform over 1,500 hours of service.

The Kentucky YMCA is home to the largest YMCA Youth and Government program in the country, providing thousands of middle school, high school, and college-aged students the opportunity to become better leaders and engaged citizens through the Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) and Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA).

The sixth district of Kentucky is proud to be home to 50 Student YMCAs and KYA/KUNA Delegations with over 1,000 student members, including my alma mater, Henry Clay High School. The mission of the Kentucky YMCA is to develop engaged citizens and servant leaders, inspired to set change in their school, community, Commonwealth, nation, and world. The YMCA has and will continue to shape the future of the Sixth District and Kentucky.

Therefore, I encourage all Kentuckians and my colleagues to observe March 1, 2015 as "Kentucky YMCA Day."

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN ROTH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jonathan Roth attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Why should you be involved?

The United States was founded on the principle of freedom, freedom from oppression, freedom from foreign rule, and freedom to participate openly in our government. The United States rebelled against the British Crown so that they and future generations may experience the freedom they so desperately desired.

The national voter turnout for the 2012 general election dipped all the way down to 57.5%. That's almost a situation in which one in every two people doesn't vote. Only 65.1% of the voting eligible general population was registered to vote in that general election. For a nation that prides itself on its democratic processes, it is quite ironic that less than three fourths of the nation actually participates in that democracy. Our nation politically travels the world masquerading as the ideal democratic country when we rank in the lower half of global voter participation. There are many in our country that complain about laws and decisions made by those on Capitol Hill. Yet the majority of these people have never contacted a congressman nor attempted to voice their opinions in a constructive way. "No taxation without representation" was the battle cry during the United States' quest for freedom. Even though there are more problems than taxation in our country today, the representation part fits our situation perfectly. Our

government needs to be representative of the population as a whole. That means that everyone (or the majority) needs to participate. For a democratic government to function at its fullest capacity with the least amount of issues all demographics and cultures need to be represented so that all decisions that are made keeping the whole population in mind. Without an equally diverse voting populace some populations will not be represented as they should be. The majority of the problems that plague our country stem from the perception that some laws seem unfair to a certain group or groups in the nation. If everyone voted and voiced their opinion then those problems and perceptions would diminish greatly. Not only would these problems disappear there would also be an increase in national pride and patriotism. With an increase in voter participation more citizens would feel involved in how the nation is run and the democratic process. This increased national pride could lead to a decrease in social or hate crimes or perhaps even racial violence. If the populace feels included and an active part of the nation then they may look at themselves as a contributing member of the country and not an outsider in a foreign land.

In conclusion voter participation is essential to the overall success of our country. Not only is it a founding principle of our country but it may also lead to an increase in common understanding between various social and ethnic groups decrease in violent crime and frustration over perceived unfair legislation.

CHRISTIAN CASTILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian Castillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Christian Castillo is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Castillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Castillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF DR. YOSEF ALFREDO ANTONIO BEN-JOCHANNAN, DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AND KEMETAPHYSICIAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and historic contributions of my

dear friend Dr. Yosef Alfredo Antonio ben-Jochannan (Dr. Ben), one of our community's most distinguished scholars who passed away on March 19, 2015. Dr. Ben was the foremost intellectual on the history of religion and its impact on the world. He was an influential professor and activist—a pioneer of Africana studies. Dr. Ben was a man who believed in the value of digging deep for facts that have been long obscured. He has inspired generations of scholars and students with his tireless research and thoughtful teachings.

Dr. Ben's cultural journey began as a student of Arthur Schomburg in Puerto Rico and Edward Wilmot Blyden in St. Croix, where as a youth he spent time participating with Pedro Albizu Campos during Puerto Rico's independence quest in the 1950s to providing African-centered reading material to Malcolm X in the early 1960s and educating young teenaged Five Percenters at Harlem Prep during the late 1960s. Through his annual fact-finding tours to Kemet (Egypt) for over four decades, he helped uncover the history of Africa and our own roots. Dr. Ben accomplished a great deal in his life, most notably writing 49 books on African history. Dr. Ben was well known for his thought-provoking assertions on the influence of Africans on ancient civilizations. Dr. Ben was a regular invited special guest on the popular late Gil Noble's "Like It Is" television Sunday show.

