

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE EXPANSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of H.R. 1289, the John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act.

This bipartisan legislation will expand the Martinez, California historic site in my district that celebrates the life and legacy of John Muir. Muir was a lifelong conservationist, leading advocate of the National Park Service and a co-founder of the Sierra Club. He worked to establish and protect national parks including Yosemite, Sequoia, the Grand Canyon and Mt. Rainier.

The John Muir National Historic Site, which includes the home where he lived, covers 330 acres of Contra Costa County where Muir championed the revolutionary idea that wild spaces should be set aside for all to enjoy. This bill would add 44 acres of donated land from a non-profit trust, improving access to the park and its scenic trails, including those on Mount Wanda, named for Muir's eldest daughter. The trail systems are accessible for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including critical connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and to nearby protected lands along the Franklin Ridge corridor.

As John Muir said, "everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in . . . where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my predecessor Congressman George Miller who has been a champion of this bill. I appreciate Natural Resource Committee Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Subcommittee Chairman McCLINTOCK, and Subcommittee Ranking Member TSONGAS for their leadership in bringing H.R. 1289 to the floor today.

I am grateful for the support of 31 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who co-sponsored this bill and to Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN for sponsoring this legislation in the U.S. Senate. I would also like to thank the John Muir Land Trust for its hard work and dedication preserving and protecting this valuable parkland and shoreline in Contra Costa County for future generations.

As our Nation prepares to celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service, this legislation will help preserve the trails and lands that surround the longtime home of the man known as the Father of the National Park Service. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bipartisan legislation—The John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act.

IN HONOR OF JOE CASEY, GENERAL MANAGER OF SEPTA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Casey, the general manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, who is planning to retire at the end of September after 34 years of service, the last seven as general manager.

Mr. Casey began working for SEPTA in 1982, and his tenure has included various senior management positions before his appointment as general manager in 2008. Under his leadership, SEPTA has seen tremendous improvement in customer service, infrastructure, and financial soundness. Notably, SEPTA has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for 10 consecutive years under Mr. Casey's authority as Chief Financial Officer and general manager, a testament to Mr. Casey's commitment to fiscal responsibility and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Casey for his dedication to the Southeastern Pennsylvania community. The remarkable accomplishments and improvements SEPTA has achieved in recent years can be attributed to Mr. Casey's exceptional guidance. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas: September 17, 2015, marks the two hundred twenty-eighth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Conventions; and

Whereas: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

Whereas: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

Now, therefore, I, MIMI WALTERS, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Representative of the 45th Congressional District of the State of California do hereby recognize the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

And ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed

to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS PERSONNEL

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012, years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Firefighter/EMT Michael Dunn of the Cedar Hammock Fire Recue was chosen to receive the Preservation of Life Award

Lt. Don Rossow of the Englewood Area Fire Control District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award

District Chief/Paramedic Robin Thayer of the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services was chosen to receive the Career Service Award

Lt. Jason Wilkins, Lt. Jamie Mann, Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Jones, Firefighter/EMT Sean Sponable and Firefighter/EMT Clayton Huber were chosen to receive the Unit Citation Award

Deputy Chief Brett Pollok of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue was chosen to receive the Career Service Award

Fire Investigator/Inspector Larry Betts of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on this date two-hundred and twenty-eight years ago, the

• 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.

delegates to the Constitutional Convention completed their arduous work and signed the document designed to restore liberty to the citizens of a new nation.

The American Republic was born out of a struggle against British tyranny and a monarchical system that our forefathers deemed incompatible with the rights of free men and women. Consistent with the principles espoused by the Spirit of '76 and enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution was not imposed on the people. It was humbly submitted to the people for their approval.

A great national debate followed. If the people were to judge the Constitution, they were expected to understand the Constitution. The Federalist Papers, a series of 85 essays written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, responded to Antifederalist critics by serving as an invaluable guide to the Constitution's provisions. Their arguments proved decisive and, eventually, the requisite number of states ratified the Constitution. Education was integral to the Constitution's ratification.

At a time when the globe was dominated by kingdoms and empires, a skeptical world believed that a republic devoted to the ancient cause of liberty would inevitably fail. But the test of time has proven the wisdom, effectiveness, and durability of our great charter.

It has guaranteed our natural rights and preserved our cherished liberties.

It has inspired foreign peoples shackled by tyranny to seek to replicate what the Americans have accomplished.

It has resisted the waves of totalitarian ideologies that claimed human liberty to be a relic of antiquity.

On Constitution Day, Americans follow in the footsteps of the Founders, not only by recommitting ourselves to the Constitution's enlightened provisions, but also by accepting the duty to provide the education necessary for the survival of a free people.

I commend all those that take the opportunity this day provides to promote the American ideals of human liberty and renew our commitment to the preservation of the Constitution of the United States.

RECOGNIZING MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUG CREWS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Doug Crews for his 36 years of service to the Missouri Press Association.

Since 1990, Doug has led the Missouri Press Association as Executive Director. His service has been dedicated to promoting open government, in particular by advocating for the protection of state and federal Sunshine Laws. In addition, Doug has advocated on behalf of 75 North American press associations as President of the Newspaper Association Managers.

Doug's leadership has extended beyond the press community. A graduate of the University

of Missouri School of Journalism, Doug served as President of the Mizzou Alumni Association and the State Historical Society of Missouri.

This February, Doug will join his wife Tricia in retirement. He can do so with great pride, knowing that in the span of his career he has accomplished so much and helped so many. While he will be missed in the communications world, I wish him the very best that retirement has to offer.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Doug Crews for his service to the State of Missouri and to journalists everywhere.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH COLLINS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GILMANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AFTER 25 YEARS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Chief Joseph Collins on his retirement after 25 years with various law enforcement agencies throughout New Hampshire, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Chief Collins' continuous progression within the law enforcement ranks during his time exemplifies his intelligence, positive attitude, and commitment to protecting and serving his community with the utmost professionalism.

Although Chief Collins will now shift his focus from serving his community to his family and faith, it's clear he leaves behind an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in his absence.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Chief Collins on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

HONORING POLICE SERGEANT RANDALL BOGGS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Sergeant Randall Boggs, a man who has truly devoted himself to public service. Mr. Boggs was hired as a Police Officer by the Fairfield Police Department on September 18, 1989 and over the duration of his career worked in various capacities which included: Narcotic Investigations, Patrol, Special Operations, Major Crimes Investigation, Mobile Field Force, and the Fugitive Apprehension Team. On April 19, 2002 he was promoted to Police Corporal where he served for five years before being promoted to Police Sergeant on February 2, 2007.

As a Police Sergeant, Mr. Boggs consistently assisted City Management during changes in leadership and command staff, ensuring that the Fairfield Police Department upheld the highest operational standards during those times. Additionally, Mr. Boggs assumed the Police Lieutenant's position twice and managed Police Bureau operations.

Sergeant Boggs is a skilled team leader who has led numerous operations with exceptional professionalism and character. He has been a valued public servant in which his hard work and commitment to the public safety have made him a model representative of the law enforcement community.

CONGRATULATING CHAMOIS HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chamois High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Chamois High School for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING AL AND LINDA FOURNIER FOR THEIR DECADES OF SERVICE AT FORT MCCOY, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Al and Linda Fournier for their combined 80 years of distinguished service at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The Fourniers, who met at Fort McCoy and were married in 1991, will be retiring from federal service on October 3, 2015. Together, the Fourniers helped Fort McCoy become one of the most capable and desirable training installations in the Army.

Al Fournier began his tenure of dedicated service at Fort McCoy in 1971. Since 2002 he has served as Deputy to the Garrison Commander. Thanks to Al's outstanding leadership and strategic contributions, Fort McCoy has been transformed into one of the nation's premier training centers and a preferred Army force projection site. Some of Al's major accomplishments at Fort McCoy include: the writing and publication of the Fort McCoy Installation Management System Handbook, the Fort McCoy Strategic Planning Handbook, and the Fort McCoy Acquisition Management-Financial Management Planning Handbook. Al's other achievements and awards are too numerous to note here, but suffice it to say that he is a visionary whose legacy will have a lasting impact on Fort McCoy and its mission as a Total Force Training Center of unparalleled excellence.

