

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

In 2005, Congress passed legislation—H.R. 694, preserving the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage.

This law also established a Commission, nominated and appointed by the Secretary of Interior.

At the passage of the original Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act, the membership of the commission was limited to a 3 year term.

The Commission is comprised of 15 members who are recognized experts in historic preservation, anthropology, and folklore.

The Commissioners assist in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee for the benefit and education of the public.

The purpose of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission is to assist Federal, State, and local authorities in the development and implementation of a management plan for those land and waters of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

H.R. 3004 would ensure the continued protection and preservation of the history and contributions of the Gullah/Geechee people of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida.

Lastly, the law stated that the Commission should be terminated after 10 years.

H.R. 3004 will extend the authorization of the Gullah/Geechee Commission from “10 years” to “15 years”.

This Black History, the work of the Commission is imperative in facilitating the enhancement and preservation of the Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage.

It also continues to facilitate highlighting the important history of African Americans with Gullah/Geechee heritage.

Indeed, the original Act, H.R. 694 as passed was intended to recognize the seminal contribution of African American Gullah/Geechee made to American culture and history.

These African Americans settled in the coastal states of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

Since its passage, the Act has facilitated efforts in these identified coastal states in interpreting the story and role of the Gullah/Geechee.

Additionally, through the work of the Commission, efforts are now underway to preserve the Gullah/Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music.

Most critically, the Act and extension of the authorization of the tenure of the Commission

will further support the work of continued identification and preservation of sites, gathering of historical data, protection of artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee.

The extension of the work of the Commission under the original Act and this current legislation will yield benefits of education of the general public on the important contribution of the Gullah/Geechee.

Through the educational outreach work alone, our nation will learn about the Heritage Corridor which comprises those lands and waters generally depicted on a map entitled “Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.”

This is just one prime example of the benefit of the original Act and this current extension of the tenure of the Commission, which I rise in support of.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE  
FIRST CLASS JOE RIVERA  
MONTES

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is my highest honor to recognize Private First Class Joe R. Montes for his courageous service to our great country during World War II. On December 29, 1941, as a very young man, Private Montes answered our nation's call to defend our freedoms after the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor. He valiantly served in the United States Marine Corps enduring multiple battles in the South Pacific. During this time, Private Montes was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the heroic American recapture of the Island of Guam in July 1944. In January 1946, after the formal end of World War II, Private First Class Montes separated from the Marine Corps after four triumphant years of service. His time in service was defined by extraordinary leadership and selfless acts of devotion to his company. On behalf of the men and women of California's 3rd Congressional District, please accept my sincerest gratitude for his dedicated service to our country.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES  
AWARENESS WEEK, 2016

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, 2016, from February 21 to February 27.

Invasive species cause widespread damage across the United States. Billions of dollars of damage are caused by animals such as nutria in the South, sea lampreys in the Great Lakes, Asian carp in the Mississippi Basin, and

quagga mussels in the west. We must work together to raise awareness of the economic and environmental damage that invasive species are wreaking on our lands and waters.

In Congress, I along with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California, are co-chairs of the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. This large, bipartisan group of Members of Congress from across the country seeks to bring attention to the danger invasive species pose. We often work together on policies that will reduce the impact of these species.

This week, the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus hosted an informational session in honor of National Invasive Species Awareness Week that saw over one dozen groups, ranging from federal agencies to non-government organizations, presenting on the dangers of invasive species and ongoing efforts to control their populations.

On behalf of all residents of Northern Michigan and the United States, I wish to honor the many citizens and organizations who work each day to stop the threat of invasive species to our country. I, along with my colleagues in the House, will continue to work to stop invasive species and bring awareness of this important issue to the American public.

HONORING 100 YEARS SINCE THE  
BIRTH OF ARCHIE MOORE

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year mark since Archie Moore's birth, one of America's greatest boxers, whose career took him from the ring, to the big screen in Hollywood and to San Diego, where his impact is still felt today as a crusader against the gang and drug culture.

Throughout Archie's life, he competed in 219 boxing matches, winning 185—131 coming by knockout; however, Archie's most important life work came outside the ring, when, in 1957, he founded the Any Body Can (ABC) Youth Foundation. In its 59th year, the ABC Youth Foundation continues to serve low-income students throughout Southeast San Diego, and aims to empower San Diego's inner-city youth with courage and dignity as they confront life's challenges.

Throughout the years, ABC has moved throughout the San Diego area, but its mission remains the same. They offer after school learning programs, where students can do homework and receive tutoring in a comfortable environment; they ensure that students are able to “Bridge the Gap” during school breaks, by providing hands-on educational learning experiences and a meal free of charge; and in honor of Archie, they offer year-round boxing classes, where students can learn self-defense and build self-esteem. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Archie's legacy is alive and well in San Diego—it is seen in

• 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.

the thousands of students who have traveled through ABC's door in the past 59 years.

When Archie passed away, he handed the torch on to his son, Billy Moore, who has served as President of the ABC Foundation since 1998. Billy's leadership as President of ABC would make his father proud, as he has presented the ABC Concept in eleven community schools throughout the San Diego region and ensured that students have the opportunity to rise up out of challenging circumstances.

On the occasion of this 100-year anniversary, we remember both the champion he was in the ring and the impact he made out of the ring, by inspiring students to realize that Any Body Can make a difference.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH  
NAPLES

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ralph Naples, the owner of the Golden Dawn Restaurant in Youngstown, Ohio which has served as a very special place to both locals and travelers.

Mr. Naples was born on June 16th, 1919, in Youngstown, the son of Andrew and Mary Carmen Agnone Naples. He attended The Rayen School and later Youngstown College where he graduated with a degree in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering in 1941.

After university, Ralph enlisted in the U.S. Army. In World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a bombardier and navigator on both the B-17 and the B-29 aircraft, obtaining the rank of lieutenant.

The Golden Dawn Restaurant, established in 1934, was co-owned by Ralph and his brother Carmen after the death of their parents. The "Dawn" became and still is a gathering place for families, fans and students of Youngstown State University and Ursuline High School, but really all are welcome. Ralph was truly a known legend in Youngstown.

Ralph leaves behind his sons, Andrew, Philip, Benedetto, Ralph, and Johnny; daughters Mary, Cathy, Christine, Casseday, and Annie; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is survived by a sister, Antoinette Hudson.

The Naples family will continue to operate the Golden Dawn. Mr. Naples was loved by all those in the community. He was a great man, a gentle man and a great family man. He will be missed by our entire community.

HONORING LAURA ESSERMAN, MD,  
MBA

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laura Esserman, MD, MBA, of San Francisco, California, in recognition of her receiving the Stanford Graduate School of Business distinguished Earnest C. Arbuckle Award during its annual award ceremony in Stanford,

California, on March 3, 2016. The Arbuckle Award recognizes excellence in the field of management leadership and a commitment to addressing the changing needs of society.

Dr. Esserman is a professor of surgery and radiology, and the director of the Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She is the founder and innovator-in-chief of the I-SPY TRIALS and I-SPY 2 Programs: two remarkable collaborations between private biotech companies and federal institutes that combine personalized medicine and private trial design to create fast and cost efficient breast cancer treatments. Under Dr. Esserman's deft leadership, the I-SPY 2 program's efficient and groundbreaking success has made it an international model for translational cancer research.

In May 2015, Dr. Esserman was awarded a five-year \$14.1 million grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The award is being used to fund the WISDOM study to investigate whether a personalized approach to breast cancer screening is as effective as annual mammograms. Dr. Esserman has also served as a member of President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Working Group on Advancing Innovation in Drug Development and Evaluation, and has published over 200 works in notable scientific magazines. She received her BA in the History of Science from Harvard University, her MD from Stanford University, and her MBA from Stanford University's School of Business.

Dr. Esserman is no ordinary physician. When she performs a surgery, it is a full-service operation. Dr. Esserman's preparation for surgery begins days before—with singing practice. She takes requests from patients, and holds their hands during anesthesia while singing them to sleep. Dr. Esserman is known for spending hours with her patients during office visits, and even sends personal text messages and returns late night phone calls to answer follow up questions whenever she can.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the hard work and dedication of Dr. Laura Esserman to the City of San Francisco, to her husband, Michael Endicott, to her children, Mansa and Max, and to her patients. She is truly an inspiration to many, including myself, and a most deserving recipient of the Earnest C. Arbuckle Award.

HONORING WAVERLY WOODSON  
DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a young soldier in the Korean War, I was honored to follow in the footsteps of many Blacks in the military who exhibited extraordinary heroism and patriotism abroad despite facing discrimination and challenges at home. I would not be where I am today if it were not for my service in the Army. During our annual celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor an unsung hero from West Philadelphia named Waverly "Woody" Woodson, Jr., who served as a young medic of World War II.

This summer will mark the 72nd anniversary of the historic D-Day invasion of World War II. Nearly three-quarters of a century later, the event is still revered by all Americans as an example of our military's strength and bravery. However, the life-risking efforts of thousands of Black veterans from the war have gone unnoticed.

The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a unit of all-Black soldiers, landed in France ahead of the main invasion force. The battalion's job was to deploy and man an aerial barrage of massive helium-filled balloons to protect the American forces from enemy bomber airplanes. The balloons forced enemy pilots to fly their planes at higher altitudes to avoid becoming entangled and made it harder to effectively aim their bombs.

Among the 320th was Waverly Woodson, who enlisted in the Army on Dec. 15, 1942, during his second year of his pre-medical studies. He did not wait to be called by the draft; rather he decided to sacrifice his career, comfort and life for his country and the world. Woodson's enlistment placed him in the Anti-Artillery Officer Candidate School but he was told upon completion of his training that there was no spot open for him. Instead, he was sent for medic training with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. He was one of five medics aboard a Landing Craft Tank that left England on June 5, 1944, for a ninety-mile journey towards Omaha Beach.

Woodson's voyage on June 6, 1944, was commenced by a violent charge towards the shore. Along with his unit, he valiantly stormed Omaha Beach in the midst of mines, mortar shells and heavy ammunition, with eyes fixed upon the mission of freedom that lay ahead. As a medic, Woodson risked his life to save the crippled and bleeding out American warriors clinging to their last thread of consciousness. He patched and resuscitated dozens if not hundreds of soldiers while he himself was wounded by the shrapnel ripping away at his legs. Woodson's determined efforts directly influenced the result of this battle.

Though he was segregated into a racially organized regiment, he saved the lives of numerous soldiers regardless of their skin color. Woodson would later say, on that day "they didn't care what my skin color was" and obviously he did not care either. He was bonded to his men by the camaraderie that only war can provoke and a steadfast allegiance to defending the greatest country in the world. His dedication broke down racial divides that day, and this is history that truly deserves recognition.

Waverly Woodson Jr. was previously nominated for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it. Instead, he was given the Bronze Star, the fourth-highest military honor. There exists no record of what happened to his nomination for the Medal of Honor. Not one of the thousands of Black soldiers who served in World War II received a Medal of Honor in the immediate wake of the war. Something is detrimentally wrong with that.

