

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1877, the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2015. This act would amend the Public Health Service Act to finance, through grants, mental health first aid programs and would codify the type of training to be included as part of those programs. Mental health is an issue that Congress has attempted to address for years, and this is a great step in the right direction. As a healthcare professional, I have seen firsthand the multitude of issues plaguing mental health patients and the lack of training associated with properly addressing those symptoms and ailments.

This bill also addresses the personnel who should be trained under this program to include law enforcement, first responders, teachers, human resources professionals, religious leaders, nurses and other primary care personnel. By training and assisting those people who would be the first to help someone who is experiencing mental health issues, they can diagnose and properly refer them to professional mental health care providers.

Learning to de-escalate situation is an integral part of this legislation, and to helping those with mental health issues because it prepares first responders on how to safely look after both the patient and others in the immediate area. Mental health is an issue that often flies under the radar, but one we can make serious advances in taking up. I want to thank Congresswoman JENKINS and the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work and for bringing this to the floor for a vote. Together, we can shine a light on mental health needs. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following materials:

STATEMENT FROM DHS PRESS SECRETARY LAURA KEEHNER ON THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL BACKUP SYSTEM TO GPS

(February 7, 2008)

Today the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will begin implementing an independent national positioning, navigation and timing system that complements the Global

Positioning System (GPS) in the event of an outage or disruption in service.

The enhanced Loran, or eLoran, system will be a land-based, independent system and will mitigate any safety, security, or economic effects of a GPS outage or disruption. GPS is a satellite-based system widely used for positioning, navigation, and timing. The eLoran system will be an enhanced and modernized version of Loran-C, long used by mariners and aviators and originally developed for civil marine use in coastal areas.

In addition to providing backup coverage, the signal strength and penetration capability of eLoran will provide support to first responders and other operators in environments that GPS cannot support, such as under heavy foliage, in some underground areas, and in dense high-rise structures. The system will use modernized transmitting stations and an upgraded network.

NATIONAL PNT ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS ON JAMMING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM— A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT: RECENT EVENTS AND POTENTIAL CURES

(November 4, 2010)

Summary: The United States is now critically dependent on GPS. For example, cell phone towers, power grid synchronization, new aircraft landing systems, and the future FAA Air Traffic Control System (NEXGEN) cannot function without it. Yet we find increasing incidents of deliberate or inadvertent interference that render GPS inoperable for critical infrastructure operations.

Most alarming, the very recent web availability of small GPS-Jammers suggests the problem will get worse. These so-called personal protection devices (PPDs) as well as other, readily available, more powerful devices can deliberately jam the Global Positioning System (GPS) signal over tens of square miles. They also can be devastating to the other, new foreign satellite navigation systems being deployed worldwide.

PPDs are illegal to operate, but many versions are available (for as little as \$30) from foreign manufacturers over the Internet. The simplest models plug in to a cigarette lighter and prevent all GPS reception within a line of sight range of 5 to 10 miles. Current penalty for operation is simply that the device is confiscated.

We currently lack sufficient capabilities to locate and mitigate GPS jamming. It literally took months to locate such a device that was interfering with a new GPS-based landing system being installed at Newark Airport, NJ.

This paper provides background on satellite navigation and describes the impact of these dangerous PPDs and other disruptive radio frequency interference (Jamming). It also suggests needed action and discusses technical measures needed to harden GPS receivers against PPDs. The PNT Advisory Board believes that countermeasures and actions must be urgently developed.

We strongly believe that the Executive Branch should formally declare GPS a "Critical Infrastructure." But that is clearly only the first action and is by no means sufficient. A multiple agency approach must be urgently developed and executed.

We must quickly develop and field systems that will rapidly locate, mitigate and shut-down the interference. In addition, laws are needed with the power to arrest and pros-

ecute deliberate offenders. [This would be similar to legal action in response to the recent spate of laser attacks on pilots in flight].

Finally, we discuss the need for alternate navigation systems such as eLoran or a backup system currently being configured by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). While the foreign GPS-equivalent systems may offer some help against accidental interference, web sites are already offering devices that will effectively shut down all satellite-based radio navigation signals.

Note that all of these actions and jamming countermeasures tend to deter those who would deliberately interfere with the signals.

Specific Recommendations:

1. National Focus.

GPS should be formally declared critical infrastructure by Executive Branch and managed as such by DHS.

2. National Alerting and Pinpointing Interference Locations.

The National Executive Committee should establish and sponsor a National GPS Interference Locating, Reporting, and Elimination System; coordinating and expanding on the resources of several Departments.

3. Shutting Down and Prosecuting Interferers—

Legal and Law Enforcement actions. The National Executive Committee should examine whether or not they should sponsor Legislation in Congress that addresses interference to GPS that provides substantial fines and jail time for both possession and use of GPS jammers.

4. Hardening GPS Receivers and Antennas.

Government should foster and help to stimulate Manufacturers to speed up the development and offering of interference resistant GPS receivers, especially for safety-of-life applications such as commercial air and maritime.

5. Fund a National back-up capability to insure continuity of PNT Operations.

We strongly recommend that the previously announced decision (to deploy eLoran as the primary Alternate PNT) should be reconfirmed and quickly implemented.

We support the FAA's efforts to provide Alternate PNT options that can provide a robust backup to GPS and deter malicious interference.

JUSTIFICATION AND RATIONALE

Background

The utility of GPS continues to increase with an ever-broadening set of applications including military use, aircraft guidance, harbor navigation, car navigation, emergency response and personal navigation. It is now estimated there are close to one billion users.