Linda Fournier began working at Fort McCoy in 1978 and has served as Public Affairs Officer since 2000. She has been instrumental in conducting programs designed to inform both the military community and the general public regarding Army and Fort McCoy activities, events, missions and policies. She has been the force behind numerous Fort

McCoy books and publications, the installation newspaper (The Real McCoy) and community outreach to ensure that Fort McCoy remains a great community partner and neighbor. Probably her most lasting impact at Fort McCoy is her role in the creation of the installation's Commemorative Area, History Center and Equipment Park. Under Linda's supervision, the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area was recognized with a Department of the Army Award of Excellence in the 2009 Major General Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Communications Competition and specifically cited for its Community Relations outreach.

It has been an honor for me to serve as U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's Third Congressional District during the Fournier's tenure at Fort McCoy. I know their leadership will be greatly missed at the base and surrounding communities, but I am thankful for their dedication and contributions to ensuring that Fort McCoy remains a shining star in the nation's military training infrastructure.

On behalf of my constituents in Wisconsin and a grateful nation, I would like to thank and commend Al and Linda Fournier for their decades of dedicated service with the U.S. Army Reserve at Fort McCoy and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. YUICHI SHODA, GOLDEN GOOSE AWARDEE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of Washington Professor Dr. Yuichi Shoda on being recognized this week as a recipient of the 2015 Golden Goose Award.

Created in 2012, the Golden Goose Award celebrates obscure science to show how basic research—even research that may sound odd—can lead to major breakthroughs and significant impacts on society.

Dr. Shoda's work with the "Marshmallow Test," first funded by the National Institutes of Health in the 1960s to test a child's self-control, is more than deserving of this honor. His test was seminal in interpreting human behavior and has impacted how we educate children and save for retirement today.

Each year, federal investments in research like this help push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, support new industries and address the challenges facing our country.

But to remain a world leader, we need to ensure our researchers and institutions continue to have the tools to explore new ideas and frontiers in research, as well as the funding opportunities to do so.

Unfortunately, research continues to face irresponsible funding cuts in Congress. When sequestration took effect two years ago, more than 1,000 grants at the National Science Foundation went unfunded, and NIH funding was slashed by \$1.6 billion.

It's time we learn that research isn't a spigot that can just be turned on and off. Breakthroughs come after years of incremental research, and cutting funds now could set us back for decades to come.

Through my post-graduate research work, I have also seen firsthand the economic impact of these investments in communities nationwide. In my home state of Washington, for example, funding for NIH supports more than 14,000 jobs.

I hope this week's recognition of obscure science by the Golden Goose Awards helps renew our commitment to research. We must support the tireless efforts of those who allow our country to continue to break new ground in scientific discovery.

Congratulations to Dr. Shoda and the other Golden Goose Awardees, and thank you for your continued contributions to our nation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NEUROBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 20th as National Neuroblastoma Awareness Day. Neuroblastoma is a deadly pediatric cancer that primarily strikes infants and young children. Of the 15,780 new cases of pediatric cancer in the U.S. each year, approximately 700 are neuroblastoma diagnoses. About half of these children will have an advanced-stage, high-risk form of disease. Even with aggressive treatment, only 40 to 50 percent of high-risk patients will survive. Neuroblastoma is the most common extra-cranial solid tumor among children and the most common cancer in infancy. The cause of the disease is unknown but leads to abnormal cell growth during the development of the sympathetic nervous system.

I am pleased to inform my colleagues that we have seen significant progress this year in the fight against this devastating disease. In March, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first drug ever to treat children with high-risk neuroblastoma. In August, the same product received regulatory approval in the European Union. The drug, Unituxin (dinutuximab), is marketed by United Therapeutics Corporation. United Therapeutics was also granted a Pediatric Rare Disease Priority Review Voucher by the FDA. This innovative voucher program was established by the Creating Hope Act—legislation that I sponsored with my colleagues Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD) and Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD (D-NC). Enacted into law in 2012, the Creating Hope Act is designed to incentivize the pharmaceutical industry to invest in new therapies for rare childhood diseases.

Approval of this groundbreaking therapy is the result of a unique public-private partnership over many years. Originally developed by Dr. Alice Yu, University of California San Diego, the drug was tested in high-risk neuroblastoma patients in clinical studies conducted by the Children's Oncology Group through support from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Manufacturing of the complex chimeric antibody was conducted by the NCI at its biopharmaceutical laboratory in Frederick, Maryland. In 2010, United Therapeutics entered into a Cooperative Research and Develop-

ment Agreement with the NCI where the company assumed responsibility for manufacturing the drug and moving it through the regulatory approval process.

According to Dr. Malcolm Smith, Associate Branch Chief, Pediatrics in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program at NCI, "The FDA approval of dinutuximab represents the culmination of a remarkably productive collaboration between researchers of the NCI-supported Children's Oncology Group, the manufacturing and clinical research groups of NCI, and the oncology team at United Therapeutics. Children with neuroblastoma will benefit from this collaboration, and the drug development pathway blazed by dinutuximab will likely be followed in the future to develop other novel agents directed against pediatric cancer therapeutic targets."

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of co-chairing the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus with Congressman VAN HOLLEN. Each September, the Caucus commemorates National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month by hosting a Childhood Cancer Summit on Capitol Hill. This event features pediatric cancer patients, advocates, physicians, industry partners and other key stakeholders. As part of this year's Summit on September 18th, we will hear from Casey and Lesley Ryan, the parents of Rex Ryan, a young neuroblastoma patient from my home state of Texas. We will also hear from Roger Jeffs, PhD, President and Co-Chief Executive Officer of United Therapeutics, Dr. Lee Helman from the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Michael Link of the Stanford School of Medicine, Dr. Amy Fowler of the Dell Children's Medical Center, and Danielle Leach of the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

As we recognize the progress that has been made in neuroblastoma treatment, we remain focused on the many challenges that remain and the toll this disease has taken on so many families. One such family is the Lindbergs from Germantown, Maryland. Wendy and Gavin Lindberg lost their 7 year-old son Evan to neuroblastoma in 2010. He was their only child. Diagnosed at the age of 3, Evan waged a four-year battle against Stage IV neuroblastoma that defined courage. Evan was a remarkable little boy who inspired everyone he met with his bravery, compassion and joyful approach to life.

In his memory, Wendy and Gavin established The Evan's Victory Against Neuroblastoma Foundation to promote awareness of the disease, fund much-needed research, and support patient wellness programs for children in treatment. Since Evan's passing, the Foundation bearing his name has made and continues to make a real difference in the lives of children and families suffering from neuroblastoma. There are many other organizations doing wonderful philanthropic work in memory of children lost far too young to this terrible disease. Their strength in the face of adversity compels us to do all we can to help families facing the unthinkable.

So Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of September 20th as National Neuroblastoma Awareness Day and encourage my colleagues to join in the fight against all pediatric cancers. Our children's future depends on it.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CALVIN GEORGE MORET

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin George Moret, the last surviving Louisiana member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American pilots who fought in World War II and were the first African-American pilots in the United States military. Mr. Moret passed away on September 12, 2015, at the age of 90.

Mr. Moret entered the military in 1943 and trained as a military pilot at Tuskegee, Alabama, receiving his wings and commission as a Flight Officer on November 20, 1944. His preparation for overseas combat duty continued through the end of the war in Europe and then through the end of the war in the Pacific. He was discharged from military service on January 31, 1946.