However, we can always remedy the mistakes of our past. In 1995, I was honored to bring Woodson and a group of African-American World War II veterans to the floor of the House Chamber and recognize these unsung heroes for their forgotten service. As a veteran myself, I was moved to see that their sacrifice was no longer overlooked but there is more work that we must do.

Black History Month must continue to play a pivotal role in helping all of us remember, preserve, and honor the accomplishments and contributions of the Black leaders of America. The annual celebration serves as a poignant reminder of how much Black history has been lost, forgotten, or in some cases, deliberately erased from the record. The nation's commemoration of Black history is not for the Black community alone, but for our collective and cohesive recognition of American history as a whole.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL SABLJAK

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Michael Sabljak, who is intern in my office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for almost two decades, and I am happy to be a host again this year.

Michael comes from the University of Melbourne where he is studying for his Juris Doctor degree. Over the past couple of months, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and continually going above and beyond the call of duty. He has attended committee hearings, assisted with constituent correspondence, and assisted me, as well as my staff, with research. He was asked to travel down to Alabama during the latter part of February, and Michael and I travelled over 700 miles across the Fourth Congressional District. His Australian accent has garnered the friendly attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Michael's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 17 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federing, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships, and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to also thank Eric Federing for the opportunity to host Michael over the past several weeks through the program. To date, over 180 interns have come through his program, representing 10 different universities over the program's lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come, and enlightens those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals who are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Michael in our office over the past couple of months, and I wish him the very best in the fu-

ture. Michael, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUTH  
IRENE ANTHONY

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruth Irene Anthony, who passed away peacefully at the age of ninety on Sunday, February 14th, 2016, at her residence surrounded by her loving family in Fort Myers, Florida.

Ruth was born in Warren, Ohio on Dec. 9th, 1925, to Daniel and Olive Webb McCormick.

Ruth married Lee Andrew Anthony on January 3rd, 1945. They resided most of their lives in Niles, in northeast Ohio where they raised their four children. Ruth and Lee became residents of Fort Myers in 1989.

Ruth is survived by her beloved husband of 71 years; their son George and three daughters, Sandra, Kathy, and Ruth along with 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Ruth will be greatly missed by her loving family, friends, and neighbors, not only in Ohio but in her home of Florida as well.

HONORING CLAUDETTE COLVIN

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this month we take time to commemorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans have—and continue to make—to our Nation. Today, I would like to rise and honor a resident of my district who is a pioneer and trailblazer for the Civil Rights Movement—Ms. Claudette Colvin—for her many years of advocacy and impact that she's had throughout the United States.

Ms. Colvin was born on September 5, 1939 in Birmingham, Alabama to C.P. Austin and Mary Jane Austin (Gadson). She is the oldest of eight sisters. During her early childhood her adopted parents, Q.P. and Mary Ann Colvin lived in the rural community of Pine Level, Alabama. Ms. Colvin attended the Springhill Baptist Elementary School but later she moved to Montgomery and lived in an area called King Hill. She attended Booker T. Washington School from 1949 to 1956. While she didn't finish her senior year, she later received her G.E.D. and attended the Alabama State Teachers College in Montgomery for one year.

Ms. Colvin is one of the unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. At the age of fifteen, she played a critical role in desegregating the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. Many people don't know that nine months before Rosa Parks was arrested for her act of courage in favor of equal treatment, Ms. Colvin was arrested on March 2, 1955 for a similar act of peaceful resistance. She subsequently became one of the four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*. The plaintiffs sought equal rights in Montgomery's busing system, and to

have the racially segregated seating policies declared unconstitutional. Represented by famed attorney Fred D. Gray, the case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which declared in favor of Ms. Colvin and her co-plaintiffs. It was a jubilant day in the history of the city of Montgomery, and an important victory in the Civil Rights Movement.

Many people don't know that Ms. Colvin subsequently relocated to my district in the Bronx, and has been a New Yorker for more than 50 years. She worked for more than 30 years at a Catholic Nursing Home as a nursing assistant. She is the mother of two boys, and she has six adorable grandchildren. She has reaped the fruits of her labor through them.

Ms. Colvin's bravery that day in 1955, and in the subsequent months and years as the case moved through the federal court system, has not gone unnoticed. Ms. Colvin's name started surfacing during Black History Month as early as 1979. The Birmingham News did a feature story in 1980. New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo awarded her with the MLK, Jr. Medal of Freedom in 1990. The Selma Times Journal featured her in 1991, The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute added a picture display of Ms. Colvin in 1994. She was featured in the cover story of USA Today Newspaper on November 25, 1995, the Montgomery Advertiser in 1996 and the Washington Post on April 12, 1990. She has been mentioned in several books such as "Freedom's Children" by Ellen Levine, "Parting the Waters" by Taylor Bunch, "Bus Ride to Justice" by Fred D. Gray, "The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It", and the memoirs of JoAnn Gibson Robinson, to name a few.

I am proud to add to that recognition today. Ms. Colvin has been a pillar of the Bronx for so long, and her story is one that all Bronxites, and Americans, should know.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Claudette Colvin, a civil rights pioneer, for her legacy and devotion to fighting against injustice.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND  
MARILYN HILYARD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donald and Marilyn Hilyard of Cumberland, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

Donald and Marilyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Donald, Jr., Sheryl, Kathy, Duane, and Sara, their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

DIANE ENGLET—WOMAN OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diane Englet of Sugar Land, TX for being recognized as one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2015 by Houston Woman Magazine.

Through her years of employment at CenterPoint Energy, Diane Englet has worked her way up to the title of senior director of Corporate Community Relations by graciously serving the community. In this position, she supervises the development of the company and institutes involvement in society by promoting the importance of education and by providing a healthy and stable environment for families experiencing crisis. Englet is a true representation of compassion through her dedication to creating a better community for Houston area residents.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Diane Englet for being named one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2015. We thank her for all of her hard work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUSSELL  
J. BRODE

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Russell J. Brode, 80, who passed away on February 19, 2016. He was born on April 11, 1935 in Ravenna, Ohio, a son of Ralph and Beulah Brode.

Russell had a career with Ohio Bell and AT&T for forty years. He was also a member of the Ravenna Volunteer Fire Department. Russell was a great patriot and proudly served the Naval Reserve Seabee Construction Force from 1951–1959. Russell loved his family. He had a warm heart and was always willing to help others.

The Reverend Deacon Russell Brode was ordained as a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Youngstown in 1995. From that point on, he served as a Deacon for the Immaculate Conception Parish in Ravenna, Ohio. Deacon Brode also shared his faith through his active service in the prison ministry at the Trumbull Correctional Institute. In addition to faith and family, Russ was dedicated to supporting the youth of the Ravenna area. He was a founder of the Portage, Stark and Summit County youth wrestling program, as well as an OHSAA wrestling official, and coached many different youth basketball and baseball teams over the years.

Russell will be deeply missed by his family. He leaves behind his wife of sixty years, Sandra (Winkler) Brode. Together, Russell and Sandra raised seven children, Kathleen (John) McHugh, David, Dennis, Robert (Liz), Russell, Kim Paull, and Linda (Robert) Corcoran. Russell also leaves behind his sister, Dolores (David) Middleton; twenty-three grandchildren; twenty-three great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

It can be difficult to cope with a loss of such a great person as Russell, but we can all take comfort in the fact that he led a long and fulfilling life.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES OF IOWA

**HON. DAVID LOEBSACK**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, Mr. YOUNG and I rise today to recognize and congratulate the community colleges of Iowa for 50 years of outstanding service to the state. The community colleges of Iowa have expanded to become our largest provider of postsecondary education.

On June 7, 1965, Iowa Governor Harold Hughes signed the first bill into law allowing for the opening and operation of community colleges in the state of Iowa. The following institutions were officially designated the next year: Northeast Iowa, North Iowa Area, Iowa Lakes, Northwest Iowa, Iowa Central, Iowa Valley, Hawkeye, Eastern Iowa, Kirkwood, Des Moines Area, Western Iowa Tech, Iowa Western, Southwestern, Indian Hills, and Southeast Iowa.

These fine institutions now provide accessible and affordable education, not only to Iowans, but to students across the country and the world. Their offerings include a wide-ranging, diverse curriculum that serves Iowa's specific workforce needs, including Iowa businesses competing in a global market. Iowa businesses in need of highly trained, specialized workers turn to our community colleges to fill the new, high-paying, high-skilled positions of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, it is our honor to represent Iowa's community colleges in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that we recognize them today. We ask that our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us in congratulating Iowa's community colleges on celebrating their 50th year and for providing a high quality, affordable education for all Iowans. We wish them nothing but continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 69TH COM-  
MEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S "2-28  
MASSACRE"

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 69th commemoration of Taiwan's "2-28 Massacre."

On February 28, 1947, the brutal arrest of a female civilian in Taipei led to large-scale protests by the native Taiwanese against the Chinese Nationalist government.

During the following days, government troops arrived from mainland China. These soldiers began capturing and executing leading Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, and other citizens. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 30,000 people lost their lives dur-

ing the turmoil. Throughout the following four decades, Taiwan remained under martial law that lasted until 1987.

The "2-28" Massacre had far-reaching implications. The Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the incident helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from living under a dictatorship to a thriving democracy.

I urge other Members to join me in commemorating this important historical event.

HONORING MRS. SADIE MAE  
LUSTER ROYALL

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am humbled to honor Mrs. Sadie Mae Luster Royall—a remarkable lady who resided in Henderson County, Texas.

As we celebrate "Black History Month," it is important that we take time to recognize African-Americans who made remarkable contributions to their family and community. "Mama Sadie," as she was affectionately referred to by those who knew her, was truly one of those people.

Mrs. Royall always had high aspirations and dreams. It was her desire to help and care for people in their time of need that led her to put herself through, what was then, Henderson County Junior College. After becoming a Licensed Vocational Nurse, Mrs. Royall became the first African-American nurse to work for the Henderson County Memorial Hospital in Athens, Texas. For an extraordinary 42 years, "Mama Sadie" cared for and comforted countless patients and their families, and was known for her incredible work ethic. Though it was her desire to make an impression on her daughters that drove her, there is no doubt this remarkable woman made an indelible impact on her community as well.

Mrs. Royall—who sadly passed away on December 3, 2015 at the age of 90—was a life-long resident of Athens, Texas. She married her beloved husband, Robert Lee Royall, on September 4, 1941. They were blessed with four daughters—Mary Royall, Betty Allen, Bobbie Royall, and Alice Lynch—and six grandchildren—Terry Royall, Russell Allen, D'Undra Wasson, Marcus Royall, Chris Lynch, and Kevin Lynch.

It is truly an honor to represent remarkable individuals like Mrs. Sadie Royall. There is no doubt that her legacy lives on through her family and in the community she loved and served.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECH-  
NOLOGY'S GRAVITATIONAL  
WAVE DISCOVERY

**HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, our understanding of the universe leapt forward when gravitational waves were first detected. I rise today to recognize that

achievement and honor six researchers from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) who were part of one of the most significant scientific discoveries in a century.

