

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LIONEL R. COLLINS, SR. POST
OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2458 and thank my colleague and friend Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND for his leadership in bringing this important bill to the House floor. The Honorable Lionel R. Collins Sr. is a true Louisiana and American hero, and this bill honors his life and achievements with a fitting tribute.

Judge Collins served on the bench in the 24th Judicial District Court in Gretna, Louisiana and was the first African-American elected to public office in my home parish of Jefferson, Louisiana. He also led the efforts to integrate Jefferson Medical Center and helped integrate Jefferson Parish public schools.

Judge Collins had an innate sense of justice. His colleagues described him as a 'hard-working, fair and honest judge . . . tough when he had to be tough, but he had a sense of fairness.'

While we can never fully repay Lionel Collins for his distinguished public service, we can honor his life and legacy as a pioneering civil rights attorney and an education champion in southeast Louisiana by passing this legislation. Judge Collins made meaningful impacts that advanced equality, justice, health care, and access to quality education. In fact, the Ames Montessori elementary school in Marrero was renamed Judge Lionel R. Collins Elementary in 2011.

Our community is better for the life and service of Judge Collins.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this measure to memorialize a respected defender of civil liberties, and I urge passage of this legislation by Congressman RICHMOND.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2016, I regret that I was otherwise detained and unable to cast a vote on roll call vote no. 88, on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 3624, the Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING DR. MIGUEL ENCINIAS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. and Lt.

Col. Miguel Encinias, who passed away on February 20th in Albuquerque at the age of 92.

A native of Las Vegas, New Mexico, Dr. Encinias served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War during his long and distinguished military career. After joining the New Mexico National Guard at the age of 16, in the heart of the Great Depression, he applied for and was accepted to the air cadet academy following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, where he was one of the very few Hispanic pilots in the academy. Dr. Encinias was shot down over Italy in 1944 and became a German prisoner of war until the Russians liberated his camp in 1945. He also flew in the Korean and Vietnam Wars before retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1971. During his career, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Purple Hearts, and fourteen Air Medals, making him one of New Mexico's most decorated veterans.

Dr. Encinias continued to serve his country after his time in the Air Force when President Clinton asked him to join the World War II Memorial Advisory Board in 1995, where he helped oversee the creation of the World War II Memorial, a Washington, D.C. landmark that reminds us of the bravery, triumph, and sacrifice of our soldiers who fought for our freedom.

Dr. Encinias was also a passionate scholar, studying at Georgetown, the Institute of Political Studies in Paris, and earning his doctorate in Hispanic literature and Education at the University of New Mexico. He taught throughout the state of New Mexico and helped develop New Mexico's Bilingual Education program. He also wrote several books on the rich history of New Mexico.

I want to personally thank Dr. Encinias for his many decades of service to his country and his state. His bravery on the battlefield, passion for New Mexico, and love for his family and friends will be sorely missed. I extend my sincere condolences to Dr. Encinias' family—Jeannine, his wife of 52 years; his three children; and four grandchildren—and hope that during this sad time they find comfort in the enduring legacy that Dr. Encinias leaves behind.

RECOGNIZING JOHN H. FOLWELL IV FOR EARNING ALL 141 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MERIT BADGES

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge John H. Folwell IV of Fairport, NY. John is currently a senior at McQuaid Jesuit High School and is a member of Troop 31 of the Boy Scouts of America who has completed all 141 merit badges, and I rise today to recognize that achievement.

To put this remarkable feat in perspective, Stephen Hoitt, Scout Executive of the Seneca Waterways Council of the Boy Scouts of America, has been involved with the organization for twenty-four years and notes that John is the first Scout under his tutelage to complete all of the merit badges. With this achievement, John H. Folwell IV joins the elite number of approximately 270 Scouts nationwide who have earned every merit badge offered by the organization.

Joining the Boy Scouts of America was a natural step for John. His father, John H. Folwell III, in fact serves as a Scoutmaster for Troop 31. Mr. Folwell has dutifully guided his son throughout this journey, including the Cycling badge. In addition to several other biking excursions, the Folwells traveled along the historic Erie Canal for fifty miles, completing their trip in the required time of eight hours, despite a flat tire.

Equally impressive is the level of determination put forth by John to maximize his experiences as a Boy Scout. Stating he "didn't want to leave Scouting knowing that I had not done it to its fullest," his quest has taken him in many directions. He traveled to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico where he earned the backpacking badge, appeared on stage in the role of Jud Fry in Oklahoma!, and instead of relaxing over a holiday break, created a Morse code telegraph for the Signaling badge.

Clearly, John represents the spirit and tenacity of the 25th Congressional District of New York, and I'm proud to represent him and all my constituents in the Rochester area.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCKLAWAHA CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special occasion for the Ocklawaha Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Eustis, Florida. In 1916, the Ocklawaha Chapter, named after the area Ocklawaha River basin, was established and this year they celebrate their 100th anniversary. It is my pleasure to recognize them on their Centennial.

Since their establishment on March 31, 1916, the Ocklawaha Chapter's goal and focus of serving the community through efforts of volunteerism, patriotism and education has remained constant. The Ocklawaha Chapter is dedicated to supporting local schools with donations and awards, and since their inception has awarded hundreds of Good Citizen Awards to local high school students, ROTC awards to cadets, and donated to National Society Daughters of the American Revolution founded schools. They donate American flags to organizations such as post offices, courthouses, schools, and veterans' groups, 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.

need of our flag. In 1976, the Ocklawaha Chapter created and presented Bicentennial flags to the cities of Eustis, Mount Dora, and Tavares.

The Ocklawaha Chapter is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and safeguarding America's future through better education for children. Their motto encapsulates that philosophy: "for God, Home, and Country." Through the strong leadership displayed by the Ocklawaha Chapter, they have earned both state and national recognition. They have been honored with many awards including DAR Project Patriot, Celebrate America Award, Chapter Achievement Level 1 and 2, Bronze Honoring the Flag, State and National Honor Roll, Literacy Promotion, Service for Veterans, and American History.

The excellence with which the Ocklawaha Chapter serves the Central Florida community is evident from their history and recognitions. I commend them for their many achievements and I am pleased to congratulate them on the celebration of their 100th anniversary. May their leadership, service and patriotism inspire many to follow in their footsteps.

HONORING NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT
A. LUTHER FOLLOWING HIS
PASSING ON FEBRUARY 20, 2016

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New Hampshire State Representative Robert Luther of Laconia, New Hampshire.

On February 20, 2016, the State of New Hampshire lost a true public servant with Robert's passing. During this time of great sadness, we remember and celebrate the life of not only a dedicated law enforcement officer and legislator, but also a father, husband and friend.

Representative Luther devoted his life to serving our communities and protecting our families, first as a member of the U.S. Navy from 1965–1968, then as a police officer and security officer in the Laconia area from 1973–2009. A devoted public servant, he stayed engaged in local and state issues, serving as a member of the Laconia City Council and most recently as a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

As his family, friends, neighbors and all who knew Robert would say, he was really one of a kind. The dedication and compassion he demonstrated during his years of service are not—and will not—be forgotten. So let us take a moment today and pause, reflect, and celebrate the life of Representative Robert Luther.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

Yes on Roll Call No. 103—H.R. 136, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office.

Yes on Roll Call No. 104—The Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3735, the Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office.

COLONY MEADOWS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colony Meadows Elementary School on 25 years of nurturing and educating our young children.

For the past quarter of a century, teachers and educators at Colony Meadows in Sugar Land, TX, have helped to develop the bright minds of students in a fun and educational atmosphere.

A lot has changed since this school opened its doors 25 years ago but one thing has remained the same—Colony Meadows commitment to excellence. It has remained a great place for our future leaders to learn and grow. Thank you to the many teachers and faculty members who've worked so hard to make CMES great throughout the years.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Colony Meadows Elementary School on 25 successful years of educating our leaders of tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 102. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 102.

HONORING NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE POLICE LT. JAMES 'JIM'
GERAGHTY AFTER HIS PASSING
ON FEBRUARY 27, 2016

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Granite State hero and fallen state police officer Lt. James Geraghty of Bedford, New Hampshire.

On February 27, 2016, the State of New Hampshire lost a true Granite State hero when Lt. Geraghty succumbed to cancer. During this time of great sadness, we remember and celebrate the life of not only a tremendous police officer, but also a father, husband and friend.