Following his discharge from military duty he returned to the family printing business, Moret Press. To help the family business Moret needed to look outside of New Orleans for school, because segregation laws prohibited him from studying at Delgado Trade School. He was able to gain admission to the printing department at Southern University in Baton Rouge and completed the course.

Mr. Moret's flying experience did not stop upon discharge from the military. In the spring of 1949, he and his brother Adolph, who had learned to fly before the war, formed a flying club. Along with twenty other men, they purchased a 3-place Piper Super Cruiser airplane and hangered it at Lakefront Airport in New Orleans until the summer of 1953, where they introduced members to the miracle of human flight.

On June 17, 2008, as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding aftermath that decimated the city, Moret Press was destroyed and the family was separated for months. The business has not operated since the Friday before the hurricane struck.

Following the release of "The Tuskegee Airmen" movie in 1995, Mr. Moret frequently lectured about his experiences and promoting the proud history of African-American accomplishments in American life.

In 2007, Mr. Moret was present when he Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal in the rotunda of the Capitol.

Mr. Moret was a trailblazer, clearing the path for countless men and women of color to enter the military and fight to defend their country. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, and all of those who are able to pursue their dreams because of his courage. His memory will serve an inspiration for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Mr. Moret's courage, commitment and sacrifice, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he has made America a more perfect union.

HONORING WILLIS "WALLY"
WALLING

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Willis R. Walling, who died on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at the age of ninety-four. Affectionately known as "Wally" to me and many others, he will be missed.

Born in Newark, NJ, he was the son of the late Willis H. and Gladys R. Walling.

Those who knew Wally would say some of his fondest memories were of the time he spent serving as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. You might even call his adventures "legendary," with sixty-six missions in Europe and becoming the tenth Allied plane to land in France after D-Day. He was one of the greatest supporters of the Allied Forces through France and beyond.

After leaving the service, he and his wife, Peg, moved to New Jersey where he served as President of Swan Manufacturing in Rockaway, NJ. It was during his time in Rockaway that he and Peg became active in the New Jersey Republican Party where he served as chairman for a period of time.

As many Northerners do, he and Peg moved south after retirement. Lucky for us South Carolinians, they chose Pawleys Island as their new home. They both quickly became active in local politics. I had the pleasure of meeting Wally during my first run for Congress in 1994 and have since appreciated his kindness and hospitality. Of course, you appreciate everyone who joins you in the heat of battle on the campaign trail, but it is the ones who are with you from the beginning who you hold closest to your heart. Wally was one of the loyal ones who would stick with you.

Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage are the seven values of the Army, and Wally was a man who exemplified every one of them. His surviving daughters, Susan Houser, Jeanne Auermuller (Bob), and Diane Dunham (Phil), eight grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren can be proud of the man they called "Dad" or "Grandpa," and I have no doubt that they would be. They will miss him dearly . . . and I will too.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER
18, 2015 AS THE UZEYIR
HAJIBEYLI MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Uzeyir Hajibeyli Memorial Day, celebrated on September 18, 2015.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli was born in the City of Agjabadi in Azerbaijan on September 18, 1885. He is recognized as the father of Azerbaijani classical music, as well as the founder of the first opera, Leyli and Majnun (1908), and first operetta The Cloth Peddler (1913) in the Muslim world. Arshin Mal Alan (The Cloth

Peddler), is a romantic and musical comedy that delves into a young couple's struggle to live a modern lifestyle in the presence of restricting customs through pure love and women's rights.

In 1945, a cinematic version of the operetta was filmed in Azerbaijan and became an instant box office sensation. It remains today an important cultural touchstone across Eurasia, having been widely distributed in 86 languages and shown in 136 countries.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli was influential in both cultural and historical contexts. Hajibeyli was responsible for a new genre of music which evolved from the culmination of traditional Azerbaijani music and European classical opera. He is recognized as a leader in fighting illiteracy throughout the nation. As not only a musician but as a teacher and journalist, he inspired a new cultural movement throughout the nation that transcended the country's borders. Further, Hajibeyli is responsible for composing the first national anthem of Azerbaijan. Uzeyir Hajibeyli played an active role in the creation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic founded in 1918.

As today marks the 130th anniversary of Uzeyir Hajibeyli's birth, I am honored to recognize him today for his valuable contributions towards the world of music and to Azerbaijan.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF REVEREND JOSEPH C. PROFIT,
JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Joseph C. Profit, Jr., a pastor of Stronger Hope Baptist Church, who passed away on September 4, 2015, at the age of 80.

Reverend Profit dedicated fifty years to the Stronger Hope Baptist Church and was a leading civil rights activist in New Orleans. He served as the fifth president of the Ideal Missionary Baptist and Educational Association, Inc. and Regional Vice President of the Louisiana Baptist State Convention. Rev. Profit also participated in the Baptist World Alliance in Stockholm, Sweden, as a delegate.

After Hurricane Katrina, Rev. Profit was a leader in rebuilding New Orleans—physically and spiritually. Although he evacuated to San Antonio, Texas, Reverend Profit drove to New Orleans every other weekend to hold service, and finally in 2008, he completely rebuilt The Stronger Hope Baptist Church with the help of his loyal congregation. The Church sits on the corner of South Galvez and First Street, where it has rested since 1937.

To honor Reverend Profit, who was a vital asset to the New Orleans community of faith, we acknowledge the importance of faith and culture in resilience. To commemorate Rev. Profit and his irreplaceable legacy, we remember his life-long contribution to the city of New Orleans and we strive to continue his messages of faith, hope, and unity.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Reverend Profit's courage, dedication and undying faith, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he has made America a more perfect union.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
EDWARD L. FIRE**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edward L. Fire of Chagrin Falls, Ohio who passed away on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. Edward was the son of Frank and Pauline Fire. He was a 1954 graduate of Lowellville High School and attended Youngstown State University. Following his education, Edward served in the U.S. Navy shortly after graduation at age 17 in 1954 until 1958.

In addition to serving in the armed forces, Ed was an active force in labor. Ed's career as a union leader began in 1961 at Packard Electric in Warren, where he served in elected office for 40 plus years. His leadership roles included President of the 13,000 member IUE Local 717 at Delphi Packard, Vice President of the Ohio AFL-CIO, and Secretary-Treasurer of the 80,000 member IUE District 7, headquartered in Kettering, OH. Ed loved every aspect of his job helping people have good jobs with good pay. The highlights of his career included leading the Union's bargaining teams with major corporations, GM, GE, and Delphi. He led IUE's efforts in the merger with the CWA. He also led the Union's political action efforts, including being actively involved in the campaigns of Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton as well as Ohio Governor Dick Celeste, Senators John Glenn, Howard Metzenbaum and SHERROD BROWN.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Fire of Chagrin Falls, three sons Dino (Pamela) Fire of Jenson, MI, Patrick Fire of Myrtle Beach, SC and Ted (Melissa) Fire of Stow, MA, three granddaughters Morgan and Lina Fire and Capri (George) Kandris, two grandsons Sam and Jake Fire, a sister Jeanette Farley of Warren and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Charles Fire and four sisters Margaret Fire, Ida Marino, Rosemarie Whalen and Ann Fire.

There is no doubt that Ed's effort helped to improve the lives of countless workers in Northeastern Ohio, and across the country. I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing, but I am honored to pay tribute to such a selfless man.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURATION
OF DR. REBECCA CHOPP**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Rebecca Chopp on the occasion of her inauguration as the chancellor of the University of Denver. An advocate for education, inclusivity and community, Dr. Chopp brings decades of leadership experience and success to DU. As a first-generation college student, she understands the importance of access to college for all and the need to continue to mentor and nurture students for their success and that of their community.

After earning a BA from Kansas Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity from St.

Paul School of Theology, Dr. Chopp went on to receive her PhD from the University of Chicago. She has received six honorary doctorates from additional institutions and distinguished awards from each of her alma maters. Dr. Chopp has served as dean at Yale Divinity School, as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory University, and as president of Swarthmore College and Colgate University. She is also a widely published author.