GPS is a one-way system; it broadcasts line-of-sight signals from a set of satellites in medium earth orbit (MEO) to the earthbound users carrying GPS receivers. The satellites are approximately 12,000 miles above the receivers. These satellites are placed at this altitude, so that the coverage of an individual satellite is over one third of the Earth's surface. With 30 satellites carefully arranged in MEO, all earthbound users of GPS (with a clear view of the sky) can see at least the prerequisite four satellites to determine user location instantaneously. MEO is used so that a reasonably sized constellation can aid navigation worldwide. Lower orbits would require much larger constellations for worldwide instantaneous coverage.

• 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.

For the reason described above, all GNSS satellites are placed in medium earth orbit (MEO). However, because the journey from MEO to the surface of the earth is 12,000 miles long, the GNSS signals are weak. They have a received power of only 10^{-16} Watts (equivalent to a Los Angeles user receiving the light from 60 watt lightbulb in New York), and can be easily overwhelmed by earth-sourced interfering transmissions at the GPS frequency. As described below, this radio frequency interference (RFI) can be: scheduled, accidental, or malevolent.

Critical Dependency on GPS

Much of our infrastructure is critically dependent on Positioning and Time from GPS. Two such dependencies illustrate this.

First, most telephone cell towers require GPS time to insure they are synchronized and cooperate. Recent instances of jamming in New York have rendered whole neighborhoods without cell service including Emergency Service Providers.

A Second example is the use of GPS for Aircraft Approach to Landing Fields. These GPS-based systems are being deployed and are particularly useful at airports where good alternatives are not available such as at Aspen, CO and Juneau, AK. There are now more FAA-sanctioned GPS approaches than the older beam-steering type. (Over 2000 GPS approaches). The value of these systems is enormous but the vulnerability is not universally appreciated: it took over a month to locate the deliberate small Jammer that was periodically driven by Newark airport. This example is particularly pertinent because the FAA's NextGen Air Traffic Control System is critically dependent on GPS. Proliferated Jammers would cripple the new system which is expected to greatly reduce aircraft delays.

Other Applications: GPS as a "Stealth" Utility. GPS has been aptly called the Stealth Utility. There are literally 100s of additional application examples. Some are safety-of-life (e.g., air and marine), some are startling productivity improvements (e.g., agriculture) and some are simply convenience or recreation (e.g., car navigation). It is now estimated that there are close to 1 Billion GPS receivers worldwide.

The GPS Jamming Threat

Scheduled RFI is probably the largest cause of GPS outages today. The military testing of GPS jamming causes these outages. The events are localized (usually in the Southwestern US), scheduled (during periods of light air traffic), and approved/coordinated by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA announces all upcoming events in Notices to Airmen. Because of the ever-greater Airway-Dependency on GPS, the FAA is increasingly reluctant to grant permission for these tests.

Accidental RFI has certainly interfered with GPS countless times, both domestically and internationally. Most events are probably not reported. The user who is denied service may not even know to whom it should be reported. These disruptive events include unintentional interference due to harmonics from broadcast television, and improperly designed wireless data communication systems.

Deliberate interference, called jamming, is the looming threat. Many of the billion GPS users have become extremely dependent on GPS accuracy, 24 hour availability, and outstanding integrity. This dependency makes GPS a very appealing target for sabotage or malicious mischief.

This white paper is a plea that the National Decision Makers address this situation.

Deliberate Jamming: the so-called "Personal Privacy Devices"

In the past year, so-called personal privacy devices (PPDs) have become widely available on the Internet. A simple example of such products is shown in Figure 1. The most inexpensive PPDs are single antenna devices that jam the one GPS signal frequency (L1) that is used by most users. More expensive units have multiple antennas and attack all three GPS signal frequencies (L1, L2 and L5). As such, these attackers anticipate the next generation of GPS user equipment that would continue to function if only one or two of the three frequencies were jammed. Others PPDs jam cell phone frequencies at the same time, shutting down all calls. They are preferred by car thieves that wish to prevent an on-car warning systems to report the location of a stolen car to the authorities using a GPS receiver connected to a cell phone link.

As shown in Figure 2 (Eldredge, 2010), PPDs range in price from \$30 to over \$300 based on the number of frequencies under attack and the transmitted power. Some radiate only a few milli-watts and other broadcast several watts. The former knock out GPS receivers for hundreds of yards, and the latter can have dangerous effects for many miles.

As their name suggests, PPDs are marketed to individuals that fear for their privacy. This sales strategy seems to be effective. An investigation recently initiated by the FAA revealed that trucks traveling on the New Jersey Turnpike were carrying these devices. Perhaps, these drivers worry that the company dispatcher was monitoring their locations. Ironically, the attention of the dispatcher must be drawn to the truck that never provides location reports.

Jamming Examples—the threat is real and getting worse.

Newark Airport. In any event, a PPD can cause collateral damage much greater than any privacy protection the user may possible enjoy. The above-mentioned FAA investigation was sparked while the FAA was installing a new GPS-based landing system for aircraft at Newark International Airport. This new system uses GPS receivers on the ground to aid GPS receivers in the approaching aircraft. This technique allows the use of all runways during restricted visibility conditions. The antennas for the FAA's ground receivers are shown in Figure 3 (Eldredge, 2010), which also shows the proximity to the New Jersey Turnpike. During system test, the FAA noticed that the GPS ground receivers suffered one or two breaks in reception on many days. PPDs were identified as the cause of the continuity breaks after an investigation that lasted several months. If PPDs gain notoriety, they could gain the interest of hackers. These people may not be particularly worried about their location privacy, but may simply enjoy the notion of jamming GPS over wide areas.