While hundreds of scientists worked together to make this discovery, I am especially proud of the researchers from RIT—James Healy, Jacob Lang, Carlos Lousto, Richard O'Shaughnessy, John Whelan, and Zhang Yuanhao. All of these researchers are members of RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, which is led by Manuela Campanelli. Her team was one of the first groups to initially solve Albert Einstein's strong field equations describing black hole mergers. Because of this legacy, it is fitting that the recent discovery helps further confirm Einstein's general theory of relativity.

As the only microbiologist in Congress, I know that every scientist hopes to have their predictions verified by direct observation. I also know that this is relatively rare, so I stand in awe of this RIT team that accurately modeled the merger of two black holes and predicted the gravitational waves that were detected. This monumental achievement marks yet another chapter in Rochester's rich history as a center of scientific innovation and discovery.

Rochester has helped pioneer important research and develop innovative products such as the Kodak Brownie camera, the Norden bombsight, and myriad high-powered lasers. Established in 1829, RIT has not only played a critical role in Rochester's past, it continues to ensure that Rochester remains a global center of excellence. RIT makes invaluable scientific contributions to the research community, but it is also a cornerstone of the Rochester community and helps provide local businesses with the talent they need to flourish.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of this discovery is that it allows us to pose new questions and push the bounds of our collective knowledge. There's no doubt in my mind that RIT will play an essential role in these forthcoming discoveries, and I am proud that millions of people will continue learning about the world around us thanks to the contributions of researchers like Dr. Campanelli and the other members of her team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding all of the individuals who helped contribute to this monumental discovery and especially the six researchers from RIT. These Rochesterians have helped fundamentally change our understanding of the world, and I am proud to support their work in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 5277

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5277, William Alfred Suggs Memorial Post in Clermont, Florida, celebrates 70 years of service to veterans and their families.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is a strong advocate for veterans ensuring they receive their earned entitlements and the care they deserve. The history of the VFW dates back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-

American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded organizations to assist wounded and sick veterans with securing benefits as there was no medical care or veterans' pension. Some of these veterans collaborated and started organizations which would be known as the VFW. The first chapters, founded in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, quickly expanded reaching over 5,000 members by 1915; by 1936, membership had grown to nearly 200,000.

The VFW was an instrumental voice in the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, GI Bill for the 20th century, national cemetery system, and compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange and veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. The VFW championed the 21st century GI Bill, passed in 2008, providing educational benefits to active-duty service members, and members of the Guard and Reserves.

It is my distinct pleasure to commend the VFW Post 5277 on their 70th anniversary, and I join the VFW in expressing appreciation for our veterans and those currently serving in the United States military.

COL. WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS  
LETTER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter:

COL. WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS LETTER  
FEBRUARY 24, 1836

There are those in history that paid for our freedoms with their lives. In 1836 Texas was fighting for its independence from the dictator of Mexico, Santa Anna. A small band of 180 patriots from numerous nations and states, of several races, stood defiant at the Alamo (in now San Antonio,) from Santa Anna's enormous invading army. The leader of the Texian patriots was a 27 year old lawyer from South Carolina by the name of William Barrett Travis. Surrounded by the enemy, Travis penned his famous letter seeking aid for the defense of liberty. It was 180 years ago:

BEJAR, FEBY. 24TH. 1836

COMMANDANCY OF THE ALAMO,

TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS & ALL AMERICANS IN THE WORLD—FELLOW CITIZENS & COMPATRIOTS—I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man—The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls—I shall never surrender or retreat.

Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days.

If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—Victory or Death.

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS,

*Lt. Col. Comdt, The Alamo.*

Mr. Speaker, Col. Travis and his Texians all died defending our freedom at the Alamo.

Sixty days later General Sam Houston and his Texians defeated Santa Anna in the marshy plains of San Jacinto, winning independence from Mexico, once and for all. Travis's letter is a remarkable and inspirational statement for freedom and the spirit of liberty. Col. Travis is one reason my oldest grandson is named "Barrett Houston."

And that is just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID  
BIEGLER

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of an outstanding Texan, David Biegler, as he completes his distinguished work as the long-term Chairman of the Board for Children's Health System of Texas (CHST). While serving as Chairman for Children's Health System of Texas, Mr. Biegler served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Southcross Energy since 2011 and has more than 47 years of experience within the energy industry.

Children's Health Systems of Texas' original location is in Dallas and has now grown to include the more than 30 other specialty and pediatric care centers located throughout North Texas. Children's Health Systems of Texas remains the seventh largest pediatric health care provider in the country—with more than 850,000 patient encounters annually and performing more than 28,600 surgeries at its two full-service campuses in Dallas and Plano. Children's Health is the only academic healthcare system in the Dallas-Fort Worth area dedicated solely to the comprehensive care of children from birth to age 18. Children's Health has also been recognized as (1) one of the most connected hospitals in the nation for its excellence in patient safety, patient engagement and clinical connectedness; (2) one of only six STS three-star designations for congenital heart surgery; (3) a Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit—the highest qualification for such programs; and (4) a Level 1 Trauma Center for pediatric care.

I have seen the power of Children's Health System of Texas as both a Member of Congress and as the father of a patient. Our region is blessed to have the resources and expertise of CHST medical professionals and staff available to meet the needs of our children. So much of the CHST success story is due to the involved engagement of civil leaders like David Biegler. Together, those leaders have ensured the children of our region would never have to leave home to have the best possible medical care.

I have personally had the opportunity to work with Mr. Biegler over the years in Dallas on a number of issues important to our community, region and state. Besides serving as the Chairman of the Board at CHST, David has served as a director of Southwest Airlines Co. and Trinity Industries, Inc. David has also been recognized as an outstanding board member of CHST time and time again. In 2015 alone, he was recognized by the Texas Healthcare Trustees as an outstanding board member and by the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council with the Kerney Laday, Sr. Trustee of

the Year Award for his dedication and commitment to CHST for over 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

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HONORING ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Zion Baptist Church, to recognize and commemorate 127 years of religious devotion through community building and advocacy in North Minneapolis.

Zion Baptist Church, founded in 1889, has sought to provide a strong, steadfast foundation for their congregants through biblical teaching, equipping families through faith, and fostering an uncompromising belief in God. The church has fought for important changes in policy, community support systems, and physical safety—all led by their deep devotion to their faith.

For four decades, until 2012, the Reverend Curtis Herron led his congregation on the belief that “the church started in the building, but ended in the world.” Through his advocacy for affordable housing, racial equity, and job creation, Reverend Curtis Herron championed substantial improvements for Zion Baptist Church, and the Minneapolis community as a whole. The people of Zion Baptist Church have guided families along the path of faith while engaging them in local issues; and they show no signs of slowing down.

Zion Baptist Church is one of the largest and most influential African American churches in Minneapolis, and for the last 127 years their advocacy has helped make our community the best it can be. Their legacy of lifting up the most vulnerable in our community should serve as a reminder that faith calls us to stand up against injustice, no matter the form.

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HONORING JOHN MEALEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COACHELLA VALLEY HOUSING COALITION

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to congratulate John Mealey on his retirement after 34 years of leadership in helping build communities and changing lives for thousands of farmworkers, service workers, and chronically ill residents through the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC).

In 1982, Mr. Mealey led the way with community leaders to address the housing needs of hundreds of low income families in the Coachella Valley by forming CVHC. That same year, CVHC received its first grant of \$10,000 from Aetna Foundation and in 1986 they built the first low-income farmworkers complex in Coachella, Ca.

Fast-forwarding three decades—and thanks to Mr. Mealey’s diligent work and vision—he

has helped fundraise over \$700 million toward building more than 4,500 homes and apartments for low and very low-income residents in the Coachella Valley. Furthermore, under Mr. Mealey’s guidance, CVHC has created home ownership opportunities from Palm Springs to Blythe in the 36th Congressional district. This translates into a dream come true for families and a better and brighter future for generations to come.

In 2002, the Board of Directors and employees of the CVHC established the JFM College Scholarship Fund Program in honor of Mr. John F. Mealey. The Scholarship fund awards scholarships annually to students who reside in affordable housing communities developed by CVHC. The JFM has generated half a million in scholarship funds and benefitted more than 600 students.

Mr. Mealey’s extraordinary career began in Philadelphia at a nonprofit housing organization. Before joining CVHC in 1982, he worked at the Riverside Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Mealey also served as a board member on the California Coalition for Rural Housing, the National Rural Housing Coalition and the National Equity Fund.

Amongst the numerous reputable recognitions that Mr. Mealey has obtained throughout his remarkable career, he recently was honored with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) award. This distinction is presented to those individuals who demonstrate the lifetime achievement of leadership in rural development, building and sustaining an organization that benefits rural communities and has a regional impact.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Mealey who for nearly four decades dedicated his time to better the lives of underserved communities. For his work and on behalf of the thousands of families of the 36th district of California, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Mr. Mealey for his exceptional commitment. I wish him and his wife Patricia the best on his well-deserved retirement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed and not present for roll call votes 83 and 84.

Had I been present. I would have voted yes on both Number 83 and Number 84.

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HONORING WILLIE FRITZ FOR HIS DECADE OF LEADERSHIP AS FIRST SELECTMAN OF CLINTON, CT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank a public servant from Clinton, Connecticut who has served his community with distinction for more than ten years. Mr. William

“Willie” Fritz, First Selectman since 2005, spent his decade of tenure leading the town into improved financial and physical shape, and constantly making himself accessible to town residents. Willie’s public service started in Clinton local government in 2000, when he served on the Public Works and Planning and Zoning Commissions and immediately displayed a knack for putting the town’s needs into action.

After his election as first selectman in 2005, Willie championed the needs of the people of Clinton. His legacy is visible in the beautiful buildings and public spaces around town. These efforts resulted in numerous state grants for the Main Street streetscape, the renovation of the Town Dock uplands, and a modern multi-use turf field at the Indian River Recreation Complex. Each of these spaces and the value they provide to the Clinton community is a testament to Willie’s achievements as a local leader.

One of Willie’s noteworthy achievements was in managing the renovation of the Andrews Memorial Town Hall. After two decades of inattention, the hall’s magnificent architecture required urgent repairs and adjustments. Willie secured vital funds from the state Commission on Historic Preservation, and ultimately restored the hall to its former glory. The beloved building, which houses offices, meeting rooms, a kitchen and auditorium, is now fit for use by the community, and is a destination for architecture historians and students.

Willie has also had a hand in the construction of the new Morgan High School, and in bringing new senior housing to Clinton. As Willie has said “Nobody is more hands-on than a first selectman in a smaller town.” Willie has been an exemplary town leader; responsive to his neighbors, forward-thinking in his vision for the town, and full of energy. His extraordinary career for some of us is not too surprising. After all, his mother Mary Fritz is a legendary State Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly, representing the towns of Cheshire and Wallingford. I not only served with Mary during my time as a State Representative, but sat next to her on the House Floor. She has the same commitment to the public interest as her son, and the State of Connecticut has benefitted greatly from the Fritz legacy.