While at Swarthmore, Dr. Chopp was committed to admitting the most highly qualified students without regard to financial circumstances, and she supported innovative ways to build new, inclusive communities motivated to contributing to the common good. Though she took the reins during the middle of the Great Recession, she steered Swarthmore through this time without cutting faculty or financial aid. Dr. Chopp was the first woman to serve in several of her previous roles and is the first woman chancellor for DU. She is a true role model and trailblazer.

Dr. Chopp joined the University of Denver in September of last year as its 18th chancellor. Within her first 100 days she announced Imagine-DU, a community-wide effort that focused on transforming the student experience, expanding the design of knowledge, and engaging in new ways with the surrounding areas. Chancellor Chopp envisions the University of Denver as an institution capitalizing on the changes and opportunities that come of an institution invested in the 21st Century. In addition, she already has several new innovative projects including serving a more diverse student body and building the next generation of leaders with the establishment of the Latino Leadership Institute, addressing the needs of an aging population in the Knebel Center for the Study of Aging, and a new interdisciplinary approach to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr. Chopp has been quoted as saying, "As in any university, the most important resource is its people." In her case, that could not be more true. She will be an invaluable resource to DU. Please join me in commending Dr. Rebecca Chopp for her continued commitment and passion for education and community. Her persistence and dedication are an inspiration to build a better future for all who live in Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 22ND ANNUAL PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION
HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 22nd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, given to encourage and reward those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, I congratulate: Barbara Horne of Hollidaysburg, Larry Snyder of Hollidaysburg and Isaac Snowberger of Roaring Spring.

Barbara Horne is the recipient of a HealthSouth Personal Achievement Award. Barbara was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother until August 31, 2014, when tragically struck and changed her life forever. Barbara was diagnosed with an acute brain stem stroke which caused her to have garbled speech, double vision and limpness on her right side. Shortly thereafter, she developed a urinary tract infection. She was dialysis dependent and was given a small percentage of survival. With hard work, determination and assistance from her family, she overcame these obstacles. Barbara actually walked out of HealthSouth's facility at discharge on November 5, 2014, and now walks without the assist of a device. She's been able to return to her active lifestyle.

Larry Snyder is also the recipient of a Personal Achievement Award. On April 3, 2013 Larry sustained a life-changing injury to his dominant right hand when it was crushed between the couplings of two railroad cars. Larry underwent a total of 7 surgeries to repair vascular, skin, bone, nerve, and tendon damage sustained in the accident. Surgeons were able to save Larry's hand, but had to amputate his thumb. He also lost much of the sensation to his remaining fingers, leaving his hand essentially non-functional. Larry was a year away from retirement, after a lifetime of work in the local railroad shops, when he sustained this injury. With the help of his family and friends, he has fought discouragement by keeping an optimistic and cheerful attitude, and learned to make his left hand the dominant one.

Isaac Snowberger is also the recipient of a Personal Achievement Award. For Isaac and his family, June 21, 2015 will be a day they will never forget. Normally healthy and active, Isaac collapsed at home due to an arteriovenous malformation in the brain. His parents were able to revive him, and he was taken immediately to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for surgery. Due to his injury, he had some weakness in his right side, balance issues, double vision and swallowing difficulties. But Isaac remained in good spirits and has made rapid progress in therapy. With his family's help, he is now walking well, and has achieved his main goals of returning to high school and participating in garden tractor pulling events.

Congratulations to Barbara, Larry and Isaac. Their accomplishments are a testament to us all that with hard work, persistence and a big heart, we can overcome any hardship. I honor each of them for their perseverance, and I wish them the best as they continue to overcome illnesses and disabilities while setting an example for the rest of the community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALICE THOMPSON**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alice Marie Thompson, a civil rights icon and Freedom Rider, who passed away on August 24, 2015.

Alice was born on September 25, 1939, the sixth of eight children, born to Cora Mae Atlas and John Henry Thompson, Sr. and was the

granddaughter of Susie Lee and Louis Balfour Atlas, Sr. and Alice Piercey and Norah Thompson. In 1944, Alice and her family moved from Lake Providence to New Orleans' Ninth Ward. Alice attended Lockett, V.C. Jones, McCarthy, and Joseph S. Clark schools and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1959. She later attended and graduated from Southern University in New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Alice worked for many years as a social worker until her retirement in 2002.

Between 1959 and 1960, Alice, and her sisters Jean and Shirley, became members of the Youth Council of the New Orleans branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Thompson Sisters, as they famously became known, soon sought more direct action, and in 1960 joined the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) under the leadership of Rudy Lombard and later Oretta Castle Haley. Alice was active in countless pickets, sit-ins, and sit downs. She integrated a number of high-profile public places in the city, including McCrory's, Woolworths, the Loews Theater, and the City Hall Cafeteria.

In 1961, when the Interstate Commerce Commission outlawed segregation on buses, terminals, restrooms, restaurants, Alice's CORE members began testing the ruling throughout the Deep South. Their first test was in New Orleans at the Trailways bus terminal on Tulane Avenue. Alice and her comrades faced violence, intimidation and even imprisonment. In Poplarville, Mississippi, Alice was arrested and charged with breach of peace. She was placed in the same cell that Mack Charles Parker was placed in, taken from, and beaten two years earlier. In McComb, Mississippi, she and her fellow riders were viciously beaten. Alice volunteered for numerous projects during the U.S. Civil Rights Movement such as Mississippi and Louisiana Freedom Summer, and was present at the historic March on Washington on August 28, 1963. Alice was honored for her work by the State of Mississippi, the City of New Orleans, and by Oprah Winfrey during her show commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders.

In addition to her courageous civil rights advocacy, Alice was active in her community. She was one of the founding members of the Southern Organization for the Unified Leadership (SOUL), a founding member of the Lower Ninth Ward Development Association, an organizer of the New Orleans Health Corporation, and an organizer of the Copeland-Sanchez Center in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Alice loved to have a good time. She was always a centerpiece of family gatherings. With her signature beer in hand, she could always be seen recounting hilarious stories of her life and times, especially things that happened while she was in the Civil Rights Movement. She will be sorely missed by her family, her friends, and all of those who benefitted from her life's work—to bring freedom to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of Alice Thompson, I celebrate her life and legacy, because she made America a more perfect union.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY SANDERS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Dr. Mary Sanders' work is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, where she was an unwavering advocate for the youth as an educator; a community leader who worked tirelessly for the rights of our citizens in our district; and as a civic leader who volunteered as a Poll Officer in Gwinnett County, Georgia ensuring that the right to vote was administered to all that wanted to exercise their right; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, her time, her talent and her life; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift those in need; and

Whereas, Dr. Mary Sanders led by working behind the scenes, as well as front and center for the state of Georgia, DeKalb County NAACP, the Georgia Perimeter College Retirees Association Book Club, her beloved church, Antioch-Lithonia Baptist Church, and for her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a wife, a mother, a sister, a daughter and a friend; she was a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Dr. Mary Sanders for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Dr. Mary Sanders of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor".

Dr. Mary Sanders, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 10th day of August, 2015.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.
MICHAEL GODBEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator, Michael Godbey. Mr. Godbey leads Frankfort High School as its principal. Mr. Godbey's career as an educator spans twenty years. In this time he has served as an instructional assistant, bus driver, mathematics teacher, assistant principal, director of curriculum and instruction, and principal. Under Godbey's leadership, Frankfort High School has earned the classification of a Proficient and Progressing High School based on Kentucky's Next Generation Learner Accountability system. Frankfort High School was also ranked the Twelfth Best High School in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by U.S. News and World Report in 2014.

Mr. Godbey was recently selected as the 2015 Principal of the Year for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This Award was presented by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP). Godbey earned this award by his accomplishments in the education field over the years. His dedication to the education of his students is evident.