Geraghty devoted his life to protecting our families and our communities through his military service with the U.S. Army, and his time

as a police officer in the Town of Hudson before joining the New Hampshire State Police.

As his family, friends, neighbors and fellow police officers knew, Geraghty was really one of a kind. The dedication and compassion he demonstrated during his years of service are not—and will not—be forgotten.

It takes a remarkable individual like James Geraghty to risk their life daily to keep us safe and protect us from harm. So let us take a moment today and pause, reflect, and celebrate the life and valor of Lt. Geraghty. He put his life on the line to protect the Granite State, and we are forever grateful.

TRIBUTE TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSGROUP EDITOR BILL
CONSTINE

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Independent Newsgroup editor, Bill Constine. As the son of Vincent and Veronica, the husband of Beth and the father of Mindy, Chad and Kevin, Bill made many contributions to Owosso, Shiawassee County and the great state of Michigan.

Bill's news career began in 1973 at WOAP, where he started as a DJ and became a popular radio personality. Under his leadership as news director, the station was recognized by the Michigan Associated Press for its excellence. Bill would go on to work at The Flint Journal and then WJSZ, a local radio station that he owned until 1994. For the past 25 years, Bill worked as a reporter and editor at the Independent Newsgroup, which publishes local weekly and biweekly papers in Shiawassee County, bringing our communities the local news they need.

As a leader, Bill challenged his employees to go out of their comfort zone, but never allowed them to fail. He took people under his wing and helped them discover a love for writing. Known for his great attention to detail, enthusiasm for pursuing stories, caring manner for his staff and his passion for Shiawassee County history, Bill's positive impact on the community will be felt for generations.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Bill Constine for his lifetime of work as an editor and community leader.

IN RECOGNITION OF MEDAL OF
HONOR RECIPIENT SENIOR CHIEF
SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR
(SEAL) EDWARD C. BYERS, JR.,
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize United States Navy Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) and Ohio native, Edward Byers, as the recipient of the Medal of Honor for his brave and heroic actions during Operation Enduring Freedom on December 8–9, 2012.

The citation for the Medal of Honor states: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Hostage Rescue Force Team Member in Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM on 8–9 December 2012. As the rescue force approached the target building, an enemy sentry detected them and darted inside to alert his fellow captors. The sentry quickly reemerged, and the lead assaulter attempted to neutralize him. Chief Byers with his team sprinted to the door of the target building. As the primary breacher, Chief Byers stood in the doorway fully exposed to enemy fire while ripping down six layers of heavy blankets fastened to the inside ceiling and walls to clear a path for the rescue force. The first assaulter pushed his way through the blankets, and was mortally wounded by enemy small arms fire from within. Chief Byers, completely aware of the imminent threat, fearlessly rushed into the room and engaged an enemy guard aiming an AK–47 at him. He then tackled another adult male who had darted towards the corner of the room. During the ensuing hand-to-hand struggle, Chief Byers confirmed the man was not the hostage and engaged him. As other rescue team members called out to the hostage, Chief Byers heard a voice respond in English and raced toward it. He jumped atop the American hostage and shielded him from the high volume of fire within the small room. While covering the hostage with his body, Chief Byers immobilized another guard with his bare hands, and restrained the guard until a teammate could eliminate him. His bold and decisive actions under fire saved the lives of the hostage and several of his teammates. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of near certain death, Chief Petty Officer Byers reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

I extend my deepest thanks to Chief Byers on his service to our nation and upon his receiving our nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL STEVEN W. NOTT FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AT FORT MCCOY, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Colonel Steven W. Nott, whose tenure as Garrison Commander at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, concludes March 11, 2016. Colonel Nott assumed his duties as Garrison Commander on February 29, 2012.

Colonel Nott's 31 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army is noteworthy in every respect. He earned a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Wisconsin—Platteville; a master's degree in Education from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.; and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. His military education includes Ranger School, Airborne School, Air Assault School, the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

Colonel Nott received his commission as an Infantry Officer in May 1986 and served one year in the Iowa National Guard. He entered active duty in April 1987 and served in Germany with the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment. He next served on the 1st Brigade staff and then Commander of B Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment within the 10th Mountain Division. From 1995 to 1998 he was a Military Science Instructor at Lehigh University Military Science Department. Nott entered the Active Guard Reserve program in 1999 with the 98th Division (Institutional Training) in Rochester, N.Y. In 2003 he was assigned to the 99th Regional Readiness Command in Pittsburgh, Pa., as the Training Officer. In 2005 he was assigned to the 166th Aviation Brigade, Fort Riley, Kan., as the Brigade Executive Officer. From 2007 to 2009 he served as Commander, United States Army Garrison, Fort Devens, Mass. Nott became the Senior Operations Officer within the Office of the Chief Army Reserve Employer Partnership Office, Washington, D.C. in 2010.

Colonel Nott deployed to Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Iraq, Hurricane Andrew Relief in Florida, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, and Operations Restore and Uphold Democracy in Haiti.

Colonel Nott has committed his life to serving our country and has received many deserving awards and decorations, including the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Service Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, United Nations Medal (Somalia), Kuwait Liberation Medals, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Award, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Under Colonel Nott's outstanding leadership, Fort McCoy has taken it to the next level as one of the most capable and desirable Reserve Component training installations in the Army, providing stellar base operations support to over 150,000 Soldiers annually. During his tenure, Colonel Nott focused on the importance of Fort McCoy's Strategic Plan and ensuring that the base was a good neighbor and community partner. Thanks to Colonel Nott, Fort McCoy is well positioned for the future.

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

On behalf of my constituents in Wisconsin and a grateful nation, I would like to thank and commend Colonel Steven W. Nott for his years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army and in particular as Garrison Commander at Fort McCoy. I wish him, his wife Charlotte and their children Christian, Elissa, Bethany and Ethan the very best as they turn the page on the next chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING CONNIE HUNT'S 80TH BIRTHDAY AND HER POLITICAL ACTIVISM

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th birthday of Ms. Connie Hunt. Born on March 7, 1936, Connie spent her career in civil service. She served the government at every post where she, and her husband lived until her retirement in 1986.

She has also been active in the Calhoun County Republican Party for over 20 years, serving as Chairman or Vice Chairman for 18 of those years. While volunteering as a tutor for high school students, she worked tirelessly to bring civics to life for Calhoun High School students with the Calhoun High School Young Republican Club.

Connie Hunt is a proud Texan and a tremendous friend to the conservative cause. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of the principles that make our country what it is, and her dedication and achievements are the types of things that make the United States so exceptional. I am so proud to have constituents like Connie. Happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING ANNAMARIE GULINO GENTILE

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Annamarie Gulino Gentile on receiving the Community Service Award from the Italian American Women of Staten Island.

Ms. Gentile graduated magna cum laude from the State University of New York at Albany and received her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. She then rose to become the Supervising Partner at Angiuli & Gentile, LLP, where she handles matters such as real estate, family and matrimonial law, personal injury law, and, particularly, elder law. With her extensive background as an elder law attorney, Annamarie advises families in the event that a loved one requires long-term care.

As a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and as a Department of Veterans Affairs-Accredited Attorney, Annamarie has worked tirelessly to give our local veterans any and all legal advice they may need. Moreover, she is a passionate volunteer for various causes in support of senior citizens and those with special needs. But her service to the community doesn't stop there. She is also the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce as well as Chair of the Community Agency for Senior Citizens (CASC). Ms. Gentile was also a recipient of the Staten Island Friends for Hospice Care Couple of the Year Award, and was an honoree of the Garibaldi's Meucci Annual Luncheon for her involvement as an Italian American in the Staten Island community.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Annamarie Gulino Gentile. I thank her for all she has done for

our community, and I am proud to call her my constituent.

ISIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the definition of genocide is clear: it is the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial or cultural group. ISIS has been specifically and intentionally targeting Christians and other minorities for extermination for the past five years. Genocide is exactly what ISIS is doing. ISIS is trying to destroy all those that do not conform to its beliefs.

ISIS has already forced hundreds of thousands of Christians to leave their ancestral homes. For the first time since the time of Christ, there are almost no Christians left in some of these areas. Some of those who could not get out before ISIS came in have been tortured, crucified, and executed. ISIS has also targeted the Yezidi community of Iraq. It slaughtered almost all the men of one community on Mount Sinjar and sold the women and girls to satisfy the evil desires of their fighters.

ISIS is proud of these horrible atrocities. ISIS fighters post videos and pictures online of their barbaric beheadings of Christians and others who refuse to bow to their ideology. They hate, kidnap, and murder because Christians and other ancient minority communities will not renounce their faith.