A man way ahead of his time, Dr. Ben spoke truth about the origins of world religion and documented it to prove it. I am proud to have called Dr. Ben my neighbor. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. While I am sad that Harlem has lost a great prophet and spiritual leader, I know Dr. Ben's legacy will live on for many years to come.

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD) on their 50th Anniversary. I am proud to represent the students, teachers, and parents of ABC Unified. Their educational excellence is a source of pride for the 38th Congressional District.

In 1965 the school districts of Artesia, Bloomfield, and Carmenita combined to form ABCUSD. The school district serves Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, as well as portions of Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk.

The district's motto "Student Achievement—Our Main Thing," exemplifies the district's leadership and dedication to strong counseling, staff development, and alternative education programs. ABCUSD has received numerous awards and recognitions for its educational excellence. In recent years, it was the recipient of National Blue Ribbon, California Distinguished Schools, and Schools to Watch awards.

ABCUSD is a prime example of how educators and community groups can work together for the benefit of our students. In 1999, ABCUSD and the ABC Federation of Teachers formed the ABC Labor Management Part-

nership. This collaboration is focused on student achievement and has inspired many districts and unions to form similar partnerships. The district also has a strong history of working with local colleges and local businesses to build vibrant educational programs for its students.

This year, ABCUSD will be celebrating 50 years of excellence. On this special occasion, I would like to congratulate the ABC Unified School District, the teachers, faculty, students, and parents, past and present, who make the ABCUSD community so exceptional.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAY DAVIS' RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Dr. Jay Davis, President of the Hertz Foundation, who will be retiring after decades of service to our country as a scientist and philanthropist. Jay resides in Livermore, California, in my congressional district.

Dr. Davis graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in 1963 and 1964 respectively. In 1969, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin with his PhD in physics.

For three decades, Dr. Davis worked as a scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), supporting the lab's fusion program through research in nuclear physics and material science. Dr. Davis also founded the Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry at LLNL.

Following his service at LLNL, in 1998, Dr. Davis used his science background to support the Department of Defense as the Associate Director for Earth and Environmental Sciences. He worked to develop and enhance arms control treaties and twice served as an inspector for the United Nations Special Commission's mission to Iraq following the first Gulf War. During his time with the Department, he served as the founding Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Because of Dr. Davis' exceptional service to the nation, he was twice awarded the Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Department of Defense's highest civilian award.

In 2009, following his exceptional career in public service, Dr. Davis was elected to serve as President of the Hertz Foundation. The Hertz Foundation provides talented PhD students in the Applied Sciences and Engineering the opportunity for financial and fellowship support to pursue their careers. On top of his work at the Hertz Foundation, Dr. Davis has also been a tireless advocate for benefits owed to retired lab employees.

Dr. Davis' distinguished legacy of service to the Livermore community and the nation will continue through his scientific accomplishments and his philanthropic work at Hertz foundation. I wish Jim all the best in his retirement.

HONORING SONYA ROMERO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor one of our exceptional teachers, Ms. Sonya Romero from Lew Wallace Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sonya Romero is a bilingual teacher who focuses on early childhood education. She is a candidate for National Board certification; she serves on the state's NMTEACH council; and was recently appointed Executive Vice President of the Albuquerque Teachers Federation.

A teacher for the past 20 years, Sonya has worked at Lew Wallace Elementary located in downtown Albuquerque for the last 10 years. The small student population is represented by a wide variety of cultures and languages. Three out of every four students qualifies for the National School Lunch Program. Many of the kids are from families that are homeless or rely on housing assistance; and they struggle with food insecurity.

The tightknit Downtown community is also home to everyday heroes who will do anything for students, colleagues and neighbors, including rallying around families in need; locating desperately needed services; packaging food in back packs for the weekend; inviting parents to have a free breakfast with their son or daughter; spending their own money on clothes, shoes or school supplies; and even inviting an illiterate mother to sit in during story time to help her learn to read.

Several months ago, some of her former students were placed in a dire family situation causing Child Protective Services to intervene with the intent of placing the two sisters with a foster family. Sonya and her teenage son made the decision to take the girls into their own home and they have been there since.

Sonya and Lew Wallace Elementary School were recently featured on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and received \$20,000 from Target. Sonya is grateful that her story is shedding light on the roles that many teachers embrace for the benefit of their students. She considers her work and that of her fellow teachers very special and views this recognition as a community celebration. Sonya reminds us that most teachers are not just providing instruction, but are deeply committed to the overall well-being and success of their students. They overcome challenges, and create a secure and trusting environment for our children.