Godbey earned his B.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Kentucky and his M.A. in Education from Eastern Kentucky University. Prior to his tenure at Frankfort High School, Godbey worked in the Danville, Kentucky Independent School district. He and his wife Claudia reside in Nicholasville, Kentucky with their sons Jared and Hayden.

Education of our nations' young men and women is critically important. Mr. Godbey has exemplified strong leadership and innovation and is very deserving of the recent Principal of the Year award. Mr. Speaker, I applaud his creative talents and dedication in the education field.

BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, for 25 years, Blue Ridge Christian School in Bridgewater, Virginia, has provided a high quality, value-based Christian education to students. I am proud to represent an excellent institution of learning like Blue Ridge Christian School in the U.S. House of Representatives. As their programs have expanded in size and scope, diversity in both denominations and heritage has also grown. Staying true to the principles of their founding families, Blue Ridge Christian School has continuously maintained a strong commitment to academic excellence.

Today, the school is preparing to expand their mission by constructing a new campus. At the same time they will create a new relationship with another Christian institution of learning in the Sixth Congressional District, Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. This new partnership will be beneficial to the students and further expand the opportunities available through Blue Ridge Christian School.

I commend Blue Ridge Christian School as it marks its silver anniversary with an ambitious plan for growth that remains true to its Christian mission. I am hopeful that its next 25 years will be filled with fine opportunities for its students to make their mark on their hometowns, our nation, and the world beyond our borders. Go Bears!

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR MCKENZIE
JONES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, this year, Pastor McKenzie Jones is celebrating twenty (20) years in pastoral leadership at Zoe Baptist Church where he has provided stellar leadership to the church and community; and

Whereas, Pastor Jones under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Zoe Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Jones is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our state and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor McKenzie Jones, as he celebrates this milestone in pastoral leadership; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim August 30, 2015 as Pastor McKenzie Jones Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of August, 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 495, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on H.R. 1214. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAPPANEE MAYOR LARRY THOMPSON

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable public service of Larry Thompson as he retires as Mayor of Nappanee, Indiana. As a five-term mayor, Mayor Thompson continues to represent the American spirit and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

A devoted husband and proud father, Mayor Thompson has dedicated his life to serving his community. He and his wife Linda grew up in the Nappanee area and are both graduates of Northwood High School. He worked part-time in the funeral home business during high school and graduated from Indiana College of Mortuary Science in 1973. His dedication to public service was obvious early in his life, when he began serving as one of Nappanee's first Emergency Medical Technicians in 1973. Ten years later, he and his wife purchased what is now the Thompson-Lengacher & Yoder Funeral Home and he began serving as a local firefighter. Today, he and his family continue to run and operate their funeral home business, where they provide funeral services to the entire community. Mayor Thompson became involved in government affairs when he was appointed to serve on the Nappanee Park Board and ran in his first election, a successful bid for the Wa-Nee Community Schools Board of Education.

After several years of serving in those capacities, the mayor's position became open.

Prodded to run, he ran against an opponent for the only time in his career. Every election since, Mayor Thompson has run unopposed.

Since 1995, Mayor Thompson has been instrumental in improving the structure and services of Nappanee. His support to create community development, economic expansion, and job growth, made Nappanee one of the most vibrant communities in Indiana.

Mayor Thompson's tireless work to improve the community is nothing short of remarkable. His collaboration with local and regional partners to lobby for specific projects and funding for the city brought businesses like Martin's Super Market and Miller's Assisted Living to Nappanee. Mayor Thompson also helped establish the Boys and Girls Club of Nappanee and develop the East Side/Airport Industrial Park.

While Mayor Thompson should be commended for his business savvy, his training as a first responder proved helpful when an F-3 tornado struck Nappanee in 2007. During the aftermath, Thompson led a coalition of community leaders to help rebuild areas of Nappanee that had been destroyed or damaged.

The care and compassion the mayor had for his friends, neighbors and relatives who suffered loss and experienced trauma was abundantly clear. His business sense, integrity, and passion to restore people's lives were driving forces behind the recovery process for the town.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mayor Larry Thompson on his retirement. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking him for his leadership and service to the City of Nappanee.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 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 \$18,151,049,785,935.02. We've added \$7,524,172,737,021.94 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.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARION JORDAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Sixty-five years ago on August 19, 1950 a tenacious man of God was born in Macon, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Marion Jordan, served in the United States Military, worked for over forty years as a consummate professional in the insurance industry, and has devoted countless hours towards the betterment of his community; and

Whereas, Mr. Jordan has shared his time and talents as a family man, sailor, and mentor to many, giving the citizens of the United States an admired leader and person of great worth. A servant to all advancing the lives of others, through his service to our country in the U.S. Navy and being the ideal husband, father and grandfather; and

Whereas, Mr. Jordan has been blessed with a long, healthy, happy life, devoted to God, family and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Jordan along with his family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, his 65th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in his professional industry; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside these days to honor and recognize Mr. Jordan on his birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim August 19, 2015 as Mr. Marion Jordan Day, in Georgia's 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 19th day of August, 2015.

RECOGNIZING KEISER UNIVERSITY ON OPENING ITS FLAGSHIP CAMPUS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keiser University on opening its Flagship campus in West Palm Beach, located in my Congressional district. For a university that puts its students first, while serving the community and preparing professionals for the workforce, I am excited for the school's expansion.

The 100-acre campus will provide its ever growing student population with dormitories, athletic teams, and other amenities. This bold move will also support students by giving them access to even more degree programs, High school students from all across America seeking a traditional college experience now have an opportunity to enroll and enjoy a rich multidisciplinary institution.

Keiser University is the second largest member of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and is a Level VI regionally accredited institution by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The University serves a rich and diverse student body in traditional, nontraditional and online formats. The University was founded in 1977, with the lasting intention to serve adult learners seeking career-focused education. In 2001, the school had fewer than 4,000 students; it now has nearly 20,000 students. The acquisition of the Northwood University campus is just one of many ambitious ways Keiser University continues to expand and serve the hardworking students of South Florida.

Although the main campus is located in Fort Lauderdale, Keiser University now boasts 18 campuses located in Florida's major and mid-sized metropolitan areas and communities. The university has international sites beyond America's shores as well, with regionally accredited off-campus sites in San Marcos, Nicaragua and Shanghai, China. Keiser students

can also access learning centers in Moldova, Taiwan and Seoul, South Korea.

With over 3,500 talented and distinguished faculty and staff Keiser University has served nearly 60,000 hardworking alumni over the years. The university's committed philosophy of putting "students first" is reflected in its 60 programmatically-accredited academic offerings designed to prepare students for careers in business, criminal justice, health care, technology, hospitality, education, and career-focused general studies. Approximately 62 percent of students at Keiser University graduate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and healthcare fields. The university's students are pursuing degrees in over 100 doctoral, specialist, master's bachelor's, and associate fields as well as various continuing education programs.

Keiser University's goals include continually improving and ensuring effectiveness of its programs, building students' analytical and technical skills, as well as maintaining an unwavering devotion to powerful research at the doctoral level. These goals have led to successful students, an improved economy, and satisfied employers. Annually, Keiser University has made a statewide economic impact of over \$3 billion, as well as direct and indirect impacts for over 30,000 Florida jobs. It is no wonder that Keiser University is ranked 40th among colleges within the Southern Region of the United States.

Aside from changing the lives of its students and touting an impressive staff, Keiser University has consistently given back to the community. They have a major involvement in, among other things, food drives for primary schools, seniors citizen assistance, and major job fairs for those who want to find a role in America's and the international community's workforce. The U.S. News & World Report ranked Keiser 13th overall and 1st in Florida for the category of Regional Colleges South, specifically for its service to our nation's veterans. Moreover, Keiser University and the Keiser Mills Foundation have provided nearly \$44 million in scholarship funds to academic and needs-based US and international students.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to congratulate the Board of Trustees of Keiser University, Chancellor Dr. Arthur Keiser, and Vice Chancellor Belinda Keiser, on opening their new Flagship campus. I wish them much success as they continue their perpetual dedication to students and commitment to quality, education and community service.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 175th Anniversary of Bethel United Church of Christ in Freedom Township, Michigan.