I truly believe that Willie’s work for the people of our state is not done and hope he will find new ways to contribute to the public good. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Willie for his many years of service as First Selectman in Clinton, and in wishing him well in the years to come.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

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 \$19,064,879,099,682.52. We’ve added \$8,438,002,050,769.44 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.

SUCCESS STEMS FROM HARD  
WORK

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kalpana Vaidya of Sugar Land, Texas for being a Distinguished Finalist in the Texas' Top Youth Volunteers of 2016, given by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Kalpana is a senior at Stephen F. Austin High School and a scout in the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council troop. Her community service project, "The World of Science" is a hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (STEM) activity for kindergartners up to eighth-graders. Now becoming an annual affair, her project was sponsored by the Austin High School Honor Society and helped them raise \$2,000. Kalpana's activity has also attracted organizations such as the Houston Natural Science Museum and the Baytown Nature Center. Her efforts in creating this activity led her to become a distinguished finalist in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards recognize talented young men and women across America that have graciously served their communities.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kalpana Vaidya for being a Distinguished Finalist. We are so proud of her and can't wait to see what she does next.

HONORING REVEREND FREDERICK  
CRAWFORD

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month, dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to Reverend Frederick Crawford for his many years of compassionate service and tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Reverend Frederick Crawford is the Senior Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church and the founder of Faithbook, which is a public group on Facebook designed to inspire and encourage via the internet. Established in 2014, Faithbook has more than 3,000 members and counting. This group was designed by Rev. Crawford to encourage, strengthen, and pray for believers in Christ. Members are welcomed to post prayers, words of encouragement, scriptures, testimonies, prayer requests, sermons, pictures, videos, and advertisements of church events.

Reverend Crawford is a native of the Bronx. He is the oldest of four children born to Reverend Dr. Fletcher and Mother Arnetta Crawford. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Adminis-

tration and Minor in Religious Studies. He continued his studies at Alliance Theological Seminary, Unification Theological Seminary and later obtained a Bachelor's of Theology from American International Theological Seminary. He was ordained to be the Assistant Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church by Dr. Fletcher Crawford in August 1988.

Reverend Crawford is the third generation of his family to serve as pastors of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. His father, Dr. Fletcher Crawford served for fifty years and his grandfather, Rev. Jeremiah Crawford, organized this community institution in 1946. Prior to his leadership at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Crawford was the pastor at the First Calvary Baptist Church in Harlem, NY for twenty years before being called back to Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church in 2006. Upon Dr. Fletcher Crawford's retirement, Rev. Frederick Crawford was installed as Pastor at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church on August 20, 2006. Pastor Crawford is happily married to Lady Antoinette Crawford, and they have four children; Lamont, Shapri, Hezekiah, and Chloe.

Under his leadership, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church has created numerous programs to assist families in the Bronx. Many of those programs focus on addressing a serious issue in the Bronx—hunger and food insecurity. Through Reverend Crawford's leadership, Union Grove feeds more than 1,000 families every year during Thanksgiving Week, providing them with enough food for a family of four for a week. The church also runs an important food pantry that offers needy Bronxites produce, meats, breads, dairy, juice, water, dry and can goods at no charge. Additionally, Reverend Crawford leads a daily Summer Food Program at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which provides more than 300 meals for breakfast and lunch for those in need. The church is also very involved in numerous other issues as well and has an annual Back To School Health and Community Awareness Fair that helps students prepare for school and includes free food, entertainment, clothes, books and book bags. Pastor Crawford has also created Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration to engage the community in honoring Dr. King. I have had the honor of speaking at this important community event several times.

As Reverend Crawford has made Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church an integral member of the Bronx community, he has also been called to serve in leadership roles in numerous other organizations. He has served as the President of the Baptist Minister's Evening Conference of the Bronx, NY, and is also a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity, the United Missionary Baptist Association and The National Baptist Convention USA. Rev. Crawford has received numerous awards and accolades including the Religious Community Leader Award in 2007 from the NAACP.

Reverend Crawford is a pillar of our community, and it is only fitting that he is honored for his work on behalf of others. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Rev. Frederick Crawford for his consistently remarkable dedication to service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

TRIBUTE TO BRENNA  
WESTERGAARD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brenna Westergaard for earning an American FFA Degree. Brenna was recently awarded at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on October 31, 2015. She was a member of the Adair-Casey FFA Organization and is the daughter of Lori Westergaard and Kevin Westergaard.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Brenna had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field and investing that money into her business, participation in community service and having a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Brenna in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her nothing but the best of luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF EFFIE YEAW

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. As its board of directors, staff, volunteers, and local nature enthusiasts gather to celebrate this wonderful occasion, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for its contributions to the Sacramento Region.

The American River is an incredibly important part of our region and Effie Yeaw is the only environmental education center on the 23-mile American River Parkway. The 80-acre nature preserve with river access, oak woodlands, meadows, and ponds truly engages children and adults of all ages through their interactive exhibits and programs. These programs are essential to teaching our youth about the importance of protecting our local environment and the animals that inhabit it.

In 1955 Effie Yeaw, a teacher and environmental educator, began leading natural history walks in an area now known as the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Nature Area, located along the American River in Carmichael. Effie Yeaw's efforts to raise awareness for preserving the lands along the river have been critical to the health of our local ecosystem. Her concept of a "Parkway" along the river has served as a guiding principal that has shaped the landscape of our region for the better.

Though Effie Yeaw died in 1970, her legacy lives on in the American River Parkway she helped to establish. Her legacy also lives on in the Nature Center which continues to be guided by Effie's genuine love for nature and children. In 1960, the Director of Parks received a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to purchase land along the American River, including the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. Construction of the Nature Center was completed in June 1976 and was dedicated in memory of Effie.

Mr. Speaker, as the board of directors, staff, volunteers, and local nature enthusiasts gather for their 40th anniversary celebration, I am pleased to honor and recognize Effie Yeaw Nature Center for its important role in enhancing Sacramento's community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success and thanking them for their service to the Sacramento region.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF  
LAWRENCE L. MIHLON

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Lawrence L. Mihlon on his retirement from the West Long Branch Police Department this year. Chief Mihlon dedicated 34 years to the Borough of West Long Branch and his contributions are to be celebrated.

Throughout his decorated career, Chief Mihlon held many positions, serving as Lieutenant for 2 years and Captain for 7 years before being appointed Chief of Police in 2013. Chief Mihlon has an extensive police background, having served in many capacities within the department, including Patrol, Detectives, Traffic, Training, Records, Command and Administration. Prior to joining the West Long Branch Police Department in 1982, Chief Mihlon worked as a Special Officer for the Little Silver Police Department and a National Park Service Ranger at Sandy Hook and Shenandoah National Park.

Chief Mihlon has been committed to serving the West Long Branch community and was focused on public relations, serving as the Department spokesman and creating the Department's website and Facebook pages. Community involvement has been instilled in Chief Mihlon's family. His mother worked as a Little Silver Police Dispatcher, his sister is a special education principal, his brother serves on Little Silver Borough Council and his nephew is a Little Silver Patrolman and Fire Chief. Over the years, Chief Mihlon has been recognized for his dedicated service and accomplishments, having received the West Long Branch Police Department's Life Saving Medal, the Education Bar and the Exceptional Duty Bar.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Chief Lawrence Mihlon on his retirement and thanking him for his service to New Jersey. Chief Mihlon's commitment to the West Long Branch community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

KIDS WORKING TO KEEP TEXAS  
BULLY FREE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sidharth Duttala, a Fort Bend County student, for winning the National Association for Pupil Transportation's (NAPT) National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest.

Sidharth, a third-grader at Sugar Mill Elementary School, won first place in the Division I category, with his "Super Important Bully Free Zone" poster. Initially competing at the local level, Sidharth's poster was voted on by school district bus drivers to be entered at the state level competition on the contest theme "Bully Free Zone." NAPT annually observes the importance of school bus safety. This year's poster contest included students in more than 40 states and countless school districts.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sidharth Duttala. We are proud of him and encourage him to keep spreading kindness.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN  
PRICE

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special individual, John D. Price of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Price lived an exemplary life of service to others and passed away on February 23, 2016.

Mr. Price was a dedicated leader in education in Fayette County. He was appointed to the school board in 2003 and was elected four times. He served as board chairman since 2010. Mr. Price's involvement began over 30 years ago as a mentor with the Experience Based Career Education program. He went on to serve as a homeroom parent, a school volunteer, and a member of site based councils at Julia R. Ewan Elementary and Bryan Station High School. He was a PTA leader, serving as President of the 16th District PTA. He served on the Equity Council for Fayette County Public Schools. Mr. Price was a strong advocate for all students and was deeply concerned with every student having the opportunity for a great education. His commitment to students was unwavering.

Professionally, Mr. Price was a CPA and President of Price, Stagner, and Company. He was an active member of St. Peter Catholic Church. Mr. Price was a founding board member of Housing Equality for All Lexington (HEAL) and remained active with HEAL for thirty eight years.

John Price is survived by his daughter Allison Courtney Crosby and her husband Anthony Crosby, his mother Janella Wathen Price, and his sisters Jalenna Price and Margaret Griffin.

Mr. Price was a humble leader. Former superintendent Tom Shelton says of John Price, "He had exemplary character, strong personal

integrity, and was a strong man of faith, and it was exhibited in everything he did and every decision he was involved in." He made a significant impact on the lives of all people he touched. He was an outstanding public servant, and I am honored to memorialize him before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ART OF LIVING  
FOUNDATION

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Art of Living Foundation, and founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, as the Foundation commemorates its 35th anniversary with the upcoming World Culture Festival in New Delhi on March 11–13, 2016.

The three day major cultural event will be held at a venue that covers over 1,000 acres and will feature the world's largest stage spread over an area of seven acres.

The festival emphasizes co-existence and celebrates diversity by bringing together an estimated 3.5 million people to a common platform.

We must all remember that while lifestyles vary from one culture to the next, we are all human beings who should learn from one another.

I believe celebrating cultural diversity around the globe, as the Art of Living Foundation is doing with this wonderful event, will open lines of communication and understanding between nations, and I certainly wish them well.

HONORING ETTA F. RITTER

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the contributions African-Americans have made within my district in Bronx County. That is why I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Ms. Etta F. Ritter for her many years of tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Etta F. Ritter is a native of Bronx County, spending her early years as a resident of Butler Houses, where she attended PS 132, CES 55 and IS 148. She later attended secondary school at Murry Bergrum High School for Business Careers in Manhattan and majored in Secretarial Studies, graduating in 1982. Ms. Ritter then attended Manhattan Community College for one year, received an offer to work that started her on her career path. She has continued her education throughout the years in different venues.