CANDICE CODR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Candice Codr for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Candice Codr is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Candice Codr is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Candice Codr for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JACK HAWKINS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jack Hawkins attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The most important reason I believe Americans should be involved in the political process is because of the right we were given to vote for the leaders of our country. One reason I believe this is a crucial role of citizens is because with this right it allows us to vote into office the people who we believe will pursue and advocate effectively what we as citizens are needing from our city, state, and federal government. This right is one of the primary reasons our great nation was founded, so that people could live in a democracy and advocate to officials what they needed instead of having a monarchal (or more commonly today) a dictatorship classification of government speak for them. But more importantly, I believe citizens should exercise this right because we have thousands of soldiers stationed all over the world helping to both defend this right for our country, and try to help others achieve the type of democratic government that we possess and believe in so prominently. Therefore by exercising this right, it is a small way to show our appreciation and gratefulness for our troops by exercising this right that they are fighting for so valiantly.

The other important reason I believe Americans should be involved in the political process is because with the election of our nation's leaders it is has repeatedly proven by history that through former political leaders, specifically past American presidents, the United States has made substantial positive differences in both domestic and international affairs. For example with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt who transformed the country's economy. With the enacting of his New Deal policies Roosevelt was able to provide millions of Americans with jobs and economic security therefore helping America incredibly through the

Great Depression. Also America has made major strides in international affairs such as through President Obama who with the aid of America's top military leaders and the United States' Navy SEALs team was able to kill Osama bin Laden, the leader of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda who was responsible for horrific acts including most infamously the bombing of the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. Although it has not stopped Al-Qaeda completely, President Obama along with his esteemed colleagues made American history and showed the strength of the United States as an international power. The United States is the by far the best country in the world and it is repeatedly shown through the election of our country's leaders who throughout history and in the future will continue to show America's greatness both domestically and internationally if the citizens of our magnificent country continue to take an active role in America's political process.

CONGRATULATING LEROY AND
OVIA MARIE MCGINNIS ON THEIR
65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leroy and Ovia Marie McGinnis on their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 3, 1950 in a courthouse in Arkansas. Although they were young, their love for one another was unconditional. In fact, Leroy was so intent on marrying the love of his life that he spent the last four dollars to his name to pay for their modest ceremony. Worried of what their families might think, Leroy and Ovia Marie kept their marriage a secret for several weeks.

Soon after marrying, the young couple moved to Cuba, Missouri, where their love and affection for one another continued to grow. They have raised six children together, and Mr. McGinnis still serves as CEO of McGinnis Wood Products, a very successful business that he founded in 1968.

Again, I want to wish Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis a Happy Anniversary and many more years of joy!

HERMANTOWN FIFTH-GRADERS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three very compassionate fifth-grade school children for their leadership in protecting us against the silent killer of carbon monoxide poisoning. The students who have stepped forward to meet an important community need are Bryanna Kliegle, Alexa Aagenes and Ani Jovanovich of Hermantown Middle School.

I don't think I have to remind anyone that winters in Minnesota can be very cold. We Minnesotans are hardy souls and deal with it. But with the cold temperatures, there is a silent killer that unfortunately creeps into our communities every year as people try to warm their homes. This killer is called carbon monoxide poisoning.

Bryanna had a friend who died from carbon monoxide poisoning just a few weeks before Christmas. She turned her grief into action, reaching out to two friends to help her so others would not be lost to this killer. They formed a group and went door-to-door raising donations to buy carbon monoxide detectors for local families. These detectors cost only about \$20.00 each, but within a short span they formed Hopes of Faith to handle the donations. To date, they have raised more than enough money to buy 200 detectors and then received 100 more from Safe Kids Minnesota and Kiddie, a company that makes the units.

Bryanna recently spoke at a school assembly and told her classmates, "We didn't think we could do this much at first. We're just fifth-graders. Regular fifth graders, but we reached out and wanted to take a chance."

How many times do we look around our communities and think something should be done and wait for others to lead the way? Bryanna, Alexa and Ani are exceptional young students we can look to as leaders. They saw a need, stepped forward and did something about it. I am so very proud of them.

