

organizations further establishing him as a critical leader in a wide array of community, political, non-profit and cultural institutions such as: the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, United Way, Reading Works, the Arab American National Museum, Eastern Michigan University's Board of Regents, Arab American Institute, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, University of Michigan Citizens Advisory Board, Fair Food Network, and the New Detroit Coalition.

Most remarkably, Ish's family has graciously shared his talents and time with our community. He is a loving husband to his wife Margaret, father to his five children, and grandfather to two. I know in his retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Ismael Ahmed for his lifetime of service and lasting impact on our region and country. We thank him for his leadership, and wish him many years of happiness and success.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 650 on final passage of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the EPA's CO<sub>2</sub> rule for existing power plants, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 658 I mistakenly pressed NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, I was unable to vote on the Conference Report to accompany S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act (Roll Call Number 655). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

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#### “BILLIONAIRE BONANZA”— WEALTH INEQUALITY IN AMERICA

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to a re-

cent report from the Institute for Policy Studies, “Billionaire Bonanza: the Forbes 400 and the Rest of Us.”

This report exposes just how drastic wealth inequality in America has become. As a whole, America is now wealthier than it has ever been before. But that wealth is concentrated in the hands of just a few Americans. The 20 wealthiest individual Americans have more wealth than the lowest 50% combined—that is, 20 Americans with more wealth than 152 million Americans.

The report “Billionaire Bonanza” found that the wealthiest 186 members of the Forbes 400 own as much wealth as the entire Latino population in America. The wealthiest 100 households in America own about as much wealth as the entire African American population in the United States. Economic inequality is also racial inequality.

Congress needs to enact common-sense policies to close the loopholes that have allowed for this extreme wealth inequality. It is time to raise revenue so we can increase opportunities for those at the lowest rung of the economic ladder to climb toward the top. I thank Chuck Collins and Josh Hoxie, the authors of this critical report, and I urge my colleagues to consider their proposals and to take action against the unsustainable concentration of wealth in America.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 659, I was unavoidably detained off the House Floor and was unable to cast a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Numbers 660, 661, 663, and 664, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on Roll Call Numbers 660, 661, and 663 and I would have voted “yes” on roll call vote number 664.

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#### RECOGNIZING HAROLD GRIFFITH

### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harold Griffith on being selected for induction into the Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Currently, Mr. Griffith resides in Fort Morgan where he has been a leader in the dairy in-

dustry. He has been a pioneer by developing programs through the Dairy Catch It Program, which helps youth pursue careers in agriculture. Mr. Griffith clearly understands the importance of giving back to his community.

In addition, Mr. Griffith has extensive knowledge of Colorado water rights. This ultimately led to him being asked to serve on Governor Ritter's Water Task Force. Griffith has shown true leadership in his industry and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr. Griffith pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Harold Griffith for his accomplishments.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LUTHER CONYERS

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding public servant and champion of education, Mr. Luther Conyers. Mr. Conyers will be retiring this month after serving 37 years on the Bainbridge City Council in Bainbridge, Georgia. He was first elected to the Bainbridge City Council in 1977 but his passion as an educator began long before then.

Mr. Conyers earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1948 from Georgia State Industrial College, now Savannah State University, where he met his wife, Gwendolyn. Their daughters, Audrey and Luthenya, and their granddaughter, Leslie also attended Savannah State University so it is no wonder that the Conyers family was chosen as “SSU Family of the Year” in 2009. Mr. and Mrs. Conyers, co-sponsors of the Conyers-Kirbo Endowed Scholarship Fund for the school, were inducted into the 2015 Hall of Fame at Savannah State University.

Mr. Conyers first taught in the Institutional On-Farm Training Program designed for World War II veterans before joining the U.S. Army. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Korea, where he served 16 months and 27 days. He earned three Bronze Stars as a member of the transportation crew and he taught education classes while deployed.

After returning home to Bainbridge in 1942, he served as a substitute teacher and enrolled at Fort Valley State College, now University. He was employed at Randolph County High School for six months, and beginning in 1954, he taught at Bainbridge Elementary School. He earned a Master's in Education from Florida A&M University in 1961. In 1965, he transferred to Hutto High School in Bainbridge to teach social studies before transferring to Hutto Junior High School in 1970, where he taught eighth and ninth grade.

Throughout his tenure of service on the Bainbridge City Council, Mr. Conyers has been a champion of education but most importantly, he has given his all to improving the community he serves. In recognition of his efforts, in 2008, Mr. Conyers was inducted into