In 1840, a young German minister, Rev. Friedrich Schmid, gathered 20 German immigrant farm families into a congregation named The Evangelical German Bethel Congregation of Freedom Township. Holding their first services in a log building, the congregation built a

wood frame church in 1857. The stone church used today by the congregation was constructed in 1909 with members providing the stones from their fields.

Eighteen pastors have shepherded Bethel UCC over the last 175 years, during which they have undertaken numerous mission projects for the benefit of those near and far away. For example, in the 19th century, clothing and blankets were sent to a Detroit hospital and orphan homes in three states. In the 20th century, several heifers were raised by the church and sent to Appalachia and Germany. The farmers in the congregation sent a rail car of wheat to help feed the hungry and quilts were made for veterans and those in hospitals. Today, quilts are still being sewn and the congregation also helps to feed the homeless locally and participates in a variety of projects that reach worldwide, keeping with the church's mission statement to "reach beyond these stone walls to impact communities both near and far."

In a stone church on a hilltop in rural Freedom Township, this congregation of more than 300 still gather to worship at Bethel, the "House of God." In January of this year, Bethel United Church of Christ began their year-long celebration and reflection on 175 years of sharing joys and sorrows together. On Sunday, November 8, descendants of those early pioneers will gather for a special worship service to acknowledge God's many blessings. I pray for a memorable celebration and for many more years of faithful witness of God's everlasting love in our community.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF
LAW IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic to the United States and his meeting with Vice President Biden, to add my voice to the international criticism about human rights and the rule of law in the Republic of Serbia.

In December 2012, Miroslav Miskovic, the president of Delta Holding was arrested and charged with a crime based on an outdated, internationally discredited provision of the Serbian criminal code that is a relic of the nation's communist past. He was charged with "abuse of position by a responsible person" (Article 234) for allegedly receiving market rate interest payments on legitimate commercial loans to a Serbian road construction company that was privatized in 2005. This is not only legal, but common in other European Countries.

The State Department and the European Union have criticized Miskovic's arrest as an example of the ineffective judiciary, excessive use of pretrial detention and a denial of fair public trials. The State Department Human Rights Report states that Mr. Miskovic's pretrial detention was "contrary to the well-established position of the European Court of Human Rights on the issue, that custody must not only be lawful, but also reasonable and necessary." The European Union, as part of Serbia's EU accession process, has called on the government to reform the provision of the

Serbian criminal code under which Mr. Miskovic and 4,168 other individuals are charged. Mr. Miskovic's arrest is indicative of the Serbian justice system's serious need for reform.

With Prime Minister Vucic's visit, the Serbian government is seeking to foster closer ties to the United States as it continues its efforts to join the European Union. While I share the U.S. government's appreciation for Serbia's contribution to Balkan stabilization, I believe any U.S. support for improved relations or for Serbian accession to the EU should depend on that country's commitment to political reform, the addressing of the lack of transparency in the government and genuine efforts to increase the independence of its judiciary. The repeal of Article 234 would go a long way toward establishing those goals.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ROSARIO ANAYA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on August 5th a beloved community leader, education and affordable housing advocate, and civil rights activist passed away in San Francisco. Rosario Anaya was a trailblazer and a pillar of San Francisco's Latino community, who dedicated her life to championing social and economic justice for the disenfranchised and underserved.

Rosario was born on October 7, 1944 in Cochabamba, Bolivia and moved to San Francisco in the early 1960's, where she earned her bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in counseling and psychology from the University of San Francisco. She went on to the UCLA Anderson School of Business's Management Development for Entrepreneurs program.

From the start, she proved herself to be a formidable force in the struggle for civil rights. Soon after moving to our city, she became a leader within the Mission Coalition Organization, a diverse network of local agencies that advocated for employment, housing, and education reform.

For forty years, until her untimely passing, she directed the Mission Language and Vocational School, a nonprofit community organization that offers English as a Second Language, and a wide range of computer and vocational courses for all immigrants. Among her many accomplishments with MLVS, she established the flourishing Latino Cuisine Culinary Academy, which provides immigrant workers with expanded opportunities within the San Francisco food industry.

In addition to her commitment to MLVS, Rosario was a key leader in many campaigns and coalitions for social and economic justice, including the San Francisco Latino Voter Registration Project, Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition and the United Farm Workers, where she organized food caravans from San Francisco to UFW's headquarters in Delano, California. She campaigned to rename Army Street in San Francisco for legendary labor leader Cesar Chavez.

Mayor George Moscone appointed Rosario to the San Francisco Board of Education in

the late 1970's. When she ran for a full four-year term in 1978, she became the first woman of Latin American descent elected to public office in San Francisco and subsequently served two more terms as School Board President.

More recently, in 2010 Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed her to the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission in order to help plan and supervise the construction of affordable housing.

Rosario served on more boards and committees and received more commendations and honors than can be named for her work in San Francisco and the State of California, as well as receiving international recognition from the governments of Mexico and Venezuela.

Rosario Anaya's leadership improving the lives of immigrants and at-risk populations within the San Francisco community has inspired generations of activists. She epitomized dignity and grace, and she leaves a shining legacy of fighting injustice.

I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to Rosario's family and friends during this sad time. I hope it is a comfort to them to know that Rosario's legacy will live on through the countless lives she touched and the numerous coalitions and programs she helmed in her efforts to create a more just and equitable world.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROGRESS AT
WEST LOS ANGELES VA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the remarkable accomplishments being made at the VA West Los Angeles Medical Center by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Secretary Robert A. McDonald.

I will not be able to join Secretary McDonald in Los Angeles today as Congress is in session, but it is my pleasure to acknowledge the attention given and progress made at the West LA VA this year by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The West LA VA is the largest VA Medical Center in the nation and it had faced unfortunate challenges for many years. In January 2015, Secretary McDonald quickly settled a lawsuit that had been holding back progress for Veterans in Los Angeles. Since that time, all of the parties involved have been following a Principles Document that has been driving a Strategic Homeless Initiative and the development of a Master Plan.

In addition to being the largest VA Medical Center, Los Angeles has the largest population of homeless Veterans in the United States. We cannot solve homelessness nationwide without addressing it in LA. Secretary McDonald engaged me early this year and we have partnered on many initiatives to address the crisis in homelessness. He has demonstrated a serious commitment to addressing homelessness among Veterans in Los Angeles and to developing a roadmap to ensure the sprawling West LA VA campus is focused on uses and services to directly benefit our nation's Veterans.

In fact, since March 2015 almost 1,400 area Veterans have been placed into permanent supportive housing. The VA expanded capacity to care for homeless Veterans by providing \$30 million in additional Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grants. Additional HUD-VASH vouchers have been awarded to our region, new beds have been added, and VA has hired more than 100 new employees prioritizing outreach and case management.

The VA has also actively forged relationships with every level of government, along with public and private partners to leverage resources in a truly unprecedented way.

We have a rare opportunity at this moment to solve homelessness among Veterans if we work together to make it happen. At the same time, we must also transform the West LA VA into a campus that serves our nation's Veterans with the dignity and integrity they so deserve. I am confident with our support and partnerships, Secretary McDonald will achieve this.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to VA Secretary McDonald for dedicating an enormous amount of time and resources to restoring the trust of our Veterans at West Los Angeles and for delivering critical housing, programs, and services.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Taiwan National Day, known as Double Tenth National Day and celebrated every year on October 10th.