HONORING LUCY COFFEY

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucy Coffey, the oldest living female veteran who passed away last week after 108 vibrant years. Originally from Indiana, Ms. Coffey was working in a Dallas, Texas supermarket when she learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Putting country before self, Ms. Coffey quit her job and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She bravely served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, earning two bronze stars and ascending to the rank of sergeant.

For 13 years after her discharge in 1945, Ms. Coffey worked as an Army civilian in Okinawa, Japan. She ultimately settled in my hometown of San Antonio, where she worked in the procurement office at Kelly Air Force Base until her retirement in 1971.

Last year, Ms. Coffey visited the nation's capital on an Honor Flight. While in Washington, she not only visited the women's memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and the National World War II Memorial, she also met with both Vice President Biden and President Obama.

Ms. Coffey leaves behind an abundance of admirers who have sung her praises since her passing. President Obama cited Ms. Coffey's pioneering spirit and the inspiration she has provided generations of patriots since her service. Vice President Biden celebrated her legacy and said he was honored to have met her. Bexar County veterans service officer Queta Marquez highlighted Ms. Coffey's liveliness and spunk.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer Ms. Coffey's loved ones my sincere condolences for their loss and echo San Antonians' deep gratitude for her exemplary service and unwavering patriotism. She was a remarkable American who will be greatly missed.

HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN ANDY BLOMME

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a proud son of North Carolina, Captain Carlyle "Andy" Blomme, as he prepares to retire from the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Blomme has served as the Coast Guard Chief of Congressional Affairs since June 2012, where he has been an excellent representative of the Coast Guard here on Capitol Hill. Captain Blomme has worked diligently to ensure the Coast Guard has the resources and authorities necessary to not only keep our nation safe, but to be a steward of its natural resources. His deep knowledge of Coast Guard operations, acquisitions, and strategic priorities has been invaluable to the members who work closely with the Coast Guard, which I came to appreciate as Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee of Homeland Security. This has been especially true as we have worked to recapitalize the Coast Guard's aging fleet in a time of shrinking budgets.

There has been no better advocate for, or representative of, the Coast Guard than Captain Blomme and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with Andy during this time. My staff and I have often relied on him and his staff's knowledge and understanding of the missions, challenges and responsibilities of the Coast Guard.

Captain Blomme comes from a distinguished family of seafarers from North Carolina. His great, great grandfather was First Mate on the SS *Ella* and *Annie*, a Blockade Running Steamship in the Civil War. *Ella* and *Annie* ran the Federal blockade on behalf of the Confederacy until November 1863, when she was captured by USS *Niphon* off New Inlet, North Carolina. Demonstrating his pride as the son, of the son, of a sailor, Captain Blomme came back to the same proud roots decades later as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Diligence*, homeported in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Captain Blomme is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. He has served at sea and ashore in a variety of operational and staff tours throughout his distinguished career, including serving in Command of Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, as well as Coast Guard Cutters *Diligence*, *Nantucket*, and *Point Huron*. He also rounded out his nearly twelve years of sea duty with tours aboard Coast Guard Cutters *Gallatin* and *Chase*. Aside from an impressive record of sea service, Andy has also served ashore as a controller in the Coast Guard's Fifth District Command Center in Portsmouth, VA, as the Operations Officer at Coast Guard Group Miami and as Military Assistant to the Secretary of Homeland Security during the tenures of Secretaries Michael Chertoff and Janet Napolitano.

This week, Captain Blomme will depart his post on Capitol Hill and retire after 30 years of honorable service. During that time, he has embodied the spirit of the Coast Guard and its motto, *Semper Paratus, Always Ready*. We thank him and his family for his service to the

United States Congress and to the country. On behalf of the House of Representatives, we wish Captain Blomme, his wife Peg, and their two sons, Matthew and Alex, the best in their future endeavors. We congratulate Captain Andy Blomme on his retirement and wish him fair winds and following seas.