Ms. Ritter was hired at the New York City Office of Management and Budget as a back-up secretary in 1984. She was later promoted as a statistical typist within the Community Development Unit and was subsequently promoted and transferred to the Computer Services Unit as a help desk coordinator. Ms. Ritter worked at the NYC Office of Management

and Budget up until October 1996, when she was hired as a Community Coordinator at Bronx Community Board Three, which covers parts of the Melrose, Claremont, Morrisania, and Crotona Park neighborhoods in my district.

She recognized that working at Bronx Community Board Three plays an important role in improving the quality of life for residents within Community District Three. As community coordinator at Bronx Community Board Three, Ms. Ritter ensures that agendas and minutes are distributed on a monthly basis to area residents, elected officials, community based organizations and media contacts. She plays a vital role in ensuring that complaints/concerns relating to the delivery of municipal city services are addressed in a timely fashion.

In June of 2013, Ms. Ritter was promoted to Administrative Manager based on her extensive relevant work experience. Under direction of the district manager and with wide latitude for independent initiative and judgment, she manages the daily operations of the office and performs difficult analytical work in the preparation and administration of the operating budget for Bronx Community Board Three. As the Fiscal Officer/Preparer for all budget documents, Ms. Ritter analyzes, prepares and modifies the Other than Personal Services Budget (OTPS) each year.

Ms. Ritter is pleased to work at a community board that has been "first" in the approval process involving the creation of numerous affordable housing and economic development projects, including a Sect. 197-A Neighborhood Development Plan, the Presbyterian Senior Services Grandparents Apartment building with support services for grandparents raising their grandchildren, the development of Boricua Village, which includes a major college campus in Boricua College that serves approximately 2,000 students and provides approximately 700 units of new housing and retail development, the Cross Bronx Plaza at East 174th Street, veterans housing and subsidized, affordable, green LEEDS rated homes.

Ms. Ritter's long-term devotion to the Bronx is truly noteworthy, and we can also see the progress our borough has made thanks as a result. I am so pleased to be able to recognize her efforts here in Congress. She will be celebrating 32 years of City service come April 2, 2016 and celebrates her life with her son Bashiek Dorsey, 31, who served in the Army protecting our country and now resides in Irving, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Etta F. Ritter for her consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY  
LIFE OF COACH JAMES "JIM"  
BELDEN

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a beloved member of the Indiana community, Jim Belden. Jim was a

councilman in Hamilton County and an Indiana Football Hall of Fame coach. Sadly, Jim died at the age of 77 on February 14, 2016 after a battle with cancer. He will be dearly missed by the Hoosier community, but we will remember him forever through the spectacular legacy he left behind.

Although he was born in Michigan, Jim spent most of his life in Indiana. He attended and played football at Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, where he was honored as an All-City and All-State Fullback. He graduated from Shortridge in 1957 and served in the United States Navy from 1958–1962. After serving our country in the Navy, he went on to play football for Butler University and was honored as an All-Conference Fullback. He graduated from Butler in 1963 and earned his master's degree in 1971 from Ball State University.

Beginning with his first call to public service in the United States Navy, he served as a stellar example of selfless public service. He left his mark as a teacher, a family man, and a member of the Hamilton County Council, but what Jim is most known for is coaching football. Jim's career as a high school teacher and football coach spanned over 30 years at three Hamilton County Schools—Westfield High School from 1964 to 1967, Noblesville High School from 1967 to 1980, and Carmel High School from 1980 to 1996. Jim is the 12th winningest coach in Indiana state history, with an impressive lifetime record of 283 wins, 80 losses, and 2 ties. His extraordinary record included 25 Conference titles, 16 Sectional, 10 Regional, five Semi-State, one State-Runner up, and most notably, he led Carmel High School to 4 State Championship titles in 1980, 1981, 1986, and 1991.

He retired from coaching football in 1996 and on April 24 of that year was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. That honor followed many years of accolades. Beyond his long list of titles and State championships, he received "Coach of the Year" awards on many occasions, most notably from the Indiana Football Coaches Association, the Butler Alumni Association, and the Indiana Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. He was also awarded a Key to the City of Carmel, Noblesville recognized him with "Jim Belden Day," and he received the prestigious Governor's Sagamore of the Wabash award, to name a few. He also ran a highly successful football camp for aspiring high school players for many years. As the daughter of a 30-year high school coach, I know the unquestionable and lasting impact Jim had on the many young men he coached, the students he taught, assistant coaches and faculty he worked with, and the schools and communities he served.

In 1993, Jim began serving on the Hamilton County Council and won every election since. He was influential as a councilman and contributed significantly to the community. He helped ensure the expansion of Ivy Tech Community College in Noblesville with a vote to provide funding for the project and was a big proponent of planned upgrades to State Road 37.

Jim loved coaching football and serving as an elected official in Hamilton County, but his pride and joy was his family. Jim is survived by his wife, Bev, son, Bo, daughter, Bamby, and 5 grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Randy, sister, Candy, and several

nieces, nephews, and friends. Jim is a tremendous example of an effective and dedicated public servant. After decades of serving as a mentor and leader in the community, his impact and presence will not soon be forgotten. Please join me in thanking Jim's family and friends for sharing this truly remarkable man with the Hoosier community.

—————  
KIANNA HAWKINS—A GIRL WITH A  
VISION

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kianna Hawkins of Manvel, Texas for being named a distinguished finalist in the Texas' top youth volunteers of 2016, given by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Kianna is a senior at Lamar High School and a scout in the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council troop. Her community service project, "EyeCare4TeenVision" raises awareness about the importance of eye care and aims to provide critical services to children in need. Her efforts in partnering with the nonprofit Nehemiah Center and the Prevent Blindness organization led her to become a distinguished finalist in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards recognize talented young men and women across America that have graciously served their communities.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kianna Hawkins for being a Distinguished Finalist. We are so proud of her and can't wait to see what she does next.

—————  
HONORING JOHN SUDDUTH

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. John Sudduth of Double Springs, Alabama as the 2016 honoree of the Winston County Republican Party. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize Mr. Sudduth for his unselfish dedication to the people of Winston County.

Mr. Sudduth grew up in Winston County before receiving his teaching degree. He first taught in Piedmont, Alabama before returning to his native Winston County where he taught agriculture science for more than 30 years at Winston County High School. Mr. Sudduth has taught thousands of students over the years the importance of agriculture to the local community, the state of Alabama and to America.

Mr. Sudduth has been very active in his community. He is a member of Double Springs First Baptist Church. He is also very active in ALFA and the Cattleman's Association. As part of his service in the Cattleman's Association, Mr. Sudduth and other members helped distribute supplies to farmers who were hard hit by the tornado outbreak of April 2011.

Last but not least, Mr. Sudduth has been a member of the Winston County Republican

Party for many years. He has also served as its vice-chairman for several terms.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mr. Sudduth for his long service to so many in Winston County. I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on being recognized by the Winston County GOP.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN  
CHARLES B. RANGEL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Black History Month and to recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans to our communities and to our nation. African-Americans have made countless contributions to and sacrifices for this great nation, and nowhere is this more visible than in New York City. That is why I want to stand before you today to honor my friend and colleague Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL for his many years of public service and tireless work to improve the lives of residents of our community and our nation.

CHARLES RANGEL, or CHARLIE as many of us know him, is a legend in New York City and in Congress. His story is well chronicled, growing up on Lenox Avenue in Harlem and then volunteering to serve in the Army during the Korean War. CHARLIE became a war hero during his service when he was wounded by the enemy during the conflict, and then leading his surviving comrades back from behind enemy lines to safety. For his leadership and bravery, CHARLIE was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

CHARLIE returned from the war determined to make a difference. With the aid of the G.I. Bill, he graduated from New York University and St. John's University Law School, and became increasingly involved in his community. He also began a career of public service, serving for a time as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and involving himself in local politics and the civil rights movement. It was during this time that he met his mentor and friend, Percy Sutton, along with a number of other young leaders fighting to make a difference in Harlem. Four of those leaders, Percy Sutton, David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and CHARLIE RANGEL, became the legendary Gang of Four, and each of them went on to incredible success in city, state, and national politics. CHARLIE's political journey formally began soon thereafter, with his election in 1966 to the New York State Assembly.

CHARLIE served in Albany for four years, and then in 1970, he took on the legendary Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the right to represent Harlem in Congress. He beat the incumbent in a tough battle, and began his service here in the House of Representatives.

In 1971, during his first term, CHARLIE became a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He has broken barriers throughout his 23 terms in office, and has maintained a consistent set of political principles. He has sought to help the least among us, and has worked to ensure the American Dream for all Americans, regardless of in-

come. And his record of accomplishment shows just how effective he has been.

Congressman RANGEL's accomplishments in Congress are truly too many to list, but let me name just a few. He has boosted the incomes of millions of working families through the Earned Income Tax Credit. He worked with my predecessor, Bob Garcia, to establish and pass the Empowerment Zone program, which has helped revitalize communities across the nation. He enabled the financing mechanisms to allow public school systems across the nation to construct new buildings and rehabilitate old ones. He helped isolate apartheid South Africa by passing the Rangel Amendment, which forced many investors in the 1980s to abandon the country. He has created trade and investment opportunities for countries across the Caribbean and Africa.

Lastly, he mentored a then junior Congressman from the Bronx, who arrived in Congress in 1990. It was with his friendship, advice, and support that I won my seat on the Appropriations Committee. He has always been a source of knowledge and know-how, and I am proud to count him as a colleague and a dear friend. He has extended his generosity and friendship to my son, State Senator José M. Serrano, and we know we can always count on his friendship, personally and politically.

CHARLIE still lives in the community where he was born with his wonderful wife Alma. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

CHARLIE still has 11 months left in Congress, so this might seem a little bit early to some. But as we celebrate Black History Month and reflect on the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation, I thought it was important to acknowledge just how important and influential CHARLIE RANGEL, New York's own master legislator, has been to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our nation.

HONORING NAIOP-NEW MEXICO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Mexico chapter of NAIOP which received the prestigious Chapter of the Year award, for the medium chapter category, at NAIOP's annual retreat on February 10, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, was founded in 1967 and is the leading organization for developers, owners, and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. With 52 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, NAIOP comprises more than 15,000 members. It advances responsible commercial real estate development while simultaneously advocating for effective public policy.

The New Mexico chapter of NAIOP, founded in 1981, was originally comprised of less than 10 members. The chapter has grown with

vigor and today proudly counts more than 260 members in its ranks. NAIOP-New Mexico has been successful in advocating for their members at the local, state, and federal level. In addition to Chapter of the Year, I am proud to report that they were honored for the excellence of their Legislative and Government Affairs at the annual retreat.

The work that NAIOP-New Mexico performs is important not only because it promotes job growth and excellence in the commercial real estate industry, but also because of its educational programs. For example, the Developing Leaders Program provides members under 35 with the tools necessary to excel and become future leaders in commercial real estate. In the past three years, they focused on reaching out to millennials who are interested in careers in commercial real estate and have grown the program by 126%. NAIOP-New Mexico has also partnered with the University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College to educate students who are interested in commercial real estate, providing them with important skills for future careers. In fact, their members have donated more than \$20,000 to these student projects and initiatives. For these accomplishments, NAIOP-New Mexico also received the award for the best medium-sized chapter in the Developing Leaders Program.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate NAIOP-New Mexico for winning three prestigious and competitive awards. In particular, I would like to call attention to NAIOP-New Mexico's CEO, Tom Bisoquino, and President, Lynne Anderson, for their outstanding leadership and to commend all the staff and members who made these awards possible. I look forward to hearing about the future successes of NAIOP-New Mexico as they continue to attract new members, train and educate future leaders, and improve commercial real estate in our state.