The world, including the United States, needs to be clear about what ISIS is doing. America must denounce murder because of a person's religious belief.

I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 75 and support its passage. Justice demands that ISIS be held accountable and justice is what must be done because justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

WILLIAM G. JONES

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the Second District of Ohio, I wish to commemorate the life of Sgt. William G. Jones and recognize his receipt of the Montford Point Marines Congressional Gold Medal.

A Virginia native, Sgt. William Jones moved to southern Ohio as a young man to attend the University of Cincinnati, where he studied Business Administration. Upon graduation Sgt. Jones spent a few years in the workforce, but was soon called to serve his country. During the height of World War II from 1942–1945, Sgt. Jones proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, one of the first 100 African Americans to do so.

When he returned to the United States, Sgt. Jones continued to serve his country and his community. He became a member of the Montford Point Marine Association, a veterans'

group that preserves the legacy of the nation's first African American Marines, and was elected the group's first Vice President. Sgt. Jones went on to found and head the Cincinnati chapter of the association.

Sadly, Sgt. Jones passed away on September 29, 1988 at the age of 70. But the impact of his service lives on.

The freedom that our nation now enjoys is due in large part to the sacrifices made by so many individuals, like Sgt. Jones, who have committed themselves to our nation through service in our Armed Forces. On behalf of a grateful nation, I sincerely thank Sgt. Jones and all of the Montford Point Marines for their commitment to protecting us and our freedoms.

RECOGNIZING CAROLINA PANTHERS HEAD COACH RON RIVERA FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolina Panthers Head Coach Ron Rivera, who was named the National Football League Coach of the Year for the second time in three years. Coach Rivera did an outstanding job this year leading the Carolina Panthers, and he should be extremely proud of this impressive distinction he has so rightly earned.

Before this NFL season started, few people expected the Carolina Panthers to win enough games to seriously compete for a spot in the postseason playoffs. However, Coach Rivera never let the detractors get in the way of preparing his team to focus only on the challenge directly in front of them. What happened over the course of the season is almost unbelievable, even to the most devoted Panthers fans. The Panthers won 15 of 16 games during the regular season, making the Panthers only the seventh team in NFL history to win 15 games, and set a franchise record for the most victories in a single season. In the postseason, the Panthers hosted the NFC Championship in Charlotte for the first time in the franchise's history and earned a spot in the Super Bowl for only the second time since the team's first season in 1995. Needless to say, this was a fantastic season that will long be remembered by the players, coaches and fans.

Coach Rivera deserves much of the credit for the Panthers' success this year, and this award is a testament to the outstanding job he did preparing for each game and putting his players in the best position to achieve success. While he already had a reputation as a tough player and as one of the top defensive minds in the sport, I believe this award, along with the continued success of the Panthers during his tenure as head coach, shows Coach Rivera is quickly becoming known as one of the finest coaches in the game.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Carolina Panthers Head Coach Ron Rivera for earning the 2015 NFL Coach of the Year award. I look forward to seeing Coach Rivera build upon this historic season and further cement the Panthers' status as one of the

best teams in the NFL. Go Panthers and Keep Pounding!

KELVIN ZHANG SPELLS HIS WAY TO A WIN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kelvin Zhang for winning the 2016 Alvin Independent School District (ISD) Spelling Bee.

Kelvin, a fifth-grader at York Elementary School, competed against 18 other students from 4th through 8th grade within the Alvin ISD. Over the course of 36 rounds, Kelvin won his Spelling Bee title by perfectly spelling the word "toboggan." He advances to the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee on April 2nd. We are very proud of Kelvin and wish him luck at the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kelvin for winning the Alvin ISD Spelling Bee. Keep up the great work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed the following votes:

H.R. 136—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office". Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on this bill.

H.R. 3735—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Town Run Lane in Winston Salem, North Carolina, as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office". Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on this bill.

NORWOOD VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the Second District of Ohio, I congratulate the students and teachers, past and present, of Norwood View Elementary School on their 100th anniversary.

Providing a first-rate education for America's youth is one of our greatest responsibilities and is essential to creating the educated, productive, and innovative citizens who will shape our nation.

For the past 100 years, Norwood View Elementary School has demonstrated a strong commitment to the children in our community. Thousands of students have graduated with a quality education and countless memories.

I sincerely thank the school for their contribution to the Norwood community, and I look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF EXETER BOROUGHS POLICE CHIEF JOHN "MAXIE" McNEIL FOR FORTY-ONE YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Exeter, Pennsylvania's Police Chief John "Maxie" McNeil, as he celebrates his retirement from an extensive career in law enforcement. Chief McNeil will be honored by friends and family on March 5, 2016. For forty-one years, Chief McNeil dedicated his life to ensuring the safety and welfare of the people of Exeter, thirty-two years as police chief.

Chief McNeil led his department with dedication, honesty, and integrity. Over the years, he guided his beloved police department from a small town force into a skilled and mobile law enforcement agency capable of providing safety and security to the residents of a changing Exeter. Under his leadership, he has helped make Exeter and the surrounding communities a safer place for everyone.

I am grateful for Chief McNeil and the Exeter Police Department for their dedicated service. These courageous individuals face each moment not knowing for certain of the peril that may wait with the next challenge of the job. Yet they carry on, made strong by a resolve to protect and serve. Police officers, be they big city beat cops or small town sheriffs, defend what is dear to us, including our loved ones, and we owe them a great deal of gratitude for standing as a shield from harm.

It is an honor to recognize John for his contribution to the safety of his community. I am immensely thankful for his many contributions to the security of Exeter throughout his long career of public service. I wish him all the best in retirement.

DANA CLEMENT CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dana Clement for being named the 2015 Child Advocate of the Year at the Child Advocates of Fort Bend's Annual Volunteer Celebration.

The non-profit agency, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, aims to serve as many children within their community as possible. Their mission is to stop child abuse in its tracks and help give these children a voice. The 200 trained volunteers they have make it possible to help serve more than 400 kids on a monthly basis. Dana is a critical volunteer for this agency thanks to her dedication through her time, energy and resources. We are so proud of Dana for helping to serve these kids

through her love and positive attitude. Thank you for making the community of Fort Bend a safer place for its residents.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dana Clement for being named Child Advocate of the Year. We appreciate all of her selfless and hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE GATHERING PLACE

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Gathering Place in Brunswick, Georgia and to congratulate them on their 35th anniversary.

Started by college students from the University of Georgia in 1979, this year marks the 35th anniversary that The Gathering Place has served the spiritual growth and development of youth in Glynn County.

The Gathering Place was originally known as "Sunday Night Live at 8:45," and after 2 successful summers of singing, skits, and messages about Jesus, the college students expanded the program and officially founded The Gathering Place in June, 1981.

The Gathering Place has expanded since 1981 developing into a year round leadership development youth ministry with a highly diverse group of attendees. Beginning with around 100 participants, The Gathering Place now has approximately 1,000 people attending "The Main Event," taking place each summer night which includes lights, music, videos, gifts, speakers, and more.

The ministry of The Gathering Place has accomplished major spiritual achievements in the youth of coastal Georgia as the organization's goal is to reach students with the word of Jesus Christ, equip them to be Christian leaders, and to then send the students to spiritually impact their local communities.

I am thankful to have The Gathering Place in the First Congressional District of Georgia and am proud to recognize the impact that it is making in young Georgians' lives.

RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN MATTHEWS

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a respected advocate and relentless fighter for public education in my district. For nearly half a century, John Matthews has been at the helm of Madison Teachers Inc. (MTI), steering the union through such volatile events as the 1976 teachers' strike, the recent public uprising against Act 10 and everything in between.

It is a testament to John's work and what his union has continually done for them that in November, Madison teachers voted overwhelmingly to recertify their union.

Today, when a pregnant teacher does not have to resign her job as her pregnancy be-

gins to show—something she once had to do in Wisconsin—she can credit John, who successfully fought that policy all the way to the Supreme Court in 1971. That was precisely the kind of battle and victory he relished.

John's career began as an English and history teacher in his native state of Montana, where his grandfather was a Supreme Court justice. He immediately became involved in his union and started, as he puts it, "raising a little hell," in contract negotiations over health insurance. Six years later, he was in the middle of a primary race to serve in the Montana House of Representatives when he withdrew his candidacy because he was offered the opportunity to pursue his true passion as executive director of Madison Teachers Inc. (And no one who knows John will be surprised to hear—he won that race anyway).