PLATTE VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Platte Valley Medical Center for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. The Platte Valley Medical Center built their first off-site medical office building in the Reunion Marketplace area expanding their service to northern Commerce City. This provides critical service from medical providers to a community that has had limited access at this new location while ensuring access to quality care and support to the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Platte Valley Medical Center for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING CONOR DEVLIN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Conor Devlin attends Tompkins High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Our government has evolved far beyond its original parameters. It now regulates entire economic industries, healthcare, going so far as to regulate the types of things we can and cannot buy. Our government has left its original designation as a Laissez-Faire Democratic Republic to a borderline Socialist country like the rest of the European and the EU. Our government is an overgrown bureaucracy that costs us—the American people—trillions each year, and yet it fails to accomplish its task when its people are spiraling into debt and unemployment is skyrocketing. The job of the American government is to protect its citizens with an up to date military comprised of the most advanced arsenal. Secondly, the government

needs to protect the welfare of its citizens and by that I mean low taxes that are not crushing small business and forcing Corporations to locate to other places like China and Japan because it is cheaper there, and a dissolution of the current welfare state which would put millions of American back to work if they no longer receive a monthly check for not being productive. The government needs to defend the rights of all its citizens by preventing foreign nations from infringing on our rights or any companies and agencies from infringing on our rights. The government also needs to stimulate the economy by providing a workplace that will foster economic growth in the private sector and not continually grow the bureaucracies in the public sector wasting the revenues generated by its citizens. Additionally, the government needs to step back and change its role in the healthcare system it should not waste taxpayer's dollars providing for other people's healthcare, which is that individual's choice not to be insured by the government. The government shouldn't waste money on useless agencies that can be easily cut down such as the EPA, the IRS, the USDA and many other branches that are full to the brim with useless employees wasting the American taxpayer's money. The American government's job is to protect the American citizens and their welfare. This does not include regulating major economic industries, driving companies and small businesses out of business and out of America, infringing on American's God-given rights and becoming a major player in an American citizen's life.

HONORING CAPTAIN LAWRENCE R.
VASQUEZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Captain Lawrence R. Vasquez, Installation Commander of Naval Base Ventura County, on the special occasion of his Change of Command.

Since February 2012, Captain Vasquez has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and service as Commanding Officer of Naval Base Ventura County. His exemplary tour as the senior ranking officer in charge has been marked with distinction and remarkable success.

Under his dedicated command, Naval Base Ventura County became the first and to date only military installation to operate manned and unmanned aerial systems in FAA-controlled airspace. Naval Base Ventura County is also the only Navy installation tapped to support the Department of Health and Human Service's mission to house and process unaccompanied minors apprehended crossing the border into the United States.

During the Springs Fire of May 2013, Captain Vasquez's exceptional leadership enabled a joint city, county, and federal response to the fast-moving blaze, which threatened homes, California State University Channel Islands, and valuable military assets near the Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County.

Captain Vasquez has been a staunch supporter of community engagement, personally participating in over 250 public meetings, and hosting tours and events to bring a better understanding of the Navy's mission and better

collaboration among community partners, including government organizations, schools and business entities.

Captain Vasquez is the embodiment of an extensive and distinguished career of service to our country in the United States Navy. As a Naval aviator with over 26 years of commendable service, Captain Vasquez led a 12-aircraft helicopter squadron, the HSL-45 "Wolfpack." Additionally, he served as the Flag Aide to Commander of the Naval Coordinator Mid-South Region, as well as personal administrative aide to the Secretary of the Navy.

Captain Vasquez is recognized for his outstanding leadership and served as Commander of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Farah, Afghanistan, a joint military and civilian team charged with extending the reach of the government in Afghanistan through reconstruction, development, governance, and security.

Captain Vasquez's exemplary work has earned him numerous accolades and awards to include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action ribbon and various unit and campaign awards. Additionally, he was awarded the 2004 League of United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) "Excellence in Military Service" award.

Captain Vasquez's remarkable career and many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to his country and community. As he embarks on a new chapter in his career as the Chief of Staff for the Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia in Naples, Italy, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Captain Vasquez's honorable and selfless service to our community and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CIERAH KELLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cierah Kelley for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cierah Kelley is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cierah Kelley is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cierah Kelley for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE PRESERVATION OF ANTI-BIOTICS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT ACT OF 2015—H.R. 1552

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have introduced H.R. 1552, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2015. This legislation would preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics by ending the unnecessary non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in healthy food-animals.

The discovery of antibiotics literally transformed modern medicine, but their effectiveness is now being threatened by the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Recently the World Health Organization warned that the crisis is "so serious that it threatens the achievements of modern medicine."

Already the CDC has told us that these superbugs cause two million infections and kill at least twenty-three thousand Americans every year. We spend twenty- to thirty-five billion dollars fighting these infections—sometimes in vain, as there are now strains of bacteria which have become completely untreatable. The scale of this problem worldwide is truly staggering—each year, seven hundred thousand people die unnecessarily and the global cost could be as high as \$1.2 trillion.