Congratulations, NAIOP-New Mexico; keep up the great work.

RECOGNIZING ZELMA BROOKS  
WASHINGTON'S 50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE DELTA SIGMA  
SORORITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an important milestone for a dedicated member of the African American and Dallas Communities. On January 31st, 2016, Sister Zelma Brooks Washington was honored for her fifty years of membership in the Delta Sigma Sorority, an organization comprised of college-educated black women that provides community support throughout the world. The sorority has over 200,000 members, and was originally founded here in Washington DC at Howard University.

Mrs. Washington is a graduate of Jarvis Christian College and the University of North Texas. She had a career dedicated to the greater public—she was a teacher and counselor here in the Dallas area for decades. In addition to her career as an educator, she has been active in her relationship with the Greater Golden Gate Church, working with the Deaconess, New Member Orientation, Mission,

Women's Chorus, Church Program Committee and the Faith Walkers. In the greater Dallas community, she is involved with the Dallas Retired Teachers Association, AARP Volunteer Tax Preparer, Dallas Lincoln-James Madison Alumni Association, and the Jarvis Christian College National and Local Alumni Association.

Mrs. Washington was honored at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas alongside the company of her husband and daughter. She and her sisters looked graceful and youthful as they received recognition to their commitment to this long-standing institution. Mrs. Washington joined the alumni chapter of the Delta Sigma Sorority in 1966, a time when education and opportunities were still denied to African Americans in Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, for her dedication to an organization that promotes equality internationally, for her deep and rich commitment to the community, and for her selfless career as an educator, past National President of the Delta Sigma Sorority, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, and I would like to join together in formally recognizing this wonderful woman and her impressive milestone here in Congress.

HONORING MRS. LILLIAN  
GERSTNER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Mrs. Lillian Gerstner, who is being recognized by the Village of Skokie for her 25 years of hard work and dedication to make the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center the wonderful place it is today.

An only child born to two Holocaust survivors, Rosalie and Moses Polus, Mrs. Gerstner came to Evanston in 1969 to pursue a degree in theater and a secondary school teaching certification at Northwestern University. Mrs. Gerstner married her husband, Mr. Alan Gerstner in 1976, and has two children, Michael and Lisa, born in 1980 and 1983, respectively.

Mrs. Gerstner began volunteering at the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois on Main Street in Skokie in 1985. With her young daughter Lisa in tow, she began her services by stuffing envelopes, typing, and filing. When Lisa began school, Mrs. Gerstner's duties increased to include production of the monthly newsletter. Mrs. Gerstner was a regular volunteer for years, feeling very much at home among the small staff and the survivors who visited. When staff began requesting that Mrs. Gerstner join their team after the executive director, Ms. Pearl Karp, retired, Mrs. Gerstner declined initially, unable to take on a full time job. In the meantime, Mrs. Gerstner and the rest of the Foundation's staff worked tirelessly to convince Illinois legislatures to mandate a school curriculum inclusive of the Holocaust. All of their efforts paid off when, on January 1, 1999, Illinois became the first state in the nation to pass a Holocaust Education Mandate.

On January 31, 1991, to the delight of the Foundation's officers, Mrs. Gerstner accepted her third offer to work as Executive Director. She was put in charge of a three-person staff

and began working to make the Foundation's vision a reality. Her first year was focused on working with the Foundation's Education Director to provide professional development for teachers who were to begin implementing the newly enacted Illinois Holocaust Education Mandate.

Over the years, the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois accumulated many memorable achievements; they include, but are not limited to: Production of four documentaries, one of which—"Choosing One's Way—Resistance in Auschwitz-Birkenau"—received the Chicago International Film Festival Hugo Award in 1994; onsite training to over 2,000 educators to aid them in their teachings on the Holocaust; speaking to tens of thousands annually through the Speaker's Bureau; conducting annual creative expression competitions for children; taping survivor interviews, starting in 1991; conducting unique Yom HaShoah observances within the community; supervising Holocaust Expression Theater, a program to aid high school students in the development and performance of Holocaust dramatic material; and welcoming non-Jewish volunteers from the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace starting in 1997.

Mrs. Gerstner was an asset in the transition from the small Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois on Main Street to the huge Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center that can be seen today, in Skokie, Illinois. From her work as site director for the Main Street facility until it closed in 2008, to Director of Special Projects and then Director of Public Programs in 2015, Mrs. Gerstner has truly been indispensable in both garnering cultural acknowledgment for the Holocaust, as well as educating and engaging youth and adults in its events and activities.

Mrs. Gerstner is a remarkable woman who has dedicated 25 years of her life to the success of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. I want to congratulate her for being recognized by the Village of Skokie during their Board Meeting on March 7, 2016; she is an outstanding member of society who has brought much-needed attention to the Holocaust both within her town, and nationally. I am proud to honor her today for her achievements, and look forward to all she will continue to do in the future.

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY CELEBRATES  
100 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
BREAKTHROUGHS

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Endocrine Society, in honor of its Centennial anniversary.

A century ago, a small group of physicians joined together to unlock the secrets of the body's hormones—the chemical signals that govern breathing, metabolism, growth, reproduction and other critical biological functions. They were endocrinologists, and from this impassioned gathering, the Endocrine Society was born.

Over the next 100 years, endocrinologists would discover lifesaving treatments and provide quality care for hundreds of millions of

people with diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid conditions, infertility, sleep disorders, hormone-related cancers and many other conditions. Today, the Society has more than 18,000 members in 122 countries and is the world's oldest and largest organization devoted to hormone research and the clinical practice of endocrinology.

During its centennial year, the Endocrine Society will celebrate endocrinology's contributions to science and public health—while keeping an eye on today's promising research which will lead to tomorrow's discoveries. It will recognize Nobel Prize winners in the field (including four Society Past-Presidents) and historic breakthroughs such as the 1921 discovery of insulin, which transformed diabetes from a death sentence to a manageable chronic condition. In April, I am very pleased to recognize, the Endocrine Society will conduct its Annual Meeting and Expo, in Boston, Massachusetts. ENDO is the world's premier event for getting the latest updates in endocrine science and medicine, drawing thousands of endocrinologists from around the globe. ENDO 2016 will feature special programming celebrating the field's history and notable achievements.

Because hormones affect nearly every cell of the human body, the work of endocrinologists is essential to manage conditions that affect millions, including:

About 415 million adults worldwide who have diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation;

More than 36 percent of American adults who are obese, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

An estimated 48.5 million couples worldwide who were infertile as of 2010, according to the World Health Organization; and

More than 10 million American adults who have osteoporosis, according to the Society's Endocrine Facts and Figures report.

Endocrine Society members have been at the forefront of historic accomplishments in medicine and research. I offer my warmest congratulations to the Endocrine Society on its celebration of 100 years of breakthroughs and I look forward to what the next century brings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2016, due to a funeral in my state, I was absent for four roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 79—McMorris-Rodgers of Washington Amendment No. 1—Yes.

Roll Call Vote No. 80—Schrader of Oregon Amendment No. 3—No.

Roll Call Vote No. 81—H.R. 2017, Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015—Yes.

Roll Call Vote No. 82—(Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment) H.R. 757, North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enforcement Act of 2016—Yes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PIPELINE  
INSPECTION ENFORCEMENT ACT  
OF 2016

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Pipeline Inspection Enforcement Act to prevent oil pipeline leaks like the one that greatly damaged the community of Wilmington, California in my district.

Los Angeles is home to one of the most vast pipeline networks in the United States. Both oil and gas pipelines connect the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach with the refineries in the area. Therefore, pipeline safety is a very important topic for me and the communities which make up the neighborhoods surrounding the Port of Los Angeles—including Wilmington, a primarily working class community. I have represented Wilmington for over 10 years—first on the Los Angeles City Council, and now as a Member of Congress.

Since Wilmington sits on top of one of the largest oil fields in the nation and a complex system of pipelines, this community lives with a heightened threat of a pipeline leaking or exploding. This became an unfortunate reality for many residents of Wilmington two years ago when a pipeline ruptured, causing thousands of gallons of crude oil to spill onto a residential street wreaking havoc on the lives of families who live in the community.

When Phillips purchased the pipeline, they were told that it was empty. In 15 years, the pipeline was not inspected to ensure that it was true.

As a result, the people in Wilmington paid the price.

I remember racing over there the morning it happened and discovering that yards were destroyed and homes were damaged. The smell of oil made people sick. The residents had to deal with the noise of jackhammers tearing up streets to locate the leak. Some people could not leave their houses and get to work.

The legislation I am reintroducing today would have prevented the damage these families experienced by forcing companies like Phillips 66 to simply have firsthand knowledge of what their pipelines contain. My legislation will ensure that a company purchasing a pipeline does its due diligence and inspects the status of the pipelines they purchase within 180 days of the sale. This inspection needs to have third party verification by either PHMSA or a state authority.

It is neglectful not to inspect the pipelines. The oil spill endangered the health and safety of many of my constituents as well as property damage and costs to the local economy.

These basic improvements to federal policy would protect countless communities like Wilmington. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to make this legislation law.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTH-  
DAY OF SALLIE PAULINE  
NAUGHER PUTNAM

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the birthday of Sallie Pauline Naugher Putnam of Piedmont, Alabama. She will turn 100 on March 28th.

Pauline was born to Jennie Elizabeth Warren Naugher and William Morris Naugher. She had two brothers, both World War II Veterans, and one sister who married a World War II Veteran. She married Volyer C. Putnam (deceased), also a World War II Veteran, on March 2, 1940. She is the proud aunt of her nephew Michael Naugher and niece Susan Ponder.

Pauline attended school in Oxford, Alabama until 7th grade and then finished 8th–12th grades at Piedmont High School. She was Salutatorian in 1934. She attended a year and a half at Jacksonville State University.

After her time at JSU, she worked at Stand-ard Coosa Thatcher, a cotton mill in Piedmont. There she worked as a spinner, in the lab and in the payroll department before retiring.

She attends First Baptist Church of Piedmont where she has been a member since 1955.

In the fall, she cheers on the Piedmont Bulldogs and Alabama Crimson Tide. She still drives and goes to the beauty shop each week.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Sallie Pauline Naugher Putnam and wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE 168 INVENTORS IN-  
DUCTED AS THE 2015 FELLOWS  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF  
INVENTORS

**HON. DAVID W. JOLLY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 168 inventors who will soon be recognized at the United States Patent and Trademark Office and inducted as the 2015 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) in an induction ceremony that will feature a keynote address by U.S. Commissioner for Patents Andrew Hirshfeld. In order to be named as a Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society. Collectively, this elite group holds nearly 5,400 patents.