Military—North Korean Incident. Malevolent RFI is known as jamming. Enemy Jammers were deployed in Iraq to interfere with US weapons systems during Operation Desert Storm. Most recently, military analysts have expressed concern about recent GPS jammers tested by the North Koreans. (Telematics, 2010). On August 23 and 25 of this year, jamming signals emanating from the North Korean city of Kaesong. These attacks interfered with South Korean GPS military and civilian receivers on land and at sea. Officials say the jammers were repeatedly switched on for 10-minute periods over a number of hours during the three days. South Korea's defense minister, Kim Tae-young, voiced concern to members of the National Assembly. He correctly observed that the North Koreans can mount

transmitters on vehicles that can jam GPS signals within a 50 to 100 kilometer radius. Professor Park Young-wook, with Kwangwoon University's Defense Industry Research Institute, states that such jamming must be considered a serious threat if it reoccurs because GPS is an integral part of the infrastructure, not only for the military but for many other industries.

We certainly share the concerns voiced by Minister Tae-young and Professor Young-wook. However, we feel that the greater danger is posed by the propagation of GPS jamming technology to the wider public through devices sold on the Internet. These threats were described earlier.

Maritime Controlled-Jamming Experiments. Until recently, GPS receivers for non-aviation purposes have not enjoyed the scrutiny or extensive testing used by the aviation community. Because of their designs and clear line-of sight exposure, Maritime receivers can certainly be more vulnerable than aviation receivers. The following figures (Last, 2010) depict some disquieting results from recent trials conducted by the General Lighthouse Authorities (GLA) of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

During these trials, a jammer was deployed shown in Figure 4. As shown in Figure 5, this jammer had a devastating effect on the shipborne GPS receiver carried through the jamming zone. The receiver reports a faithful position track (in light blue) when the ship is far to the Northwest or far to the Southeast of the jamming wedge.

Within the wedge, the receiver is overwhelmed and reports no position fix—the jammer breaks GPS continuity. GPS shows no solution. As the receiver approaches or has just departed the wedge, an extremely hazardous result occurs. The receiver suffers large position errors without an accompanying warning—integrity is broken. This is shown as the string of dots to the south and to the southeast of the actual blue track. These last results are most troubling, because the bridge personnel would not be warned that the navigation system was degraded.

In another set of trials, the GLA placed a low power jammer on board the Trinity House Vessel Galatea. As shown in Figure 6, this jammer induced position reports that skipped across Scandinavia and Ireland while the ship sat steadfastly in the English Channel (the yellow track). Among the systems affected by the interference were the ship's radar and gyrocompass, key reverberatory systems when GPS fails.

The worrisome results shown in Figures 5 and 6 would not affect an aviation receiver, because aviation standards insist on an internal set of tests (algorithms) for RFI. We later recommend that these algorithms or equivalents become part of the standards for receivers used in any safety-of-life applications.

Recommended Actions to Counter the Threat of GPS Interference

There is not any practical way to completely eliminate GPS interference. But steps can be taken to greatly reduce the frequency and impacts of such interference. Further, actions can be taken to insure that GPS receivers do not give false indications of position or time. Our recommendations are:

1. National Focus. GPS is absolutely critical US National Infrastructure. This has not been formally recognized. GPS should be formally declared critical infrastructure by Executive Branch and managed as such by DHS. This is necessary to elevate the importance of GPS to our critical infrastructure and bring the needed attention to the interference problem. The various existing national interference programs must be coordinated and gaps must be filled with additional

funded efforts (see later recommendations). Senior leadership must recognize the vulnerabilities of the current critical infrastructure and give high priority to budgets and solutions.

2. National Alerting and Pinpointing Interference Locations. The NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE should establish and sponsor a National GPS Interference Locating, Reporting, and Elimination System; coordinating and expanding on the resources of several Departments. It took several months to locate the PPD that shut down the Newark landing system. Technology exists to locate such sources much more quickly. To rapidly alert and pinpoint interference, two elements are required: 1. sensing of the interference and 2. a communications channel to report the problem in real-time. For example, every cell phone tower could be configured to expand the functionality of their GPS timing receiver by promptly recognizing and reporting interference, including pertinent characteristics. The incremental cost would be extremely small. Another example: many toll booths routinely videotape vehicles including license plates. A properly configured GPS receiver at the booth could identify vehicles that are broadcasting interference. There are many more national reference receivers that could be so configured. Cell phones that include GPS receivers can be configured to sense and automatically report suspected interference. This would constitute a near instantaneous reporting channel, worldwide. Of course a central data-gathering location is needed; it could be collocated with preexisting civil/military resources such as WAAS, NGPS or the Air Force's 2SOPS. In turn, the located sources must be reported for appropriate action. No such National (or International) Real-Time System exists today or is even currently planned.