Taiwan is a critical country in the Asia-Pacific region, and the people of Taiwan and the current President Ma Ying-jeou have been instrumental in improving relations between neighboring countries. President Ma has been a leader in finding peaceful solutions to the challenges they face, including building a cross-strait relationship between Taipei and Beijing as well as promoting the East China Sea Peace Initiative and the South China Sea Peace Initiative, both of which call upon the countries making claims in contested waters to share the natural resources in those waters.

Taiwan's role in trade has also grown significantly over the past 20 years. Taiwan now ranks as the 10th largest trade partner of the United States. The economic expansion in Taiwan has raised the country to become the 10th ranked country in trade volume among the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies and a leading supplier of intermediary goods in the region.

There is no doubt that Taiwan is leading by example in the Asia-Pacific region, and I am grateful that the United States and Taiwan remain close allies. I wish the people of Taiwan all the best as they prepare to celebrate Double Tenth National Day.

SAFER OFFICERS AND SAFER
CITIZENS ACT OF 2015

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join my colleagues Senator TIM SCOTT and Senator CORY BOOKER in introducing the "Safer Officers and Safer Citizens Act of 2015." This legislation will provide federal grant funding to outfit law enforcement officers with body cameras.

Police departments that use body cameras consistently have lower rates of complaints, show a reduced use of force, and have been shown to be a win-win for officers. A report conducted by the City of San Diego showed a 40% reduction in complaints filed by individuals, a 46% reduction in the use of force, and a 30% reduction in the use of pepper spray. A second study in Rialto, California showed a 60% reduction in force. These cameras make our streets safer for law enforcement and individuals.

Further, 785 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies participated in a study of the effectiveness of body-worn cameras, and 85% agreed that these cameras reduce false complaints.

The bill I am introducing today with Congressman BILL FOSTER and Congresswoman ELIZABETH ESTY, which is the companion to the Senate bill recently introduced by Senators CORY BOOKER and TIM SCOTT, will provide these law enforcement agencies additional resources to equip their officers.

At a time of tension and eroding trust between law enforcement and the public in many communities, body cameras help hold police officers accountable and encourage them to act appropriately as they protect and serve. This legislation enables departments to purchase body cameras without cutting or diverting funds from other important programs including community outreach efforts.

The "Safer Officers and Safer Citizens Act of 2015," will provide \$100 million annually to state, local, and tribal law enforcement departments through a grant program to outfit their officers with body cameras. I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in this effort, and pass this bill.

CONGRATULATING DR. JEFF
REUTTER ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT
OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeff Reutter, pioneering and indefatigable Director of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Stone Laboratory, Center for Lake Erie Area Research, and Great Lakes Aquatic Ecosystem Research Consortium, on the announcement of his retirement.

Dr. Reutter's name has become synonymous with Lake Erie. He has spent his career fighting to develop the foundational data sets to support Lake Erie's recovery. During that time, Dr. Reutter has distinguished himself as

a scholarly and popular leader; he is the foremost expert on the health of Lake Erie and our Great Lakes endowment.

Dr. Reutter has tackled many issues facing Lake Erie during a distinguished career where he has witnessed the first Earth Day, the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, the return of nesting eagles to Lake Erie following a ban on DDT, and many other changes in our Great Lakes system.

More recently, since the mid 1990s, Dr. Reutter has concentrated his efforts on finding solutions for Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB), caused by high nutrient run-off in the Western Lake Erie Basin, the largest watershed in the Great Lakes. Dr. Reutter's commitment and service to the people of Ohio and our Great Lakes will be celebrated for years to come. His talents will continue to be applied to those endeavors to which he has dedicated his life.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for his years of service and his unparalleled dedication to a healthy Lake Erie, a restored Great Lakes ecosystem and clean water for those who count on this amazing freshwater abundance—collectively, the most important freshwater body on the face of the earth.

HONORING ROBBIE WILKIE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robbie Wilkie for his work as the Caldwell County Emergency Services Director and congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Wilkie began his career in 1983 as a volunteer firefighter with the North Catawba Fire Department, where he continued serving through 2004. During that time, he also served as a firefighter for the Lenoir Fire Department from 1988 through 2004, where he worked his way through the ranks to eventually become Fire Captain. After working as a Fire Marshal from 2004 to 2010, Mr. Wilkie was eventually promoted to the Emergency Services Director position in 2013. While serving in this role, his duties included handling all budgetary, administrative, and policy decisions for Caldwell County Emergency Services, while coordinating all fire rescue efforts for Caldwell County. Due to his faithful service, Mr. Wilkie has received multiple awards throughout his career, including Firefighter of the Year from both the North Catawba Fire Department in 1985 and the Lenoir Fire Department in 1998, and the Author H. "Ott" Dellinger Leadership Award in July 2006.

Mr. Wilkie has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to serving the people of Caldwell County in emergency management. As such, I am proud to honor Mr. Robbie Wilkie for his faithful service to the people of Caldwell County and I wish him the best on his retirement.

GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of our Gold Star Mothers.

As we honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, we pay tribute to their families, who have made tremendous sacrifice for the sake of our country. On this day, we give due honor to those mothers whose sons or daughters have given their lives while defending our nation.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day."

Now, therefore, I, TOM RICE by virtue of the authority vested in me as representative of the Seventh District of the state of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2015 to be Gold Star Mother's Day. I encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as an expression of our nation's sympathy and respect for our Gold Star Mothers.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
PRESTON W. WILLIAMS II

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has provided sage counsel, wisdom, and guidance throughout Georgia, the United States of America, and the world, Bishop Preston W. Williams II. Bishop Williams is the Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District, which spans the state of Georgia. After his term concludes in 2016, Bishop Williams will be retiring. A celebration will be held in his honor on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Byron, Georgia.

Bishop Preston W. Williams II was born in Willacochee, Georgia and has worked tirelessly to spread the Word of God in the state throughout his life. He pastored several A.M.E. churches in Georgia, leaving a lasting mark on each through increased membership, improved worship facilities, and impactful community outreach. He also served as the Treasurer of the Sixth Episcopal District and Director of Communication in radio and television for the A.M.E. Church, where he was responsible for coordinating media outreach to more than 100,000 Georgians. He served as a member of the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches and was selected as the State of Georgia Distinguished Churchman.

From 2000 to 2004, Bishop Williams served as the Presiding Prelate of the Seventeenth Episcopal District, located in Central Africa. Under his leadership, the membership of the Seventeenth District expanded exponentially, necessitating that the district be split into two separate parts and leading to the formation of a new Twentieth Episcopal District. In fact, this trend of increasing membership would con-

tinue throughout the Bishop's distinguished career, with thousands of people inspired to give their lives to Christ by this charismatic leader's everlasting love and enthusiasm for God.

From 2004 to 2012, Bishop Williams served the Seventh Episcopal District, which consists of the state of South Carolina. There, Bishop Williams advocated for the implementation of Christian education by founding Youth Adult ministries, expanding the curriculum at Allen University, establishing scholarship funds for clergy members to pursue their Master of Divinity degrees, and increasing opportunities for seminary-level training. Moreover, Bishop Williams served the community at large by creating after-school programs dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk teens, among many other worthy contributions. Known to many, respected by all, he left an indelible mark on the Seventh Episcopal District.

In 2012, Georgia rejoiced at the return of Bishop Williams when he was appointed to lead the Sixth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church. From 2012 to 2016, Bishop Williams will continue to govern the 543 A.M.E. churches in the state of Georgia. He will also serve as Chairman on the Board of Turner Theological Seminary and Morris Brown College, both located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Bishop Williams has accomplished much for the Kingdom of Christ throughout his life, but none of this would be possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Wilma, and his children, Arnold Andre, Wilma Priscilla, Stella Jacinta, and Prestina Delores.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Bishop Preston W. Williams II for his numerous invaluable contributions to Georgia, the United States of America, and the world. Bishop Williams has made a tremendous impact on communities across the globe. Even in his forthcoming retirement, I am confident that Bishop Williams will remain an esteemed and active member of the community, as his limitless enthusiasm and diligent work ethic knows no bounds.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Collegiate Honors Council and highlight its work to bettering the education of over 325,000 students in more than 800 member colleges and universities around the country.