The individuals making up this year's class of Fellows include individuals from 109 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning the United States and the world. The now 582-member group of Fellows is composed of more than 80 presidents and senior leadership of research universities and

non-profit research institutes, 310 members of the other National Academies, 27 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 36 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and the U.S. National Medal of Science, 27 Nobel Laureates, 14 Lemelson-MIT prize recipients, and 170 AAAS Fellows, among other awards and distinctions.

The NAI was founded in 2010 by Paul R. Sanberg at the University of South Florida. Its mission is to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

We are greatly indebted to innovators such as these for contributions to society through their inventions. I commend these individuals, and the organizations that support them, for the work they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future generations to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2015 NAI Fellows include; C. Mauli Agrawal, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Dean P. Alderucci, The University of Chicago; Jayakrishna Ambati, University of Kentucky; Iver E. Anderson, Iowa State University; Kristi S. Anseth, University of Colorado Boulder; Allen W. Applett, Oklahoma State University; Charles J. Arntzen, Arizona State University; Harry A. Atwater, Jr., California Institute of Technology; Lorne A. Babiuk, University of Alberta; John M. Ballato, Clemson University; John S. Baras, University of Maryland; Issa Batarseh, University of Central Florida; Ray H. Baughman, The University of Texas at Dallas; Angela M. Belcher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Stephen J. Benkovic, The Pennsylvania State University; Shekhar Bhansali, Florida International University; Sangeeta N. Bhatia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; J. Douglas Birdwell, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Kenneth J. Blank, Rowan University; Dale L. Boger, The Scripps Research Institute.

Charles A. Bouman, Purdue University; John E. Bowers, University of California, Santa Barbara; Gary L. Bowlin, University of Memphis; C. Jeffrey Brinker, The University of New Mexico; Emery N. Brown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Milton L. Brown, Georgetown University; Richard B. Brown, The University of Utah; Steven R.J. Brueck, The University of New Mexico; Joe C. Campbell, University of Virginia; Selim A. Chacour, University of South Florida; Mau-Chung Frank Chang, National Chiao Tung University; Shu Chien, University of California, San Diego; Mary-Dell Chilton, Washington University in St. Louis; Diana S. Chow, University of Houston; Chung K. Chu, University of Georgia; Yoginder P. Chugh, Southern Illinois University; William J. Clancey, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; Katrina Cornish, The Ohio State University; Delos M. Cosgrove III, Cleveland Clinic; Alan W. Cramb, Illinois Institute of Technology.

Benjamin F. Cravatt III, The Scripps Research Institute; Roy Curtiss III, University of Florida; P. Daniel Dapkus, University of Southern California; John G. Daugman, University of Cambridge; Mark E. Davis, California Institute of Technology; Robert C. Dean, Jr., Dartmouth

College; Atam P. Dhawan, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Duane B. Dimos, The University of Texas at Arlington; David M. Eddy, University of South Florida; Nader Engheta, University of Pennsylvania; Antonio Facchetti, Northwestern University; Rudolf Faust, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Robert E. Fischell, University of Maryland; Christodoulos A. Floudas, Texas A&M University; Gabor Forgacs, University of Missouri; Scott E. Fraser, University of Southern California; Jean M.J. Fréchet, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; Richard H. Frenkiel, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Sanjiv S. Gambhir, Stanford University; Shubhra Gangopadhyay, University of Missouri; Sir Andre K. Geim, The University of Manchester; George Georgiou, The University of Texas at Austin.

John C. Gore, Vanderbilt University; Venu Govindaraju, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York; Ali Hajimiri, California Institute of Technology; Naomi J. Halas, Rice University; Andrew D. Hamilton, New York University; Wayne W. Hanna, University of Georgia; Florence P. Haseltine, National Institutes of Health; Charlotte A.E. Hauser, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; Craig J. Hawker, University of California, Santa Barbara; M. Frederick Hawthorne, University of Missouri; Barton F. Haynes, Duke University; Richard F. Heck, University of Delaware; Andrew B. Holmes, The University of Melbourne; Rush D. Holt, American Association for the Advancement of Science; H. Robert Horvitz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Chenming C. Hu, University of California, Berkeley; Leon D. Iasemidis, Louisiana Tech University; Mir Imran, University of Pittsburgh; Donald E. Ingber, Harvard University; Chennupati Jagadish, The Australian National University.

Anil K. Jain, Michigan State University; Kristina M. Johnson, University of Colorado Boulder; Joseph S. Kalinowski, East Carolina University; Aaron V. Kaplan, Dartmouth College; Usha N. Kasid, Georgetown University; Kenneth W. Kinzler, Johns Hopkins University; Brian K. Kobilka, Stanford University; Steven J. Kubisen, The George Washington University; Donald W. Landry, Columbia University; Se-Jin Lee, Johns Hopkins University; Sunggyu Lee, Ohio University; Robert J. Lefkowitz, Duke University; G. Douglas Letson, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute; Jennifer A. Lewis, Harvard University; Guifang Li, University of Central Florida; James C. Liao, University of California, Los Angeles; John S. Lollar III, Emory University; Anthony M. Lowman, Rowan University; Rodney S. Markin, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Tobin J. Marks, Northwestern University; Dean F. Martin, University of South Florida.

Helen S. Mayberg, Emory University; Edith G. McGeer, The University of British Columbia; Patrick L. McGeer, The University of British Columbia; Meyya Meyyappan, NASA Ames Research Center; Thomas E. Milner, The University of Texas at Austin; Umesh K. Mishra, University of California, Santa Barbara; Somenath Mitra, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Andreas F. Molisch, University of Southern California; Ramani Narayan, Michigan State University; Alan C. Nelson, Arizona State University; Kyriacos C. Nicolaou, Rice University; David R. Nygren, The University of Texas at Arlington; Richard M. Osgood, Jr.,

Columbia University; Alyssa Panitch, Purdue University; H. Anne Pereira, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; William M. Pierce, Jr., University of Louisville; John M. Poate, Colorado School of Mines; H. Vincent Poor, Princeton University; Ann Progulsk-Fox, University of Florida; Suzie H. Pun, University of Washington; Kaushik Rajashekara, The University of Texas at Dallas; Jahangir S. Rastegar, Stony Brook University.

A. Hari Reddi, University of California, Davis; E. Albert Reece, University of Maryland; Kenneth L. Reifsnider, The University of Texas at Arlington; Jasper D. Rine, University of California, Berkeley; Ajeet Rohatgi, Georgia Institute of Technology; Stephen D. Russell, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command; Michael J. Sailor, University of California, San Diego; Bahgat G. Sammakia, Binghamton University; Andrew V. Schally, University of Miami; Paul R. Schimmel, The Scripps Research Institute; Peter G. Schultz, The Scripps Research Institute; Marian O. Scully, Texas A&M University; Jonathan L. Sessler, The University of Texas at Austin; Mohsen Shahinpoor, University of Maine; Ben Shneiderman, University of Maryland; Marvin J. Slepian, The University of Arizona; Kwok-Fai So, The University of Hong Kong; Richard A. Soref, University of Massachusetts Boston; Pramod K. Srivastava, University of Connecticut; Andrew J. Steckl, University of Cincinnati.

Valentino J. Stella, The University of Kansas; Galen D. Stucky, University of California, Santa Barbara; Bala Subramaniam, The University of Kansas; R. Michael Tanner, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; Guillermo J. Tearney, Harvard University; Stephen Tomlinson, Medical University of South Carolina; James M. Tour, Rice University; Kalliat T. Valsaraj, Louisiana State University; Bert Vogelstein, Johns Hopkins University; Sherry L. Harbin, Purdue University; Norman J. Wagner III, University of Delaware; Yong Wang, Washington State University; James A. Wells, University of California, San Francisco; Caroline C. Whitacre, The Ohio State University; Jay F. Whitacre, Carnegie Mellon University; Helena S. Wisniewski, University of Alaska Anchorage; Edward D. Wolf, Cornell University; Paul K. Wright, University of California, Berkeley; James C. Wyant, The University of Arizona; Pan-Chyr Yang, National Taiwan University; Yu-Dong Yao, Stevens Institute of Technology; Martin L. Yarmush, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; and Jianping Zheng, Florida State University.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES OF IOWA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, Mr. LOEBSACK and I rise today to recognize and congratulate the community colleges of Iowa for 50 years of outstanding service to the state. The community colleges of Iowa have expanded to become our largest provider of postsecondary education.

On June 7, 1965, Iowa Governor Harold Hughes signed the first bill into law allowing for the opening and operation of community

colleges in the state of Iowa. The following institutions were officially designated the next year: Northeast Iowa, North Iowa Area, Iowa Lakes, Northwest Iowa, Iowa Central, Iowa Valley, Hawkeye, Eastern Iowa, Kirkwood, Des Moines Area, Western Iowa Tech, Iowa Western, Southwestern, Indian Hills, and Southeast Iowa.

These fine institutions now provide accessible and affordable education, not only to Iowans, but to students across the country and the world. Their offerings include a wide-ranging, diverse curriculum that serves Iowa's specific workforce needs, including Iowa businesses competing in a global market. Iowa businesses in need of highly trained, specialized workers turn to our community colleges to fill the new, high-paying, high-skilled positions of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, it is our honor to represent Iowa's community colleges in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that we recognize them today. We ask that our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us in congratulating Iowa's community colleges on celebrating their 50th year and for providing a high quality, affordable education for all Iowans. We wish them nothing but continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF KRYSTA  
HARDEN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my congratulations and best wishes to an outstanding leader, personal friend, and constituent, Ms. Krysta Harden, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ms. Harden has excelled at this position since she took office in August of 2013. She will be leaving her post at the end of February 2016.

A Georgia native, Ms. Harden was born and raised in Camilla, Georgia and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia in 1981. Her career began on Capitol Hill, where she worked for former Congressman Charles Hatcher as Legislative Director, Press Secretary, and Chief of Staff for more than ten years. Ms. Harden went on to serve as Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Peanuts and Tobacco of the House Committee on Agriculture.

In 1993, Ms. Harden left the public sector to work for Gordley Associates, a government relations firm focused on agricultural policy. Ms. Harden left the company in 2004 as Senior Vice President. From 2004 to 2009, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

In 2009, Ms. Harden began her influential career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. In this role, Ms. Harden was instrumental in securing passage of and implementing the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which increased the nutritional quality of school lunch programs and provides access for children of all economic backgrounds.

In 2011, she was promoted to Chief of Staff of the Department of Agriculture. And in 2013,

President Obama nominated Ms. Harden for the position of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Her nomination was unanimously approved by the Senate. Ms. Harden's steadfast leadership led to what Secretary Vilsack has called the "best-implemented Farm Bill in history," referencing the 2014 Farm Bill in which Ms. Harden led the USDA's efforts to work with Congress to see the bill through to completion and implementation.