At that time in 1968, MTI had 900 members—it now has more than 4,000. Other victories John secured on behalf of the teachers and other educational workers he represents included the right to take time off for their religious holidays. In 1976, he led workers in a teachers' strike that cemented his reputation as a fierce advocate and fighter on behalf of the people and causes he represents. As Capital Times Editor Emeritus Dave Zweifel put it when John's retirement was announced: "No one I've known has been more committed to public education and what it means to American democracy than Matthews." He not only stood up for his members, he served the children and families of our community sitting on the board of such groups as Fair Wisconsin, Citizens Against Handgun Violence, Fighting Bob Fest, the Social Justice Center and the Citizens Utility Board.

Yet John seeks to meet and converse with opponents in an open and friendly fashion, making regular lunch or coffee dates with adversaries. The day former Madison Schools Superintendent Art Rainwater stepped into that job, he phoned John right away that morning to talk about building bridges and asked when they could get together. John quickly replied: "How about noon?" In articles announcing his planned January 2016 retirement, glowing quotes of praise for his work came as frequently from his adversaries as from his allies. Anyone who has worked with him also knows him to be a caring, warm friend with a great wit and deep dedication to his colleagues and friends.

It is an honor to recognize five decades of dedication, passion and advocacy in John's career with MTI. Anyone who knows John will not be at all surprised to hear that when asked by reporters what he plans to do in his retirement, he answered that he would remain committed to social justice issues and helping people. After all, it's what he's been doing for the past 50 years.

RECOGNIZING CAROLINA PANTHERS QUARTERBACK CAM NEWTON FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolina Panthers Quarterback Cam

Newton, who was named the 2015 National Football League Most Valuable Player (MVP). In his fifth season at the helm of the Carolina Panthers offense, Cam has become one of the NFL's best players and has established himself as a leader his teammates trust and depend upon.

Throughout the season, Cam played a crucial role in the team's success. With Cam as quarterback, the Panthers were one of the best offenses in the league—averaging over 30 points per game—and set a franchise record for most wins in a regular season after winning 15 of their 16 games. Cam also led the Panthers to their second NFC Championship with a commanding 49–15 victory over the Arizona Cardinals, completing 19 of his 28 passes for 335 yards and two touchdowns while also scoring two touchdowns running the football. This performance demonstrated Cam's importance to the team and is a clear example of why he deserved the league's MVP award.

In addition to his outstanding performance and exceptional leadership on the field, Cam has been an active member of the community and has made public service an important priority in his life. Shortly after arriving in the NFL, he established the Cam Newton Foundation to help the young people of Charlotte, and in his hometown of Atlanta. Through this foundation, Cam has been able to provide many young people the resources and support they need to pursue their childhood dreams and ambitions.

While Cam earned this award by distinguishing himself as one of the most gifted players in the game today, and his dedication to helping others and serving as a role model to young people across the country further exemplifies why he is a champion both on and off the field. I look forward to seeing Cam back on the field next season, building off this historic season and further establishing himself as one of the most elite quarterbacks in the game.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Carolina Panthers Quarterback Cam Newton for being named the 2015 NFL MVP, and thanking him for his continued service to the people of our community. Go Panthers and Keep Pounding!

U.S.-TURKEY BILATERAL
RELATIONS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strong and important relationship between the Republic of Turkey and the United States. For years, Turkey has been an indispensable strategic, geopolitical and economic partner of the U.S.

Turkey is a significant ally in confronting the challenges of the 21st century, such as international terrorism, ethnic and religious extremism, energy security, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Ankara is a central stakeholder in the ongoing efforts to resolve the Syrian Civil War and aid its victims. I witnessed this firsthand when I visited a refugee camp in Kilis, Turkey. The Turkish government and other surrounding nations

have made selfless investments to meet the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people and must be applauded for these efforts.

In addition to our strong geopolitical ties, economic cooperation is increasingly becoming a major aspect of the Turkey-U.S. bilateral relationship. Turkey has become an indispensable U.S. trading partner, constituting a large and growing market for United States exports. In 2015, Turkey was identified as Europe's third-fastest growing economy, and its increasing energy demand makes it an appealing market for continued U.S. investment.

Mr. Speaker, with the continuing threat of the Islamic State, the uncertainty of the situation in Syria, and an ever increasingly globalized economy it is now more important than ever to reaffirm our commitment to, and cooperation with, the Republic of Turkey. I look forward to strengthening and growing the U.S.-Turkey relationship in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE
OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative DEVIN NUNES, to recognize the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Over the course of the past century, the Armenian people have been subject to some of the worst treatment in modern history. From the Armenian genocide and the repressive years under Soviet rule, to the pogroms committed against Armenians in the cities of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku, the tragic plight of the Armenian people in their search for freedom cannot be overstated.

As a nation built on the concept of freedom, the United States must support those who put their safety on the line in the pursuit of that most basic human right. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh have suffered enough under Azerbaijan's aggressive policies, and it is time for the international community to recognize their right to self-determination.

Today, I rise to recognize the Armenian people, especially the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, who struggle for the same things the United States fought for over 200 years ago: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

JOY GASSAMA WINS CRITICAL
LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joy Gassama of Sugar Land, TX for winning a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Award for 2015.

Joy is currently a student at the University of Texas-Austin. Through her CLS scholarship, she was hosted in Meknes Morocco, where she became proficient in Advanced Beginning level Arabic. CLS recipients, like Joy, are sent abroad to study the language and the culture of the region they are hosted in. These

prestigious scholarships are funded by the State Department through their Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Critical Language Scholarship program aims to spread diversity and critical language skills to all of its awardees. We are proud of Joy for all of her hard work, and congratulate her on her scholarship.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Joy for winning the Critical Language Scholarship Award. Keep up the great work.

IN HONOR OF DOMENIC LALLI OF
WATERTOWN, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Domenic Lalli in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, Massachusetts, and to commend him for forty years of dedication to the education of young men.

An accomplished athlete, Mr. Lalli excelled in football at Watertown High School, and was inducted into the Watertown High School Hall of Fame. He served as football coach there as well. Further, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lalli was captain of the football team at Boston University, and he was the USA Natural Bodybuilding Champion in 1991. He went on to win the Mr. Massachusetts Master's Division in 2004.

Mr. Lalli received a Bachelor of Science in Human Movement Health and Leisure from Boston University and earned a Master's in Education from Boston State College. He is also a graduate of the Catholic Schools Leadership Program at Boston College.

Mr. Lalli began his career at Xaverian in 1976, teaching Physical Education and coaching track and football. In 1984, he was appointed as the Administrator of Students. Mr. Lalli was appointed Principal of Xaverian in 1991, the same year that Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X. became Headmaster.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lalli has influenced several generations of young men and is beloved by countless alumni, parents, and trustees. An outstanding leader, he has shaped a strong community where respect for everyone, no matter their differences, is the norm. He has served as an extraordinary role model in his care and concern for all. Throughout his tenure at Xaverian, Mr. Lalli has touched the lives of 7,951 students, in addition to the current student body of 950.

Mr. Lalli was born and raised in Watertown, MA where he lives today with his wife Lydia. They are the proud parents of two children, Daniel, a graduate of Xaverian, and Victoria, and they are blessed with two grandchildren, Connor and Colbie.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Domenic Lalli's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his forty years of remarkable service to Xaverian Brothers High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote numbers 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 and 101.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote numbers 95, 96, 97, 98, and 101.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote numbers 92, 93, 94, 99, and 100.

RECOGNIZING MS. DIXIE WHITMAN'S WORK FOR THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAM SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of Dixie Whitman. The organization she cofounded, Military Working Dog Team Support Association, Inc., supports American military working canines and their handlers.

Ms. Whitman started the organization ten years ago in her garage, back when it was only a group of a few neighbors and friends in Georgia. Under Ms. Whitman's leadership and through her tireless work the non-profit has expanded to eight more states. All of the workers are volunteers who are united in the common good of serving both human and canine soldiers. Since the founding in 2006, MWDTSA has sent over 3,500 care packages to currently deployed Military Working Dog teams. These packages contain everything from dog treats and boots for the dogs to DVDs for the handlers.

Mr. Speaker, Dixie had to step down from the organization that she poured her heart and soul into this year but she will continue to be the heartbeat of the Military Working Dog Team Support Association. On behalf of the Sixth District of Georgia, I would like to thank Ms. Whitman for supporting and being a voice for human and canine soldiers alike.