Unfortunately this problem is our own doing. Despite warnings from the very scientists who discovered antibiotics we have utterly failed to use them wisely. Overuse in medicine and rampant misuse in food-animal production has caused widespread resistance and led to the current crisis.

Food-animal production currently uses 80% of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. The majority of these are routinely given to healthy animals for "growth promotion" or "disease prevention." These non-therapeutic uses are not only unnecessary, but they also create the perfect environment for bacteria to evolve resistance, resulting in antibiotic resistant superbugs. Right now, we are allowing the greatest medical advancement of the 20th century to be frittered away, in part because it's cheaper for factory farms to feed these critical drugs to animals rather than fix the stressful, overcrowded or unsanitary conditions which allow disease to spread.

By the 1970's the dangers of misusing antibiotics in food-animals were well known and in 1977 the Food and Drug Administration sought to end sub-therapeutic uses of penicillin and tetracycline in food-animals. However, no substantive action was ever taken, antibiotic use has steadily increased and the problem is now worse than ever.

The FDA's recent decision to ask pharmaceutical companies to voluntarily remove "growth promotion" uses from drug labels is an inadequate response which fails to address routine non-therapeutic uses, often called the disease prevention loophole. A recent analysis by the PEW Charitable Trust clearly shows that this loophole can be exploited as many drugs have overlapping approvals for disease prevention and growth promotion and can be given to animals with no limit on the duration of use.

The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act would phase out the use of the

eight classes of medically important antibiotics that are currently approved for non-therapeutic use in animal agriculture. The bill clearly defines the term “non-therapeutic use” to ensure that sick animals may be appropriately treated, but that any use of medically important antibiotics outside of treatment of a sick animal is not permitted.

Both the American people and the U.S. government need to give this issue the attention it demands. Unless we act now and act together to preserve the effectiveness of our current antibiotics we face a future without them. Strep throat could once again lead to fatal heart infections. Common surgeries such as having wisdom teeth removed, joint replacements and Cesarean sections would become too risky to perform. Even something as common as dressing your child’s scrapes with Neosporin could no longer be able to keep an infection at bay.

Protecting the public’s health is one of the greatest responsibilities of this body and I urge my colleagues to stand with me to support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FRANCISCAN
SISTERS OF MARY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable and historic order of Catholic women called to the service of all God’s children and his creation, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, who have been at the forefront of healing the sick, fighting discrimination, advocating for equal rights under the law, and protecting the wonders of the natural world.

Arriving from Germany in the winter of 1872, Mother Mary Odelia Berger and four other religious sisters crossed the icy Mississippi River by ferry to land on the St. Louis riverfront near the site of today’s Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, better known as the magnificent Gateway Arch.

They came to St. Louis seeking religious freedom and as a response to a call to serve the sick and indigent. Beginning with only five dollars among them, and armed with their resolute faith, they quickly deployed to the streets of our growing city to provide care to thousands suffering from tuberculosis, cholera and other epidemics of the time.

St. Mary of Victories Church, at 744 S. 3rd Street would become their first home where they treated the poor suffering from small pox, diphtheria, typhoid fever and scarlet fever. As their patient load increased so did their numbers and they eventually became known as the Sisters of Mary because of their connection to the church.

On May 24, 1877, the sisters opened their first hospital in a renovated home on Papin Street. During its first year, St. Mary’s Infirmary treated 82 patients. Eventually, a newer and much larger facility was built on the same site.

Mother Mary Concordia Puppenthal, the superior general of the Sisters of St. Mary from 1921 until 1956 believed that all persons deserved the best possible medical care regard-

less of their race, ethnic background or country of origin. At a time when educational opportunities lagged for women, Mother Concordia organized the congregation’s first school of nursing in 1907.

In 1924, Mother Concordia signed an agreement with Saint Louis University designating three facilities operated by the sisters (St. Mary’s Infirmary, St. Mary’s Hospital, and Mount St. Rose Chest and Throat Hospital) as teaching hospitals. In later years, Mother Concordia helped reorganize the St. Mary’s Infirmary School of Nursing into the Saint Louis University School of Nursing. In 1933, St. Mary’s Infirmary became the first Catholic hospital dedicated to treating African Americans and training African American physicians and nurses.