3. Shutting Down and Prosecuting Interferers—Legal and Law Enforcement actions. When the mobile jammer was finally located at Newark, the only punitive action for the deliberate interference was to confiscate the Jammer. The coordination of FAA, FCC, FBI, and DOD was commendable, but ad hoc and very tardy. The PNT Executive Board should sponsor Legislation in Congress that addresses interference to GPS with laws that provide substantial fines and jail time for both possession and use of GPS jammers. Precedents have already been established with the laws enacted to prevent and deter lasers being aimed at Pilots as they attempt to land airplanes. Australia, which is also very reliant on GPS for Air Traffic control, has a law that fines the possessor of a GPS jammer \$100,000. In addition, operational procedures for rapid interdepartmental reaction and mitigation of interference must be established. A reasonable goal is to locate and shut down any jammer in a matter of hours.

4. Hardening GPS Receivers and Antennas. In addition to legal action, we wish to galvanize a technical effort to strengthen all GPS receivers. GPS receivers should never give the Hazardous and Misleading Information (HMI) that is shown in figure 6. The techniques to avoid this are well known and specified for all FAA certified equipment. All GPS safety-of-life receivers should include the integrity algorithms specified by the FAA. There are also well-known design techniques to greatly reduce outages of GPS receivers due to interference. Examples include: special antennas that null interference, coasting thorough interference by using inertial components and/or small atomic clocks, as well as physical shielding in the direction of presumed jamming. Some would add significant cost but may be warranted for safety-of life and other critical ap-

plications. New supplementary devices can make GPS receivers more robust and are becoming more affordable. (e.g. miniature accelerometers, chip scale atomic clocks etc.)

Some actions are being taken. For example, the FAA is already hardening the GPS receivers and antennas placed on the ground at Newark International Airport. Changes include: GPS antennas that are less vulnerable to radio frequency interference; improved practices for placement of GPS antennas on the airport (farther from public roadways); and receiver algorithms that more quickly recover when the PPD moves away from the GPS antenna. Manufacturers should speed up the offering of interference resistant GPS receivers, especially for safety-of-life applications such as commercial maritime. These receivers should use FAA techniques to insure they do not display Hazardous and Misleading Information during periods of interference.

5. Establishing GPS Backups to insure continuity of PNT Operations. As described above, GPS receivers should certainly be made more robust against jamming. In addition, we feel that the nation should vigorously support efforts to provide Alternate Position, Navigation and Time (APNT). In this final section, we first describe the role of planned foreign satellite systems (GNSS) that are similar to GPS. Unfortunately they have the same susceptibility to interference as GPS. Next we describe two alternate techniques to determine PNT (APNT) that are more jam-resistant and could be readily made operational.

GNSS. GPS is now recognized worldwide, and other nations are responding with satellite navigation systems of their own. The Russians are reinvigorating their satellite navigation system called GLONASS, and new systems are being developed in China, Europe, Japan and India. Taken together, GPS and these other systems are called Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

These other systems are valuable for improved accuracy and integrity. In addition they will offer frequency diversity. Therefore they will be helpful in countering unintentional interference at a single frequency. The new PFD (Jammers) being sold on the web will also prevent use of these foreign GPS-like systems as well as cell phones. Thus these new foreign systems will not be helpful in operating during deliberate jamming radiated by the better devices currently available.

While a number of backup PNT systems have been considered, there are two major alternatives for APNT that have emerged as being particularly useful:

1. e-Loran: Loran is a ground-based radio-navigation system that preceded satellite navigation. It finds its origins in World War II, and enjoyed wide spread adoption after the grounding of the Argo Merchant on Georges Bank. At that time, the U.S. Coast Guard began to require Loran carriage by ships over a certain tonnage in the Coastal Confluence Zone of the United States. Importantly, Loran is based on the broadcast of extremely high power signals in the low frequency portion of the radio spectrum. The frequency of transmission is 10,000 lower than the GPS frequencies in the microwave band, and the power of the transmission is 1000 times greater than the GPS transmission power. An updated version of called eLoran has now been developed and tested. It is very robust, resistant to interference and has two dimensional accuracies of about 20 meters in critical areas. It is not nearly as accurate as the best GPS, and the lack of the vertical dimension reduces eLoran's effectiveness, yet it is a very robust APNT system.

In December 2006, an Independent Assessment Team was appointed, reporting to DOT and DHS. It was under the administration of the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA). After careful review over many weeks, they unanimously recommended that the eLoran deployment be completed as a backup for GPS. Yearly cost to maintain this in the US was about 20 \$M. This is about 1/10th the cost of a single GPS satellite. The DHS then made an announcement that eLoran was the official APNT system for the US. The Schlesinger-chaired PNT Advisory Board has also unanimously recommended that eLoran be deployed and maintained as a GPS backup.

For these reasons, the international navigation community has also strongly supported the upgrade and sustainment of the Loran system in any number of forums. This recommendation has been heeded in Europe. Indeed, Figure 7 shows the faithful position track provided by enhanced Loran (e-Loran) as the ship traverses the jamming wedge generated by the General Lighthouse Authorities from Flamborough. Figure 7 provides a stark contrast to the GPS-based results in Figure 5. Unfortunately, DHS has not followed through with their announcement: the Loran system in the United States has been turned off.

We strongly recommend that the previously announced decision (to deploy eLoran as the primary APNT) should be reconfirmed and quickly implemented. The reasons for this are clearly stated in the IDA white paper. It is the most viable and robust backup to GPS and can be implemented in a way that is virtually seamless to the user.