SOFIA AHMED WINS CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sofia Ahmed of Katy, TX for winning a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Award for 2015.

Sofia is currently a student at the University of Texas—San Antonio. Through her CLS scholarship, she was hosted in Beijing, China, where she became proficient in Advanced level Chinese. CLS recipients, like Sofia, are sent abroad to study the language and the culture of the region they are hosted in. These prestigious scholarships are funded by the

State Department through their Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Critical Language Scholarship program aims to spread diversity and critical language skills to all of its awardees. We are proud of Sofia for all of her hard work, and congratulate her on her scholarship.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sofia for winning the Critical Language Scholarship Award. Keep up the great work.

HUNGER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MCGOVERN for the tireless work he does every day for hungry families and children.

I rise as Chair of the Democratic Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity, which Congressman MCGOVERN is also a member of and I want to thank him for that and for our SNAP challenge almost 3 years ago. That was truly an eye opener and so important to make sure we stop any cuts from this critical program.

Mr. Speaker, persistent hunger is truly a stain on our nation.

Fourteen percent of households in America—that's nearly one in seven—are food insecure.

These are people, who despite working full time, simply don't earn enough to feed their families. For these families, putting food on the table is a constant struggle.

It is truly a disgrace that in the richest and most powerful nation, that this many families are going hungry every day.

And this burden is hard on children. More than 15.3 million American children are living in food-insecure households today. Let me say that again: more than 15 million kids are at risk of going to bed hungry—every night.

And hunger is far from color blind. We know that communities of color are disproportionately affected by hunger. For example in 2014:

One in four African American households and

One in five Latino families were food insecure.

And for rural families, food insecurity is coupled with other barriers including lack of access to transportation and limited job opportunities. More than 17% of rural households—that's 3.3 million households—are food insecure.

We know that hunger is a problem that affects people in every zip code. It is endemic in our counties, rural communities, urban streets and suburban neighborhoods.

I've seen its impact in my community, Alameda County, where one in five residents have turned to our local food bank for help. These families are forced to make impossible choices to feed their children. Many must decide between food and medicine, food and school clothes, or food and paying the electric bill.

One Alameda County mother, Claire, said "My kids need milk, but we can't afford it. So, I buy condensed milk and water it down."

This is the tragic reality of millions of families in our country. And this epidemic of hun-

ger is the direct result of persistent poverty and continued cuts to vital safety net programs.

As a young mother, I struggled to keep food on the table for my two little boys. Food stamps, or SNAP as we call it now, was a bridge over troubled water for my family. Thanks to this safety net, I was able to get my degree, start a small business, and eventually be elected to Congress.

Surely we should be providing these benefits for all families?

Programs like SNAP, housing vouchers, Head Start, Medicaid and Pell Grants help families lift themselves out of poverty and were critical to President Johnson's War on Poverty.

And SNAP—which is our nation's first line of defense against hunger—is also a critical tool in the fight against poverty. In 2015, it kept nearly 5 million Americans—including 2.2 million children—out of poverty in 2014.

We should be strengthening these programs instead of cutting them.

Mr. Speaker, we need real solutions to these very real problems. My legislation, the Half in Ten Act (H.R. 258), would develop a national strategy to cut poverty in half over the next decade. That's more than 23 million Americans lifted out of poverty and into the middle class in just the next 10 years.

We must recognize that addressing food insecurity in America is a critical first step in this ongoing war on poverty. We can do this, and we can do so much more.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 99, I would have voted "Nay" on roll call vote No. 99, on the Huffman Amendment to H.R. 2406, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, on February 26, 2016. I missed the vote due to being unavoidably detained.

GRAZIA ITALIAN KITCHEN HAS THE "BEST BITES"

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland Restaurant, Grazia Italian Kitchen, for winning both Reserve Grand Champion in the People's Choice Award category and the Rookie Award at the "Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup and Best Bites Competition" at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Grazia's Chef, Steve Haug, former chef at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse, created a dish that pleased not only the judges, but 5,500 guests as well. The Houston Rodeo's Best Bites Competition this year consisted of 102 competing restaurants at the NRG Center on February 21, and sold-out due to its overwhelming attendance. The Best

Bites Competition is the kick-off to the Houston Rodeo, one of the most popular and attended attractions in Houston. We are so proud of Grazia's and can't wait to taste their delicious meals for ourselves.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the entire team at Grazia Italian Kitchen for being recognized at the Houston Rodeo Roundup Best Bites Competition.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 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 \$19,125,455,057,425.90. We've added \$8,498,578,008,512.82 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week I missed a roll call vote. I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: Roll Call No. 102—"yes."

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE 2ND LIEUTENANT ESTEBAN HOTESSE, TUSKEGEE AIRMAN, DOMINICAN-AMERICAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Dominican-Americans across our great nation celebrated their heritage and their compatriots commemorated Dominican Independence Day over the weekend, on February 27th, today I rise to posthumously honor and pay tribute to Tuskegee Airman Second Lieutenant Esteban (Stephen) Hotesse (Service Number 32218759).

Esteban Hotesse, a Dominican native who immigrated to the country as a child, enlisted during World War II, and served in the lauded Tuskegee Airmen brigade. Though his team was scheduled to go into battle, they never saw combat abroad. As a member of the all-black unit, Hotesse was among a group of 101 Tuskegee Airmen officers arrested for refusing to follow Jim Crow orders from a white commanding officer at a base near Seymour, Indiana, where the KKK had a strong presence.

In March 1945, the last of the Tuskegee groups, the 477th Medium Bombardment Group, was moved from Godman Field, adja-

cent to Fort Knox, to Freeman Field because of the latter's better flight facilities. Tensions between the 477th and the white command structure on the base were tense as soon as the 477th arrived, and shortly thereafter, an incident occurred unparalleled in Air Corps history.

Upon their arrival at Freeman, the commanding officer of the base, Colonel Robert R. Selway, moved quickly to set up and enforce a segregated system. The group was housed in a dilapidated building. Col. Selway also created a novel system to deny the Airmen entry into the officers' club. He classified the Black airmen as "trainees," even though they had all finished flight school, and therefore were all commissioned officers. As trainees, they were forced to use a rundown, former noncommissioned officers club nicknamed "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This all occurred despite an order issued in 1940 issued by President Roosevelt himself that no officer should be denied access to any officer's club. On April 5, 1945 a group of the Airmen peacefully entered the officers' club in protest. Sixty-one were arrested within 24 hours. This act of disobedience later became known as the Freeman Field Mutiny. Hotesse perished later that year in an accidental plane crash. His obituary in a Dominican newspaper lists his cause of death as a B-25 crash in the Ohio River in Indiana.

Esteban (Stephen) Hotesse was born on February 2, 1919 in Moca, Dominican Republic, and he came to the U.S. at the age of 4 with his mother, Clara Pacheco, who at the time was 25 years old. Hotesse was also accompanied by his sister Irma Hotesse, age 2. They came through the famous port of Ellis Island and, like many Dominicans at the time, went to live in my Congressional District within Upper Manhattan. At the time of his enlistment, he was living with his wife, Iristella Lind, who was Puerto Rican. They applied for U.S. citizenship in April 1943 after he'd served almost a year. The couple had two daughters before he enlisted. Today, one of his daughters, Mary Lou Hotesse, resides in New York City and two granddaughters, one named Iris Rivera, live in the South.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to one of our nation's heroes. In life, he immigrated to our shores to join ranks with our military force in the advancement of peace, justice, and freedom here and abroad.

DON'T WRESTLE WITH CINCO RANCH GIRLS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Queena Chen, Charlotte Fowler, Taylor Rosario, and Kayla De Leon for winning the state championship 6A trophy at the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Girls Wrestling Championships.

Queen, Charlotte, Taylor and Kayla are students at Cinco Ranch High School in the Katy Independent School District. The four Lady Cougars racked up a total of 87 points, all placing in the top four; a new achievement. The 2016 UIL State Wrestling Championships were held at the Berry Center in Cypress,

Texas on February 19th and 20th. Senior Taylor Rosario has a standing record of 40-1, Senior Charlotte Fowler's record is 48-1, Senior Queena Chen's record is 41-15, and finally, Sophomore Kayla De Leon has a record of 49-0. These talented students have made the Katy community proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Queen, Charlotte, Taylor, and Kayla for winning the UIL 6A State Championship. We can't wait to see what these talented ladies do next.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE DIANA HOPPE

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the passing of Representative Diane Hoppe on February 27th, 2016. Rep. Hoppe was a beloved and distinguished community leader and longtime state lawmaker.