In the 1960s, the sisters became very active in the civil rights movement, most notably Sister Antona Ebo, who marched shoulder to shoulder in Selma, Alabama with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and our heroic colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS (D) Georgia, to demand the right to vote for African Americans in Alabama, and across this country.

On Wednesday, March 10, 1965, she and several other sisters and clergymen boarded a rickety airplane in St. Louis bound for Selma with several other sisters and clergymen to protest the Bloody Sunday attack on peaceful marchers and to join Dr. King in his second attempt to cross the bridge on the way from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery.

Once there, Sister Antona, the only African-American sister in the crowd, found herself thrust to the front of the march. Before the marchers reached the end of the block, they were stopped by rows of helmeted policemen standing shoulder to shoulder, three deep, batons in hand.

In the midst of it all, a microphone was thrust in front of Sister Antona. She spoke simply and from her heart into a sea of Confederate flags: “I am here because I am a Negro, a nun, a Catholic, and because I want to bear witness.” She later recalled, “We wore our full regalia of habits at that time. We got a lot of people shook up who thought we should be in church with our hands folded.” Many years later, she added, “Selma happened really because it was the time and place to take a risk. Taking a risk has its payoff, too.” Their courageous actions led to passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The legacy of healing and devotion to building communities of compassionate care by the sisters inspired the development of SSM Health, a system of 19 non-profit Catholic hospitals, more than 60 outpatient care sites, a pharmacy benefit company, an insurance company, two nursing homes, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a technology company, and two Accountable Care Organizations operating in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.

And most recently, the sisters have added their moral force, spiritual guidance and integrity to the cause of environmental justice in North St. Louis County where neighborhood groups and civic activists are advocating for the removal of radiological waste left over from the Manhattan Project that was illegally dumped in an unlined landfill, near homes, schools, businesses and an underground fire.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members of Congress to join me in honoring the Franciscan Sisters

of Mary for their living example of faith in action to heal the sick, advocate for equality and preserve our environment for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO GRANT DENTRY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Grant Dentry attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

An important event that has occurred in the past 15 years is the rapid evolution of technology in our everyday lives. From single function cell-phones, to compact flip phones with cameras, to the now pervasive “smart phone” that serves as a multi-function computer, phone, hi-resolution camera, personal assistant, and a comprehensive tracking device. I believe technology; although innovative and fun, can have a negative effect on our country. While technology has benefited our lives, its evolution has changed how America operates and is watched over.

Even though technological evolution has made our lives easier, it can expose our personal and private business to the Government (and hackers) who can access our information at will. The evolution of technology has reshaped the security of American citizens. Our Constitutional freedoms as Americans have been infringed upon because of our technological devices do not guarantee secure privacy. Now that almost everyone in America has a laptop or cellphone, the Government is able to conduct surveillance on its citizens. Constantly being watched over has had unfortunate effects on what we consider personal, private, freedom. The effect of being watched over has caused citizens to be constantly vigilant of what they are doing on electronic devices, where they go, and what they say. The Government is able to read our text messages and listen to our calls as well as see us through cameras on streets, smartphones and computers. Although we are still technically free, it is not the freedom we used to have before technology evolved. Fifteen years ago, concerns about Government surveillance on citizens was not as alarming as today.

The next 15 years will bring changes in the relationship between Governments and their citizens. While many found out in 2012 about Government surveillance, more and more Americans are becoming increasingly concerned about the issue of privacy now. Sadly, our media is distracting our citizens away from privacy issues. Many disapprove of the spying and frown upon the Government’s decisions to monitor U.S. citizens. Since 9/11,

security has been stepped up (rightfully so), but it has been taken to a level almost comparable to George Orwell 's Nineteen Eighty-Four in which everything is closely monitored and scrutinized.

Overall, the surveillance technology revolution has changed our country drastically and has brought concern and worry to many American citizens. Monitoring citizens was not the intent when surveillance technology first developed, but now it has the potential for large scale abuse. While technology has benefited our lives in many ways, it has also changed how America operates, how we are kept safe, and how we view our Constitutional freedoms and our privacy. Hopefully, the next 15 years will bring us towards a balance between security, safety, and privacy.

BREANNA NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breanna Nelson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Breanna Nelson is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breanna Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Breanna Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.