2. Alternate Navigation for the Next Generation Air Transportation System: Today, the FAA uses an extensive network of terrestrial navigation aides to mitigate GPS outages. This backup navigation capability is based on ground-based navigation aids that precede GPS. All of these extant systems support point-to-point navigation. Even though these transmissions are reasonably robust against RFI, this point-to-point capability may not be suitable for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). NextGen anticipates an increase in air operations by a factor of two or more by 2025, and will enable a host of operational improvements needed to smoothly support this traffic increase. NextGen is based on GPS, satellite-based augmentation systems (SBAS), and ground-based augmentation systems (GBAS). All of these systems provide so-called area navigation (RNAV). In other words, they provide guidance over a volume, and the alternate navigation system of 2025 also needs to provide a volumetric aid to navigation.

Thus, the FAA is actively exploring alternate position, navigation time (APNT) as part of their NextGen effort, because the airspace should not revert to inefficient point-to-point navigation should RFI interrupt GPS-based operations in the 2025 timeframe. This APNT capability would be based on a reconfiguration of existing or planned FAA ground facilities (Eldredge, 2010), and Figure 8 shows part of the ground infrastructure that can be utilized to provide this APNT area navigation capability.

Time Synchronization: As part of their APNT effort, the FAA has identified three architectures that may be suitable for alternate area navigation in 2025. These straw men are based on the sites shown in Figure 8, but two of these APNT architectures require time synchronization of neighboring ground sites. To this end, the FAA has investigated time transfer based on hardened GPS receivers and low earth orbiting satellites (LEOs). In the former case, jammers are attenuated by so-called controlled radiation pattern antennas. In the latter case, the

needed processing gain derives from the proximity of the LEOs. Indeed, the altitude of the LEOs is approximately twenty times less than the GNSS altitude. Thus LEOs have small earth footprints and cannot provide the navigation performance associated with GNSS. However, the signal received from this nearby source is approximately 400 times greater than the power received from GNSS. Thus, LEOs could provide the robust time transfer capability needed to support APNT, because time transfer only requires one satellite to be in the common view of the ground stations to be synchronized.

We encourage the FAA to continue efforts and to provide an APNT that is a robust backup to GPS and deterrent to malicious interference.

Summary and Conclusions:

The interference threats to GPS are very real and promise to get worse. These threats potentially imperil much of the US. infrastructure. It will take some time to field a full set of countermeasures and systems. Failure to act will be a serious abdication of our national responsibility.

DANGEROUS SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016.

This bill would amend the Controlled Substances Act to account for the rise and spread of synthetic drugs in America. Requirements and restrictions for schedule 1 controlled substances would also have to be applied to the manufacturers and sales points for those substances.

Using workaround and loopholes in existing legislation, these manufacturers, and those who distribute and sell those substances, have been able to continue their business by staying one step ahead of the law. For too long, we have seen overdoses and other medical issues arise as a result of the use of these unregulated substances.

Under Congressman DENT's leadership, we can make real progress in closing those loopholes and ensuring that Americans will no longer be subjected to the deceptive advertising or allure of these toxic and dangerous synthetic drugs.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I have fought the tide of drug abuse and this legislation is truly a win for everyone. I want to thank Congressman DENT and the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work and for bringing this to the floor for a vote. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

ROBIN HAMPTON WILLS

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birth of Robin "Hampton" Wills, born Monday, September 5th, 2016.

Our precious granddaughter entered the world eight weeks early, but we know she is a fighter. While her first breath on this Earth came much quicker than planned, she is doing very well.

Hampton was born at University Hospital, where she was cared for in the neonatal intensive care unit for three weeks. She has just been transferred to the Medical College of Georgia Hospital where she is recovering and gaining strength.

Little Miss Hampton weighed in at four pounds nine ounces. Just shy of five pounds, this beautiful little girl was welcomed with love into a family of four. She looks so much like her two older sisters, Riley Kate and Ellis.

Baby Hampton is the perfect addition to our family. She brings the grand total of grandchildren to 12, an even dozen for Robin and me.

Hampton is a blessing from above, and we thank the Lord for watching over her and her mother in the coming months as they continue to heal and grow. Our family is so grateful for the many wonderful medical personnel in Augusta who cared for Hampton and her mother.

God bless this child, Robin "Hampton" Wills.

COMMEMORATING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the people of Taiwan celebrate the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan). As we approach this important day, we should take the time to commemorate Taiwan, an important economic partner and vital ally in Asia.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. Taiwan has been a reliable partner in East Asia. According to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. trade in goods with Taiwan reached US\$ 66 billion last year. For a population of only 23 million, Taiwan became the United States' 9th largest trading partner in 2015. Also, Taiwan is the state of New York's 6th largest export market in Asia.

It happens that the 39th Triennial Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will also be taking place in Montreal, Canada, beginning on September 27, 2016. The U.S. Congress passed a bill in 2013, which was later signed into law, for supporting Taiwan's participation in the triennial assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the capacity of an observer. Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR), administered by Taiwan government, provided over 1.53 million instances of air traffic control services and handled 58 million incoming and outgoing passengers in 2015, serving as an indispensable part of the global air transport network. Taiwan sent a delegation to the ICAO assembly in 2013. We will be happy to see that Taiwan to be invited again this September.

On Taiwan's National Day, we reaffirm the strength of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and the United States commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. It is an honor and privilege to support our friend and partner Taiwan and highlight the bonds that connect us.

THANKING JACKSON MAYOR RICHARD LONG FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Richard Long of Jackson, Alabama.

Since 2000, Mayor Long has led the City of Jackson. Under his leadership, the city has seen the quality of life increase, as well as economic growth.