Rep. Hoppe grew up in Sterling and devoted her life to improving Colorado. In 1999 she was elected to House District 65 of the Colorado House of Representatives, where she served through 2006. During her service she was Chair of the House Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources Committee; Chair of the Water Resources Review Committee; and House Minority Whip.

In addition to her leadership in the Colorado legislature, Governor Hickenlooper appointed her to the Colorado Water Conservation Board in 2012. She was later elected as Chair in 2015. In addition, she was presented the Colorado Water Congress 2013 Wayne N. Aspinall Award for Outstanding Water Leader. Rep. Hoppe's limitless knowledge of agriculture and water has made a lasting impact on Colorado.

It is the hard work Rep. Hoppe embodied throughout her life that makes Colorado an exceptional place to live. She has shown true service to her industry and community. I extend my deepest sympathies to Rep. Hoppe's family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Representative Diane Hoppe for her commitment to family, community, and the State of Colorado. She will be sorely missed.

THE RULES OF THE U.S. HOUSE DENY MEMBERS THE ABILITY TO FULFILL OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the rules of the U.S. House prohibit congressionally directed spending. This prohibition undermines the ability of Members of Congress to represent their constituents, denies Members the opportunity to respond to critical needs that are in the national interest, and it strips Members of their authority pursuant to Article 1,

section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution—the authority to appropriate funds. Members of Congress are not even allowed the opportunity to offer amendments to a bill to be voted on by a committee or the Committee of the Whole on a construction project or research program deemed to be in contrary to the rule.

What the ban on congressionally directed spending does do is empower the Executive Branch to dictate to Congress projects, programs and priorities without input from Members. It denies Members the ability to advance alternatives to the President's priorities that better reflect the needs of states, communities and constituents. With this rule, Congress has unilaterally diminished our own power and ceded excessive power to the President. The House of Representatives' "power of the purse" must be more than simply rubber stamping funding for whatever project or program the President proposes.

My attached letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies highlights an example of how the ban on congressionally directed spending denies me—a member of the Appropriations Committee—the opportunity to advocate for a project that has been approved by the Department of Defense, in the Department's funding queue, and is now delayed for arbitrary budget reasons without any consultation with Congress. House rules deny me the opportunity to amend this decision. I find this outrageous and a clear example of how this Congress cedes power to unelected federal officials in the Executive Branch.

It is time to change the rules, repeal the prohibition on congressionally directed spending, and allow Members of Congress to do our job on behalf of the people who elected us.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2016.

Hon. CHARLIE DENT,
Chair, Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies,
Washington, DC.

Hon. SANFORD BISHOP,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Military
Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related
Agencies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR DENT AND RANKING MEMBER BISHOP: I am extremely concerned that the President's FY2017 budget proposal has failed to fund a shovel ready Minnesota Army National Guard project that has been in the pipeline since the release of the FY13 budget for FY17. The \$39,000,000 for the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arden Hills, MN (Project Number 270132 in the Department of the Army, Army National Guard FY17 Military Construction budget) now has been moved to FY18. This delay will directly affect the ability of members of the Minnesota National Guard to train effectively and carry out their duties to their utmost potential.

This facility is necessary to house the Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company A 34th Infantry Division currently assigned to the Rosemount, MN Readiness Center, and Company B 34th Infantry Division currently assigned to the Inver Grove Heights, MN Readiness Center. Both of these facilities are undersized and seriously lacking in critical areas that support mission readiness. The construction of the Readiness Center in Arden Hills is long overdue and necessary to relieve over population in other aging National Guard facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

What is truly outrageous is that this Congress has ceded the authority of Members,

and particularly Appropriators, under the Constitution, to fund critically significant federal investments in our communities. Congress, by giving up the authority to direct spending and projects, has conceded a vital authority to the Administration. This Military Construction, Veterans Affairs bill makes it clear that the House and the Appropriations Committee now takes its guidance from Administration staff and the Office of Management and Budget, which I find unacceptable. Meanwhile the representatives elected by the American people, including Appropriators, are denied the opportunity to advance vital projects unless granted permission by the Executive Branch.

Therefore, I will not be submitting any requests to the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies because if I were to advocate for the members of the Minnesota Army National Guard and attempt to get funding reinstated in this year's appropriations bill, I would presumably be in violation of the ban on congressionally directed spending.

It is time to change this flawed system.
Sincerely,

BETTY MCCOLLUM,
Member of Congress.

KAY THACKER

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the life of Kay Thacker, a woman who worked to make politics nobler and spent every hour of her life dedicated to helping others. As a visitor to the Keys since childhood and a 27-year resident, we will miss Kay Thacker tremendously. She was a woman who embodied the heart of the small and tight-knit community that we are.

Though born in Kentucky, Kay spent much of her life in Indiana. In the late 1960s and into the early 1970s she ran her own salon, Casa de Kay. She received her degree from the University of Indiana and then proceeded to earn the title of Vice President of Sales for Metal Honing Inc. Thankfully, she then decided to make Key Largo her home where she embodied the role of a passionate civic activist.

Tenacious and firm in her principles, Kay stood proudly as an environmental conservationist, advocate for the Arts and a staunch overseer of spending by public agencies. Even in the face of fierce adversity, Kay was a woman who refused to back down. Well known for her stubbornness, Kay knew when to put her foot down and fight for her beliefs, all the while never making that fight personal.

Kay Thacker's impact on our community is far reaching and universally appreciated, even from those that she stood up to. She will forever be remembered for her unyielding devotion to the community that we are all fortunate to call our own.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF
ELLINGTON, MO

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the United Methodist Church of Ellington, MO. The occasion was marked by four services held at the church: a morning Dedication Service, an Afternoon Service, a Youth Service, and an Evangelistic Service held later in the evening, presided over by Pastor Sandy Estes.

United Methodist Church was founded in 1887 by five trustees, Marian Copeland, Leon Daniels, P.B. Smith, U.G. Barnes, and Jefferson Wadlow. It was originally located on Cemetery Hill on land donated by Copeland. As the church grew, so did the congregation, eventually surpassing the capacity of the original property.

In 1909, the church founded the Women's Missionary Society, who purchased the land on which the current church stands today. The cornerstone of the church was laid in 1913, and the construction concluded with a Dedication Ceremony on August 20, 1916. Although the building has since been renovated, much of the Sanctuary is original, including the stained glass and bell tower, which still rings every Sunday service.

The surnames of the five original trustees are still common to the Ellington area, a true testament to the enduring legacy of the United Methodist Church. The church has long served as a staple in the local community, offering a valuable service and place of worship for citizens. Thus, it is my pleasure to recognize its impressive history before the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO SOSY ROBINSON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Canyon Lake in Riverside County, California are exceptional. On Friday, March 11th, Sosy Robinson will be honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Pasadena, California, Sosy Robinson was the first American citizen in her family which migrated to this country from the Middle East. Sosy's family moved to Canyon Lake in 2012 from Orange County and she went on to graduate from Temescal Canyon High School. Sosy and her husband, A.J., have six children, whose ages range from two to 25 years old.

In Canyon Lake, Sosy is serving for the second consecutive year as President of the Family Matters Club. The club hosted over 38 events, meetings and family meet-ups last year alone. Sosy is also a member of the Canyon Lake Lioness Club, serves as the official bingo caller at the Canyon Lake Senior Center, and graciously delivers groceries for homebound seniors in need. The nomination

of Sosy for the Citizen of the Year award summed it up well: "Our community is made a much, much better place because of Sosy and all her hard work and dedication."

In light of all that Sosy has done for the community of Riverside County and the city of Canyon Lake, it is only fitting to honor her as Citizen of the Year. Sosy has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and a constituent of the 42nd Congressional District. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Sosy Robinson on being named Citizen of the Year by the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM PERRY'S
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Perry for his 35 years of distinguished service at the Downriver Community Conference located in Southeast Michigan. Jim's commitment to the downriver community has touched the lives of many and is significantly responsible for this region's collective and coordinated success.