Ms. Harden has been praised by many for her bipartisan and commonsense approach to policies and programs that expand opportunities for rural communities. Krysta Harden, a "Georgia farm girl" herself, has dedicated her career to serving our nation's farmers and promoting a thriving bio-based economy.

As a friend of long standing and someone that I have had the honor to work with closely in developing legislative frameworks for farmer settlements, I can say with a full heart that I will miss working with Krysta in Washington. She has served admirably as Deputy Secretary of the USDA and has shown herself to represent the highest standards of public service. Ms. Harden has established a legacy of providing support for underrepresented groups—particularly women, young people, immigrants, disadvantaged producers, and veterans. I am very grateful for her tireless advocacy to diversify the nation's agriculture sector and her steadfast support for rural America. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise in her field are unparalleled and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Krysta Harden upon the occasion of her departure from an outstanding career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on February 23, 2016, on Roll Call No. 83 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4408, to require the development of a national strategy to combat terrorist travel, and for other purposes, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on this bill to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, within 180 days of enactment, to transmit a national strategy to Congress to combat terrorist travel.

On February 23, 2016, on Roll Call No. 84 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4402, Foreign Fighter Review Act of 2016, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on this bill to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, within 120 days of enactment, to provide a report to Congress on instances or attempted instances since 2011 of foreign fighter travel from the United States to Iraq or Syria.

PEARLAND CHEERLEADERS PLACE  
AT STATE

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland High School cheerleading team for placing third overall in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Competition.

Spirit, the UIL State Cheerleading Competition, is an extension of the typical high school cheerleading role, enhancing school spirit. This highly competitive UIL competition consists of three different categories: fight song, time out band dance, and time out cheer. Pearland High School competed in the UIL State Competition in the Class 6A division where the Pearland Oilers placed third overall, how impressive. We are so proud of our Pearland Cheerleaders and we can't wait to see what the future competitions bring.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Pearland High School Cheerleaders for placing third in the UIL State Competition. Keep up the hard work.

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#### THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD "RICK" HEALY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my profound thanks for the service and best wishes on the retirement of Rick Healy. Rick has worked in the House of Representatives for over 35 years, which is multiple lifetimes here on the Hill.

Rick's career in the House encompassed more than three decades of dedicated service to the people of Minnesota's 4th Congressional District, to the House Natural Resources Committee, and to the Appropriations Committee.

I was fortunate enough to have Rick work with me as the Democratic Clerk for the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee during his last year, before departing this month to work with our former Chairman Jim Moran in the private sector.

Rick is a proud son of St. Paul. He graduated from St. Thomas, and his wife, Cecilia, is a St. Kate's grad. The first Congressional experience Rick gained was as an intern with his Member of Congress, Representative Bruce Vento. He then joined the Congressman's staff in DC working on environmental issues in 1980. When Bruce became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Rick left his personal office and joined the Subcommittee staff.

Congressman Vento is remembered both in Minnesota and nationally for his tremendous dedication and passion for the conservation of America's wilderness and natural treasures. Rick Healy played a pivotal role in advancing those efforts. He supported Chairman Vento and his successors in crafting much of the major public lands legislation passed through

the Resources Committee over the next 25 years.

Rick's knowledge and experience was instrumental in issues of importance to Minnesota, like the management of the St. Croix National Scenic River and the establishment of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Rick was a tremendous help to me when I was first elected after Congressman Vento passed away in 2000, and provided valuable council on environmental issues as I followed in our friend and mentor Bruce's legacy by serving on the Resources Committee.

As a staffer who has been here longer than almost all of the Members serving in this body, Rick Healy assisted his Chairs and Ranking Members through the ups and downs of Majority and Minority.

And, five years ago, when he joined the Appropriations Committee, he brought that institutional knowledge to the work of funding and improving our nation's public lands, our environmental stewardship, our trust and treaty responsibilities with tribal nations, and our investment in the arts and humanities. Rick has been an invaluable resource on the Appropriations Committee.

I, along with many other Members and staff, will miss his depth of knowledge, his expertise and insight, his hard work, and his sense of humor.

Rick, we wish you the best of luck.

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HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 151

### HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 151 in Antioch, California. Formed in 1916, it is one of the oldest troops in California.

Since 1910, the Boy Scouts of America have helped mold future leaders of our country by teaching lifelong values and skills through educational activities. The Boy Scouts believe that helping the youth of America today sets us on a path to become a more responsible, respectful and productive society tomorrow. From its inception, Troop 151 has built a program consisting of traditional outdoor scouting activities that include camping, backpacking, and hiking to promote physical fitness and good character.

Community involvement continues to be a guiding principle for the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 151 was instrumental in the resurrection of the Antioch's Veterans Day celebration and they annually provide traditional flag services to the Veterans' Day celebration among other important community events. The boys of Troop 151 are proof that scouting can help build a greater sense of personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, scouts are better prepared to make good decisions and give back to our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Boy Scouts of Troop 151 for one hundred years of service to the City of Antioch and its residents.

A JOINT RESOLUTION DIS-  
APPROVING THE SALE OF WEAP-  
ON SYSTEMS TO PAKISTAN

**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I submit to the House of Representatives a Joint Resolution disapproving the sale of weapon systems to Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has been using weapons from the United States to repress its own citizens and especially the people of Baluchistan. The deciding factor of whether to support this Joint Resolution is, for me, the arrogant and hostile actions taken by the Government of Pakistan against the man who helped bring Osama Bin Laden to justice.

Osama Bin Laden was a mass murderer of 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001. Anyone who helped bring him to justice is an American hero. The Government of Pakistan arrested Dr. Shakil Afridi and continues to hold him in a cage. That arrest was a declaration of hostility toward the United States. Our government should not provide military equipment to Pakistan, let alone F-16s, as long as they are holding Dr. Afridi. His continued incarceration is an action which underscores that the Government of Pakistan considers itself our enemy, not our friend.

HONORING SANDY BEST

**HON. JOHN KLINE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic promotion in the Minnesota National Guard. Today, the Minnesota Guard will conduct a promotion ceremony for Colonel Sandy Best, who will become the first female general in Minnesota National Guard history when she is promoted to Brigadier General.

General Best will be the Air Chief of Staff responsible for command supervision, oversight, and leadership of the 133rd Airlift Wing at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Joint Air Reserve Station, and the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth.

Mr. Speaker, General Best began her career more than 30 years ago when she, a Minneapolis Edison High School graduate, enlisted in the Minnesota Air National Guard in 1984 as a Personnel Specialist. In 1991, she was commissioned through the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee, contributing to the Minnesota Guard in a variety of positions ever since.

General Best's passion for our soldiers, their families, and our country as well as her advocacy for the National Guard has been exceptional. I have always appreciated our meetings in Minnesota and in Washington and I look forward to working with the new Brigadier General.

Mr. Speaker, this promotion is well deserved and I wish General Best my best, and congratulate her and the Minnesota National Guard on this historic achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE 24TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE KHOJALY MAS-  
SACRE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 24th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. However, on February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces descended on the town in a final attempt to take over the city. In doing so, they massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women and 83 children—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their horrific injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely obliterated.

Even though a ceasefire went into effect over two decades ago, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remain occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain refugees unable to return to their home villages. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory reinforces the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works toward a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan is the only country that borders both Russia and Iran, and yet Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies in security and energy matters. This cooperation has included: enforcing sanctions against Iran; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit for 40 percent of all non-lethal equipment used by NATO forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil.

I invite my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in recognizing and remembering the horrible events that occurred during the Khojaly Massacre twenty-four years ago. As Azerbaijanis in all parts of the world continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, let us commemorate their losses with support of non-violent efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and of reforms that promote peace and stability throughout the Southern Caucasus region.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-  
GRAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, for the past 17 years, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship

Program (UCWIP) has granted the opportunity for a select group of Australian students from ten partner universities the opportunity to intern in a Congressional office from January to March each year. Since 1999, over 180 Australian students have had the benefit of partaking in these internships, and credit is due to Eric Federer, a former senior Senate and House Congressional staffer who founded and continues to coordinate the program. The students must undertake a rigorous application process to be successful and come from a range of backgrounds. The program is a mutual exchange—the students use their time in Washington, D.C. to develop their knowledge of American politics and have the opportunity to work on a range of issues that are of personal interest, while simultaneously sharing experiences from their home country with their office.

This year, our office is lucky to be hosting Emily Denbigh from the University of Adelaide. Emily is currently in her 4th year of a Bachelor's degree in Law and Arts, pursuing a major in Development Studies and a minor in French. She is passionate about social justice issues, and has previously undertaken an internship in Tanzania with a women's legal rights organization. She is interested in pursuing a career in international human rights law or environmental law. During her time in Washington, D.C., Emily has enjoyed learning about the dynamic American political system and California's beautiful 20th district. She has developed her knowledge of legal environmental issues, including what the American judicial system and legislators can do to combat climate change and promote conservation. She has also enjoyed talking to our constituents, who take a particular interest in her accent.

We have enjoyed hearing her accent and all of her wonderful ideas. Emily is a hardworking and highly intelligent woman. She is a strong writer and researcher and her passion for the environment and social justice shows in all the conversations I have had with her and through her writing. She has been a great asset to our team and we will be sorry to see her leave.

My staff and I have greatly enjoyed participating in the UCWIP program since its inception. I thank Mr. Federer for his hard work and dedication in bringing these Australian students to our nation's capital and for sending us Emily this session.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on February 9, 2016 through February 12, 2016, February 23, 2016, and February 24, 2016 due to the death of my father.

Had I been present for roll call vote number 64, passage of H.R. 3036—The National 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 65, ordering the previous question for H. Res. 609, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 66, H. Res. 609, the combined rule providing

for consideration of H.R. 3293—The Scientific Research in the National Interest Act and H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 67, passage of H.R. 4470—The Safe Drinking Water Act Improved Compliance Awareness Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 68, the E.B. Johnson Amendment to H.R. 3293—The Scientific Research in the National Interest Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 69, the motion to recommit H.R. 3293—The Scientific Research in the National Interest Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 70, passage of H.R. 3293—The Scientific Research in the National Interest Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 71, the Kelly Amendment to H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 72, the Duffy Amendment to H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 73, the Grijalva Amendment to H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 74, the Takano Amendment to H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 75, the motion to recommit H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 76, passage of H.R. 3442—The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 77, ordering the previous question for H. Res. 611, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 78, H. Res. 609, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2017—The Commonsense Nutrition Disclosure Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 79, the McMorris Rodgers Amendment to H.R. 2017—The Commonsense Nutrition Disclosure Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 80, the Schrader Amendment to H.R. 2017—The Commonsense Nutrition Disclosure Act, I would have voted “nay.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 81, passage of H.R. 2017—The Commonsense Nutrition Disclosure Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 82, to concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 757—The North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 83, passage of H.R. 4408—The National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 84, passage of H.R. 4402—The Foreign Fighter Review Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 85, ordering the previous question for H. Res. 618, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for roll call vote number 86, H. Res. 618, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624—The Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act, I would have voted “yea.”