Mayor Long's service to his country and community started early in his life. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, he served in the United States Navy Reserves for nine years, including two years of active duty. In 1962, he was awarded the Cuban Blockade Medal for his contribution to the Cuban Naval Blockade. He has also been a lifelong member of VFW Post 5335.

His service to Jackson started as early as 1979, when he joined the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department. He would go on to serve on the Jackson City Council representing District 2 (1984 to 1988) and District 3 (1992 to 2000).

After being elected mayor in 2000, Mayor Long went to work to improve the quality of life for Jackson's residents. During his tenure, the city has made major investments and improvements to city infrastructure. Notable projects include the Jackson Police Complex, Municipal Court Building, public library expansion, senior citizens complex, water treatment plant, softball stadium, tennis complex, and high school athletic complex.

Mayor Long has been an especially strong advocate for education in his community. As Mayor, he oversaw construction of the new Joe M. Gillmore Elementary School, as well as updates and improvements to other programs. The schools in Jackson are recognized as some of the best in the region, and Mayor Long has a lot to do with that.

In 2008, Mayor Long was named "Mayor of the Year" by the Alabama Communities of Excellence Programs. This is just one of many honors and recognitions he has received throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Richard Long will be retiring from public service in November. I know his leadership and dedicated service will be missed, but his contributions to the City of Jackson will live on for decades to come. On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to thank Mayor Long for his service and wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING DICK GODDARD

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Dick Goddard on a

lifetime of success in Northeast Ohio and to offer my best wishes on his retirement. As an Akron, Ohio native, Dick has left a legacy in Northeast Ohio with his passionate involvement as a meteorologist, animal activist, and sports enthusiast.

Dick's weather career started early during his service with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict. Initially assigned to the Severe Storm Forecast Center at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, his military career soon brought him to the Pacific Islands to an assignment with the Atomic Energy Commission for the first full-yield hydrogen bomb test. After his discharge from the military, Dick began working for the National Weather Service, while simultaneously attending Kent State University and later graduating with a bachelor's of fine arts.

Dick's news career began in 1961 working as an on-air meteorologist at Cleveland's KYW-TV. While at KYW, Dick made meteorological history when flying with the United States Navy Hurricane Hunter on the first low-level, nighttime penetration of a hurricane. In 1966, Dick became chief meteorologist at WJW-TV, Fox 8 Cleveland, where he spent the remainder of his career. During his tenure at Fox 8, Dick captivated his viewership, being named "Ohio's Best Meteorologist" and being voted as "Best Weatherperso".

Directly aligned with his career was his passion for animals, which would be clearly highlighted during his segments on air. Demonstrating his compassion for animals even for the smallest of creatures, Dick is well known for his annual "Woollybear Festival"; drawing more than 100,000 people each year, it is Ohio's largest single day festival. Among the years of animal advocacy, Dick persistently promoted programs for dog & cat care and adoption. As a huge milestone for animal rights and as a culmination of his tireless work, in June of 2016, House Bill 60 of the Ohio Assembly was passed. Otherwise known as "Goddard's Law", House Bill 60 sets to protect animal abuse in increasing the severity of penalties as a 5th degree felony.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me, along with the thousands in Northeast Ohio in paying homage to the man more commonly known as the weather man whose passion for meteorology could be paralleled only to his love for animals.

HONORING THE HAVERFORD
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Haverford Township Police Department on its 100th anniversary of serving and protecting families in Delaware County.

Since 1916, the Haverford Township Police Department has provided critical protection for the residents it serves. The force has grown from a chief and nine officers to the now sixty-nine officers and eighty civilian personnel Chief John Francis Viola leads today.

While the force has grown immensely in the last hundred years, its commitment to public safety has remained constant.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to the fine officers of the Haverford Township Police Department, and I wish them another 100 years of success in serving the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on September 20, 2016 because I was attending a memorial service and I missed votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 670, the Special Needs Trust Fairness and Medicaid Improvement Act, H.R. 5785, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers, and H.R. 5690, the GAO Access and Oversight Act.

H.R. 670 makes an important update to Medicaid to allow individuals with disabilities to set up their own special-needs trusts that are not counted as part of their assets when determining Medicaid eligibility. This will allow individuals to access Medicaid services without having to go through a lengthy process and get a court order to set up a special-needs trust. I support this update to make it easier for individuals to access critical medical services.

H.R. 5785 makes it easier for retired federal air traffic controllers to train the next generation of this important workforce. Under current law, retired air traffic controllers cannot earn more than \$15,720 annually as instructors and still receive their Federal Employees' Retirement System retirement benefits. This bill waives the salary cap for former air traffic controllers so they can be instructors without compromising their retirement benefits. I am pleased that the House passed this important update so that the next generation of controllers can be trained by qualified and experienced instructors.

H.R. 5690 makes it easier for the Government Accountability Office to access certain federal records regarding individuals' employment status for the purposes of determining eligibility for assistance programs such as the National Directory of New Hires, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. This bill clarifies current law so that GAO can access this information from Health and Human Services, which oversees the database. If I had been present, I would have supported the bill.

HONORING COLUMBIA HEIGHTS'
ALL-AMERICA CITY DESIGNATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Columbia Heights for its designation as a 2016 All-America City by the National Civic League. Since its incorporation in 1921, Columbia Heights has demonstrated sincere dedication to creating a safe, livable, and inclusive community.