The Downriver Community Conference (DCC) is one of the oldest and most successful interlocal agreements in the State of Michigan and the United States. Representing twenty communities in Wayne County, the DCC coordinates and supports a vast array of initiatives for its communities including: Economic Development, Job Training and Placement, Veterans Services, Public Safety Coordination, Transportation, Weatherization, Energy Assistance, Senior Support Programs, and Youth Support Programs. In addition to these programs, the DCC also acts as a critical voice in the region, advocating for the interests of its communities with elected officials and government agencies. It is a model nationwide for communities working together on many issues to the benefit of the entire region. The DCC is a remarkable success story, and Jim Perry has been a critical component of that success for the last 35 years. Humble in his success, he reminds me that it is only by putting together an extraordinary team that he can do great things. I entirely agree with that, and I stand here today to say that Jim Perry is a remarkable recruiter, coach and leader.

Jim was born and raised in Allen Park, MI, graduated from Allen Park High School, and went on to play basketball at the University of Houston, where he excelled. He returned to Michigan and in 1981, began working at the DCC and has worked there ever since. In the year 2000, Jim was named executive director of the DCC, making him the youngest person to have served in that role. He has given so much of his time and talent to our region, serving on a wide variety of boards and commissions including: the Michigan Department of Human Services Board where he served as chair, the Southeast Michigan Substance Abuse Services Board, Wayne County Head Start Board, and the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority Board, and the Allen Park Parks and Recreation Commission. Jim gives his time because it is who he is, and it is what our community needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor my friend Jim Perry for his 35 years of service to our communities. I thank him for his leadership and wish him many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO LEAD
IN THE AIR ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the No Lead in the Air Act. The bill prohibits the use of lead in aircraft fuel by 2021. Lead exposure can have harmful effects on children as well as adults. Since 1980, the amount of lead in the air has decreased 89 percent, but while lead gas for automobiles has been banned since 1995, the piston-engine aircraft industry and airports that supply their fuel continue to use leaded aircraft fuel. Without a federal ban, they will continue to do so and put our communities and children at risk.

Lead particles from airplane exhaust can fall widely during flight and there may be high concentrations of lead near airports. It is estimated that 16 million people live and three million children go to school within a half-mile of airports that sell leaded aircraft fuel, called avgas. The health effects of lead in children include behavioral and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems, and anemia. Lead exposure can cause premature births and spontaneous abortions in pregnant women, and adults can suffer from increased blood pressure, decreased kidney function, and reproductive problems.

Seventy-five percent of piston-engine aircraft already operate safely with fuel that does not use lead. However, small airports continue to only sell leaded avgas for these piston-engine aircraft. But small airports will have to comply if the federal government bans the use of leaded fuel. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which implements the Clean Air Act, announced plans in 2010 to phase out leaded aviation fuel, but in the intervening six years we still have not seen a proposed rule. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has created a task force of government and aviation industry stakeholders to study alternative fuels for piston-engine aircraft that do not use lead, and the agency has indicated it may certify lead-free aviation fuel sometime in 2018.

With so much evidence of the harmful impacts of lead exposure, we can no longer put our communities at risk. My bill would give enough time for a full phase-out of lead in aircraft fuel—five years—by directing the FAA Administrator, in consultation with the EPA Administrator, to issue regulations prohibiting the use of leaded fuel in aircraft in U.S. airspace beginning January 1, 2021.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK'S 7TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of my neighbors who are an incredible part of the Williamsburg, Brooklyn community—Holocaust survivors. I am privileged to represent approximately one thousand Holocaust survivors in New York's 7th Congressional District.

These individuals arrived from across Eastern Europe fleeing unspeakable horrors. Many of them had lost their mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters during one of the darkest periods in our history. They survived concentration camps and came to the U.S. as refugees looking to launch a fresh start, rebuild anew and escape the horrific crimes they had suffered in their pasts.

From a small group of survivors that arrived after World War II in Williamsburg, this community has grown and flourished by tens of thousands. From meager beginnings, they rebuilt their families, religion and traditions, and established a wonderful part of our City that, to this day, contributes to New York's diverse cultural mosaic. Their accomplishments are a testament to the perseverance and persistence of the Holocaust survivors.

In 1966, Holocaust survivors created the United Jewish Organizations (UJO) of Williamsburg which is celebrating its 50th year of service to the community. The UJO was conceived as a vehicle to help the Yiddish-Speaking population adapt to life in the United States, participate in the civic sphere and ensure access to public benefits.

Throughout their jubilee of activity the UJO has put the needs of Holocaust survivors at the forefront. They work closely with the Claims Conference and the NYC Department for the Aging to help survivors age gracefully and independently with a wide array of social services and in-home care. They have truly evolved into a community anchor for all of Brooklyn and New York. I salute their many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging all that our nation's Holocaust Survivors have not only endured, but also accomplished. We must never forget the horrors they underwent, but, likewise, we must also honor the achievements they secured in the face of enormous adversity. Their spirit and strength are a credit to the Williamsburg community, to our City and, indeed, to our entire nation.

CLERMONT COUNTY
COMMISSIONER BOB PROUD

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Clermont County Commissioner Bob Proud on a distinguished career serving the residents of Clermont County and southern Ohio.

A seven-term Clermont County Commissioner, Bob has effectively guided Clermont County into the 21st Century. Involved in everything from the construction of a new Clermont County Animal Shelter in 2002, to the reclamation of the former Ford transmission plant on State Route 32, to his service for senior citizens as a Meals on Wheels volunteer, to his work on the Coalition for a Drug-Free Clermont County, Bob has served Clermont with integrity and class.

Bob is also a champion for our troops, both at home and abroad. He has been nationally recognized for his work on behalf of our military and has even founded a local military family support group.

For the last twenty-five years, Bob has served as Chairman of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC), a public regional planning commission that serves twelve southern Ohio counties, the majority of which are in Ohio's Second Congressional District. As he prepares to retire from this position, I commend him for his hard work and leadership to make Southern Ohio a better place to live and work.

Thank you Bob, and God bless you.

IN HONOR OF T&M ASSOCIATES

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to T&M Associates of New Jersey on the occasion of their 50th anniversary and for their tireless work meeting the engineering needs of communities throughout New Jersey and the United States.

On March 21, 1966, Richard T. Noble and Richard M. Schulz founded T&M Associates and over the past five decades it has grown from a seven-person local operation to a nationally-recognized professional services firm, with 400 professionals stationed in offices throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states. Even with this remarkable growth, the enduring mission of T&M Associates has remained the same: to improve quality of life and create sustainable value for their employees, clients and partner communities.

Over the years, T&M Associates has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to providing high-value consulting, technical and engineering solutions to promote the vitality of their community and business partners. This commitment to community improvement goes beyond just business interests, as demonstrated by their "50 Ways of Giving" community service campaign—a company wide effort to bring employees together to participate in 50 acts of volunteerism that give back to their communities. Through its reputation for excellence and commitment to community improvement, T&M Associates has proven itself to be a source of pride for New Jersey and a true asset to the New Jersey business community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of New Jersey in congratulating T&M Associates on their Golden Anniversary and encouraging them to continue providing quality consulting, engineering, and technical services throughout the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE CAROLINA PANTHERS FOR THEIR NFC CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my hometown team, the Carolina Panthers, for representing the National Football Conference in Super Bowl 50 after winning the NFC Championship. I would like to congratulate the entire Panthers organization on this outstanding accomplishment and thank them for the excitement the team brought the entire Panthers fan base this season.

Before this NFL season started, few people expected the Carolina Panthers to win enough games to seriously compete for a spot in the postseason playoffs. However, Head Coach Ron Rivera and star quarterback Cam Newton led the Panthers to victory in 15 of their 16 games during the regular season, making the Panthers only the seventh team in NFL history to win 15 games and set a franchise record for the most victories in a single season. In the postseason, the Panthers hosted the NFC Championship in Charlotte for the first time in the franchise's history and earned a spot in the Super Bowl for only the second time since the team organized in 1995. Needless to say, this was a fantastic season that will long be remembered by the players, coaches and fans.

While the team's success on the football field this season is certainly extraordinary, what is even more impressive about the Carolina Panthers is the culture of the organization. The Carolina Panthers are one of the most highly respected organizations in the National Football League; filled with high-character individuals who continually display an active commitment to community service. A great example of their community-centered focus is the grant fund the Carolina Panthers established after the historic flooding that took place in South Carolina during October of 2015. This fund awarded \$250,000 in grants to assist 19 high school athletic departments in the region repair or replace damaged or lost athletic equipment, supplies and infrastructure. This is just one of the many ways the Carolina Panthers give back to their community through charitable acts and community service programs.