I want to specifically commend my alma mater, the University of North Georgia, for its prestigious honors program. I am proud to say that this university—which I believe to be one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the state of Georgia—is located in the beautiful town of Dahlonega in the Ninth District.

I attended the school when it was still known as North Georgia College, but I am glad to say that the school continues to grow. In 2013, North Georgia College and State University was consolidated with Gainesville State University and became the well-known institution we are honoring today—the University of North Georgia.

The University of North Georgia seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of the North Georgia region. They do this through excellence in academic performance, student research, student leadership, service learning, and study abroad programs. Additionally, the University of North Georgia is a premier senior military college and one of only six federally designated senior military colleges in the nation.

The Honors Program at UNG cultivates a community of engaged and academically motivated students who uphold the values of service and integrity, demonstrate global awareness, and exhibit strong leadership skills. Evidence of the program's success is exhibited by some of their outstanding alumni. One example among many is Sara Brubaker, class of 2010. Sara completed her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2013 and was one of just twelve physical therapists chosen for employment by the U.S. Navy. She now serves at the rank of Lieutenant as the Rehabilitation Department Head at the Naval Hospital in Beaufort, SC.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of Sara and other accomplished students and alumni of the University of North Georgia and to commend the University's successful honors program.

HONORING PRINCIPAL CHIEF
MICHELL HICKS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Principal Chief Michell Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who is retiring on September 26, 2015. I am proud to call Chief Hicks a good friend and thank him for his dedicated service as Principal Chief.

After graduating from Western Carolina University, Chief Hicks served for twelve years as the Principal Chief for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and prior to that served eight years as the Chief Finance Officer for the Eastern Band. During his tenure as Principal Chief, Chief Hicks was instrumental in the completion of several vital service facilities, such as the Shawn Blanton Emergency Operations Center, the Snowbird Youth Center, the new Justice Center and Jail, and a new Cherokee Hospital, scheduled to open in October of this year.

Additionally, Chief Hicks spearheaded many educational efforts in the region. He developed and implemented a reading program for kindergarten children in the region, he oversaw the development of a financial literacy program for Cherokee youth, and he helped rekindle an interest in the Cherokee language by including it as required curriculum at Cherokee schools.

Chief Hicks is known by his friends as a kind, compassionate man who, while cherishing the old Cherokee traditions, is a visionary for a better future for his people. His tremendous passion and vision earned him the Tribal Leader of the Year Award from the Native American Finance Officers Association.

The exemplary leadership and vision of Chief Hicks is something that all of us can admire and respect. As such, I am proud to

honor Principal Chief Michell Hicks on his faithful service to the people of Cherokee and congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for Roll Call vote number 495. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on H.R. 1214, the National Forest Small Tracts Amendments Act.

CELEBRATING THE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, since 1968, America celebrates the National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, 2015, to recognize the legacy of those whose ancestors came from Latin America and Spain. The beginning of the National Hispanic Heritage Month is very important because it is also the anniversary of independence for some Central American countries such as: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Also, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th respectively.

We are fortunate to have in our district so many dedicated community leaders and organizations, such as CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, Dominican American National Roundtable, Hispanic Federation, Dominican Women Development Center, Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center, Dominican Medical Association DMA, National Dominican Women Caucus, Dominican Bar Association, Latino Leadership Institute, East Harlem Preservation, Inc., Falu Foundation, El Museo del Barrio, Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, East Harlem Council for Community Improvement, Inc., Friendly Hands Ministry, VIDA Family Services, Inc., N.E.R.V.E., Inc., Teatro Moderno Puertorriqueno, Inc., Casabe Houses Development Fund, Company, Inc., Julia de Burgos Cultural Center, Latino Justice PRLDEF, Hispanic Federation, La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriquena, Borikén Health Center, Nuevo Caribe Democratic Club of El Barrio and Cataño Gardens and the Association of Progressive Dominicans, working tirelessly to improve the lives of people living in East Harlem, Inwood, Washington Heights and the Bronx. Pioneers such as Secretary Thomas Pérez, America's first Cabinet Secretary of Dominican descent and Justice Sonia Sotomayor who is of Puerto Rican descent and is the country's first Hispanic to be appointed to the Supreme Court, are not only role models for youths in our congressional district, but also symbols of the American Dream. They remind us that willingness to strive can help us to achieve great success, not only for ourselves but for America as a country.

Like all Americans, Latino families aspire to own a home, save for their children's higher education, and put aside enough money for a secure retirement. We need comprehensive immigration reform that will fix our broken system and allow millions of aspiring Americans to come out of the shadows. Every day we delay the issue of immigration reform is another day that our economy, our businesses, and our families lose out. I will continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform and for the policies that will strengthen the Latino community and expand their opportunities to achieve the American Dream.

The United States of America is greater, thanks to the contributions of the Latino community, which is 55.4 million strong, and continues to grow and make a great impact throughout our country. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

IN HONOR OF BETTY HARDY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, residents in Montgomery County are blessed to have non-profit organizations that provide a true safety net for struggling families and individuals.

One of those organizations is the Montgomery County Food Bank which has been helping families since 1985.

This food bank is an integral part of our community today because a group of individuals led by Betty Hardy saw a need and found a way to fill that need by partnering with other agencies.

Betty Hardy has put others first as long as any of us have known her. She is a blessing to our community. She went from helping people on the crisis hotline to ensuring families in need had a meal on the table.

Betty's passion to put others first is what led her to bring together several like-minded friends each week to organize and create food pantries, food drives and deliveries.

Out of her commitment—and her garage, trunk and backseat—grew the program we know as the Montgomery County Food Bank.

From the food bank's initial one-room office space this program has grown to service countless families.

The Food Bank went from serving nearly 18,000 meals in the first year to 400,000 annual meals just a short decade later.

In 2007, the food bank opened its first official warehouse with the help of a community development grant. Today, the food bank operates out of a 60,000 square foot facility that distributes several million pounds of food every year. They coordinate with a network of approximately 50 food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers and other agencies to provide fresh produce, meat and non-perishables to more than 32,000 people each month.

Betty's dream of helping Montgomery County residents weather a crisis has evolved into the sixth largest food bank in Texas.

Betty Hardy is proof that one person's determination, dedication and willingness to roll up her sleeves can have a far reaching impact on individuals and families who need to know there is hope and support in their community.

Today, the Montgomery County Food Bank will hold its inaugural Food for Life Luncheon celebrating its past, present and future. That celebration begins with the accomplishments of Betty Hardy and her efforts to fight hunger in our community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
PATRICIA D. HOROHO

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, Primum Non Nocere: Above all, do no harm.

Today we honor the service of Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, the United States' 43rd Surgeon General of the Army.

Lt. Gen. Horoho, the first woman and first nurse to serve in the role, boasts a remarkable record of service to our nation and the medical profession.

Serving at all levels of leadership of Army Medicine, her service includes deployments in Haiti and Kabul, Afghanistan. In the United States, she has served as Chief of the Army Nurse Corps among other roles.

Any recognition would be incomplete without highlighting her heroic service on September 11, 2001. Working in the Pentagon, she rushed to triage wounded victims in the immediate hours following the attack.

Lt. Gen Horoho's service is recognized with four of the highest honors awarded by the

United States: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Army Meritorious Service Medal.

She exhibits the highest standards of integrity, moral character, and professional excellence. Also a recipient of the Order of Military Medical Merit Medallion, an award presented to those who demonstrate the in their service to the Army Medical Department.

For those in military medicine, Lt. Gen. Horoho says it best: "In every conflict the U.S. Army has fought, Army Medicine has stood shoulder to shoulder with our fighting forces, supporting those who are putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom."

Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, our grateful nation thanks you, and salutes you, for your service to us all.