Columbia Heights' community vitality is a direct result of investing in youth and putting children first. The City has shown great leadership through collaborative efforts such as: Big Brothers and Big Sisters; recreation and education outreach programs; and a strong City, Police Department, and School District partnership. This year, to ensure no child goes hungry in the summer months, Columbia Heights entered into a partnership with Loaves and Fishes to serve a healthy, complete lunch free of charge to local children five days a week.

In 2008 under the leadership of Police Chief Scott Nadeau, the Columbia Heights Police Department implemented a policing philosophy focused on community partnership. Through work with the Columbia Heights school district, the police force drastically reduced criminal activity over a seven-year period and has taken youth arrests from 230 per year to 90 per year. This work earned the city the International Association of Chiefs of Police Award for Community Policing in 2012, and the L. Anthony Sutlin Civic Imagination Award in 2015 from the Department of Justice for collaboration between law enforcement and community members.

The City of Columbia Heights also recently completed construction on a beautiful 22,000 square foot library. In 2014, city residents passed a referendum to raise funds to build a library the city could call its own. Now, Columbia Heights has a tremendous community asset and gathering place that it can be proud of for years to come.

Columbia Heights has actively engaged its new immigrant communities, from working to build a community park in the Circle Terrace neighborhood, to hosting Iftar dinners in the police building to bring the community together.

Columbia Heights stands as a Minnesotan beacon of inclusion and progress. I wish the city of Columbia Heights all the best in its future endeavors of successful community engagement, and congratulate the city on this well-deserved honor.

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF TAIWAN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the National Day of Taiwan, which will take place on October 10, 2016. I extend my warmest congratulations to the people of Taiwan on this special occasion.

Taiwan has transformed into a beacon of democracy and economic opportunity in East Asia. In January of this year, the country elected its first female president, Tsai Ing-wen, in a landmark election. This important moment reflects the incredible progress Taiwan has made to become a free and open democracy. In addition to Taiwan's democratic progress, the country has grown into a major economic power. They are one of the United States' largest trading partners and a major export market for Wisconsin products. Many American companies have benefitted from close economic cooperation with their Taiwanese counterparts.

I also commend Taiwan's work to tackle many global issues with the United States through the U.S.-Taiwan Global Cooperation Training Framework. Together, we have worked on issues such as women's rights, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, democratization, global health and energy security. Taiwan shares many American values, such as freedom, human rights, and civil society. I look forward to our continued partnership as a staunch ally of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on this special day. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, September 26, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 557 and "yea" on roll call vote 558.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016 I was absent due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 557 passage of H.R. 3537—Aye.

Roll Call Number 558 passage of H.R. 5392—Aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND CAPOZUCCA, ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUZERNE COUNTY'S 2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond Capozucca, who will be honored by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County as Person of the Year during the organization's 39th Annual Columbus Day Banquet on October 9, 2016.

Raymond was born May 25, 1939 in Pittston Township to Raymond and Emma Capozucca. After the death of his father, he was enrolled in the Hershey Industrial School for Orphan Boys, now known as Milton Hershey School. Raymond returned home, after graduating in 1957, and worked for two local plumbers. In 1962, founded his own plumbing, heating, and electric business. The business's name was changed to Capozucca Bros. when his brother, Albert, joined six months later. Both Raymond and his brother ran their business until they both retired in the early 2000s.

Throughout the years, Raymond has been involved in numerous clubs and associations. He is a member of the Italian American Citizens Enjoyment Club and a charter member of the Pittston Township Lions Club. He helped found Pittston Township Little League and went on to serve on its board. He served on the board of United Services Agency. He held offices with the Pittston Township Fire Department and was on the board of directors of the Northeast Fair. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Mt. Carmel, now known as St. Joseph Marello Parish, and the Flag Association of Pittston Township.

It is an honor to recognize Raymond for being named the Italian American Association of Luzerne County's Person of the Year. I thank Raymond for all of the service he has given to his community, and I wish Raymond and the Italian American Association all the best this Columbus Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 557 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537, the dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 558 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BARBARA MAIZIE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime friend and local champion, Ms. Barbara Maizie.

Barbara dedicated her whole life to helping others. After arriving at Contra Costa Arc in 1974, her dogged work was instrumental to the creation, preservation, and evolution of life-enhancing supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Through her hard work and dedication, she helped Contra Costa Arc grow to be the largest provider of services in Contra Costa, serving over 900 of all ages. Her steadfast support for the Lanterman Act, both enforcing it and ensuring that people understood the rights they had been granted under it, were unmatched.

Barbara and I met through her tireless work for those with developmental disabilities and their families. Her leadership in saving the George Miller Center, advocacy at state budget hearings, and work to close Developmental Centers has permanently changed our community and the State of California for the better.

Barbara was not only a colleague, but a close friend. Because of Barbara's hard work,

love, and support, the lives of Californians are much improved. She will be sincerely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her, myself included.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote No. 557 on H.R. 3537 "To amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substances analogues are to be regulated and for other purposes," I mistakenly recorded my vote as Yea, when I should have voted Nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 26, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 557 and 558. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 557 and "yes" on roll call vote number 558.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 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 \$19,524,762,977,719.62. We've added \$8,897,885,928,806.54 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JUSTIN SCHROEPFER, RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Justin Schroeffer of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. His life was tragically cut short, but he will always be remembered as a courageous Good Samaritan who put the wellbeing of a perfect stranger ahead of himself.