In addition to their long list of charitable acts and dedication to serving the community off the field, the Carolina Panthers are frequently recognized as having players and coaches who play the game with character and integrity. This year alone, several players have been recognized for their sportsmanship and leadership on the field. Cam Newton was recognized as the league's Most Valuable Player and Thomas Davis, a linebacker on the Panthers' defense, was awarded the Bart Starr Award, given to a player who exemplifies character and leadership on and off the field. Head Coach Ron Rivera was also recognized as the league's Coach of the Year and was honored by the Panthers for two consecutive years as its Salute to Service Award nominee. This award is given by the NFL in partnership with the United Services Automobile Association to a member of the NFL community who demonstrates a commitment to honor and

support members of the armed services, veterans and their families.

Clearly, the Carolina Panthers are a first-class organization both on and off the field. This can be attributed to one man, Carolina Panthers' founder and owner Jerry Richardson. Mr. Richardson is the epitome of dignity and class, and is one of the finest men I have ever known. In everything he does, Mr. Richardson carries himself as a true professional and Southern gentleman. He always looks for opportunities to give back to the community he loves and to assist those who are in need. Mr. Richardson is a loyal and patient man who genuinely cares about those who work for him, and I would argue he is one of the finest owners in NFL history. Without Mr. Richardson, there would be no Carolina Panthers and the success this franchise has achieved on the field and the superior culture established within the organization would not be possible. There is no one more deserving of this championship than Mr. Richardson, and I look forward to him leading the Carolina Panthers to even greater success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Carolina Panthers for their NFC Championship victory, and thanking Mr. Richardson and the entire Panthers organization for their tireless efforts to better our community. Go Panthers and Keep Pounding!

CINCO RANCH SWIM TEAM RACES TO STATE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cinco Ranch High School Swimming Program from Katy, TX for earning Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and for setting a state record at the 2016 Division 6A finals of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Swimming and Diving Championships.

The Cinco Ranch Cougars took home three gold medals, two silver, and three bronze in addition to a State Record for the 200-yard freestyle relay at the UIL State Competition on February 20th, 2016. In addition to this impressive standing, both girls and boys teams were in the top 10 ranking within the division 6A tier; how impressive. Athletes compete in the Breaststroke, Medley, Freestyle, Diving, Butterfly, and Backstroke categories. We are proud of our Cinco Ranch Cougars and can't wait to see what they do next.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Cinco Ranch High School Swimming Program for all of their success at the UIL meet. Keep up the great work.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD "RICK" D. DEGRAW

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of an Arizona political legend, a recognized business leader, an advocate for worker's rights and a dedicated

husband and father. Richard "Rick" DeGraw has been a fixture in Arizona public service for three decades, working for Governor Bruce Babbitt, the Arizona Legislature and the Maricopa County Community College District.

Mr. DeGraw is now retiring after serving as the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at CopperPoint Mutual Insurance Company, Arizona's largest provider of worker's compensation insurance. Mr. DeGraw came to CopperPoint in 2006 to create and oversee the Communications and Public Affairs Division. In this role he oversaw the successful rebranding of the company and was responsible for the Legal Division, Human Resources, Facilities, Real Estate Operations, Security, Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Community Development, Corporate Outreach and Executive Administration and Support.

In addition to his more than full-time job, Mr. DeGraw spearheaded the effort to build a memorial honoring the 119 fallen firefighters and paramedics who have died in the line of duty in Arizona. Mr. DeGraw has long been an advocate and friend to the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona, even earning their coveted award of Honorary Fire Fighter many years ago, one of only ten individuals in the State of Arizona to earn the title.

Mr. DeGraw has been an advisor and a mentor for generations of Arizona elected officials and their staff on both sides of the aisle. He has worked on over 100 political campaigns and is credited with helping create true political change in Phoenix and across Arizona. Mr. DeGraw is also a social worker and served as a pastor and a Chaplain in his youth. I can personally attest to Rick's political genius, calming warmth, and dedication to public service. I am proud to call him my friend and I know he will continue to bring positive change to our community for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE INSTALLATION
OF A HISTORIC MARKER FOR
JIMMIE LEE JACKSON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, the Alabama Tourism Department will honor the life of Voting Rights martyr, Jimmie Lee Jackson, by installing a historic marker in front of the courthouse in Marion, Alabama. I want to join in acknowledging this great honor and the tremendous personal sacrifice of the family of Jimmie Lee Jackson who lost his life in the fight for voter equality in America.

At the age of 26, Jimmie Lee Jackson, a Marion, Alabama native, was brutally killed at the hands of an Alabama State Trooper on February 18, 1965. He was killed while trying to protect his mother and 82 year old grandfather after attending a voting rights rally. The state trooper confronted the family at Mack's Café in Marion and shot Jimmie Lee Jackson at point blank range for simply shielding his family from the intimidation and retribution being carried out by law enforcement. It is heartbreaking to think that it was the audacity of this young man and his family to peacefully protest for their constitutional rights that led to his brutal murder at the hands of law enforcement.

The senseless murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson served as the catalyst for the voting rights movement in Selma. Jimmie Lee Jackson deserves to have his proper place in American history as a true agent of change. Likewise, I was honored to sponsor the National Park Service efforts that led to the City of Marion being added to the Selma to Montgomery Historic Trail as the starting point of the historic road of the Voting Rights Movement.

So today, March 2, 2016, it is befitting that the State of Alabama would honor Jimmie Lee Jackson with the installation of a historic marker at the front of the courthouse in Marion. The marker will commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of Jimmie Lee Jackson, and will also serve as a reminder for generations to come that freedom is not free—but rather freedom is paid for at a hefty cost.

The senseless killing of Jimmie Lee Jackson shocked the consciousness of the American public and galvanized the local folks to be even more resolved to fight against the inequalities in voting. Jimmie Lee Jackson's death helped reignite the push for federal voting protections and led James Bevel of the SCLC to organize the Selma to Montgomery march.

On February 24, 2016, the United States Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in the 1965 Voting Rights Marches from Selma to Montgomery. While Jimmie Lee Jackson did not live to participate in the Selma to Montgomery March, he was there in spirit. It was his spirit that gave strength to the weak, that gave courage to the scared, and that gave hope to the hopeless.

To the family of Jimmie Lee Jackson, I say this Nation owes a debt of gratitude for your personal sacrifice for which we will never be able to fully repay. My hope is that the national recognition of the special role that Jimmie Lee Jackson played and today's historic marker by the State of Alabama is a powerful tribute to his life and the significance of his sacrifice.

Today we celebrate Jimmie Lee Jackson, but we are also reminded that the fight for voting rights still continues. Jimmie Lee Jackson did not stand on the sidelines, waiting patiently for justice to come. Nor should we. We must continue the fight to renew the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot, and that every vote matters.

Jimmie Lee Jackson recognized the importance of the vote. He recognized the power that the ballot box held. Accordingly, we owe it to ourselves and to the memory of Jimmie Lee Jackson to continue his fight.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Central Command, United States Africa Command, and United States Special Operations Command.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD-138

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine State Department reauthorization, focusing on an opportunity to strengthen and streamline United States diplomacy.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine measuring results and proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

SD-138

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Air Force modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine military personnel posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

To hold hearings to examine the state of the United States maritime industry, focusing on the Federal role.

SR-253

3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office.

SD-192

MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine cooperative federalism, focusing on state perspectives on Environmental Protection Agency regulatory actions and the role of states as co-regulators.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Indian Health Service.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Joseph L. Votel, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Central Command, and Lieutenant General Raymond A. Thomas III, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special Operations Command.

SD-G50

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 1878, to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program, S. 1077, to provide for expedited development of and priority review for breakthrough devices, S. 1101, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of patient records and certain decision support software, S. 2055, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to national health security, S. 1767, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act

with respect to combination products, S. 1597, to enhance patient engagement in the medical product development process, S. 2512, to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage treatments for Zika virus, and the nomination of John B. King, of New York, to be Secretary of Education.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Defense Health Program.

SD-192

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-124

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for Indian Country.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense security cooperation and assistance programs and authorities.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold closed hearings to examine military space threats and programs in re-

view of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

MARCH 10

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-192

MARCH 15

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine the current state of readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 16

10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple Veterans Service Organizations.

SD-G50

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on telecommunications, focusing on the need for additional coordination and performance measurement for high-speed Internet access programs on tribal lands.

SD-628

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50