On July 11, 2016, Justin spotted two women struggling against Lake Superior's strong current. He abandoned his own bachelor party and swam through the frigid water in an attempt to save the lives of two people he did not know. One woman was saved by another

bystander, but tragically, both Justin and the other woman succumbed to the frigid, unpredictable waters.

A graduate of Antigo High School, Mr. Schroepfer was recruited to play baseball at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. He transferred to Northern Michigan University in Marquette after two years and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. With his degree, Mr. Schroepfer pursued a career at Wipfli CPA's and Consultants in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

Along with his talents on the baseball field, Mr. Schroepfer was also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fly-fishing, downhill skiing, and hunting. Mr. Schroepfer was dedicated to his Christian faith and family, and was planning his wedding with the love of his life, Suzy Solin, at his untimely passing.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to recognize Mr. Schroepfer for his courageous action and ultimate sacrifice; we pray that in knowing of his heroic effort, his family and beloved fiancé may find comfort and peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, my flight, US 1782, was delayed by 90 minutes because of thunderstorms, so I arrived after votes were over. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 557, and YEA on Roll Call No. 558.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND BARBER BEN SCHEINKOPF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Scheinkopf, an outstanding community member in Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood. At 96 years old, Mr. Scheinkopf closed his barbershop just last month after more than six decades in business.

A long journey brought Mr. Scheinkopf to the North Side of Chicago. He was born in Poland on October 16, 1919 and was one of nine children. In 1939, the Nazi army invaded his hometown of Plonsk and forced the Jews into a ghetto. The Nazis arrested the roughly 6,000 Jews remaining and sent them to Auschwitz in 1942.

After three years in Auschwitz, Mr. Scheinkopf and his brother, Josef were among the Jews forced to walk in the dead of winter from Auschwitz to Mauthausen. At one point, Josef kept his sick, frail brother alive by hiding him on a cart of dead bodies. Only 30 Jews from Plonsk survived the concentration camps to be liberated by American troops. Ben and Josef Scheinkopf were two of the survivors.

Ben Scheinkopf moved to Munich, Germany after the war and worked as a barber for the troops. In 1954, he relocated to Chicago and continued cutting hair. At the time, he was one

of seven Jewish barbers working on the North Side. He continued running that barbershop at Touhy and California until this past August.

"Benny the Barber" wrote a letter to his customers and neighbors upon the barbershop's closure, and I would like to share an excerpt: "I have been fortunate to have had a marvelous, long career giving hair cuts to generations of customers who have become my friends. . . . It has been my distinct pleasure to serve and be part of the community for so many years. I will miss you all and I will not forget you."

We will not forget him either. Ben Scheinkopf is a remarkable man—a Holocaust survivor and a neighborhood institution. I wish him all the best as he devotes his retirement to spending more time with family and cheering the Chicago Cubs to the World Series.

HONORING DAISAKU IKEDA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daisaku Ikeda, President of the Soka Gakkai International who is celebrating the anniversary of his first visit to New York. Mr. Ikeda is a leader who has served New York's community—indeed our entire City—with distinction.

Daisaku Ikeda's first visit to New York was October 2nd, 1960, to introduce America to the compassionate and enlightening teachings of Buddhism as a practical way for individuals to create harmonious families and communities in order to create a peaceful and sustainable world for all humanity. Dr. Ikeda's lifetime has been focused on striving for peace in New York City and around the world.

Since his arrival, the New York SGI organization has grown significantly—today New York City is home to some 13,500 active members of SGI-USA, with 33 Chapters hosting over 200 monthly neighborhood discussion meetings. New York City enjoys two SGI Buddhist Culture Centers, in Queens and Manhattan, with a third center currently under construction in the heart of the 7th Congressional District in Brooklyn—which will be completed in 2017.

Dr. Ikeda continues, with tremendous youthful energy and passion, to be a constant inspiration to thousands of New Yorkers as well as millions around the world. His thoughts are best expressed through a passage in his book, *The Human Revolution* "a great revolution of character in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation, and further, will cause a change in the destiny of mankind."

Dr. Ikeda has demonstrated a steadfast desire for peace and is a testament that a single person can make a difference not only in a community, but in the world. In recognition of his efforts in support of the United Nations, as well as public information and education activities on such issues as disarmament, the environment and human rights, Ikeda was conferred the UN Peace Award in 1983.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Ikeda and paying tribute to his many achievements.

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE SEASIDE PARK TERRORIST ATTACK

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the quick and efficient response of the first responders during the terrorist attack in Seaside Park, New Jersey on Sept. 17th, 2016. A bomb was detonated at the starting point of a charitable race for our veterans. Starting at the local level, the Seaside Park Police Department took control, and kept civilians out of harm's way as they assessed the situation. The Seaside Park Police Department was joined by the Ocean County Sheriff's Department along with representatives of other Federal, State, County, and Local agencies who responded to the call of duty. I am proud of the work our first responders do and am grateful for the efforts carried out by those who apprehended the suspect in the bombing in Seaside Park, as well as in New York.

National security is a constant concern in an age when terror attacks are increasing in frequency. Now more than ever, we should all thank the men and women that defend us, provide guidance in times of severe uncertainty, and apprehend the terrorists that seek to spread hate and destruction.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have the men and women who responded on this day as selfless and dedicated members of their community. It is with the highest level of gratitude and appreciation that I commend them for their service following the bombing in Seaside Park, New Jersey, and recognize their outstanding service and protection of their community, before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING FISK UNIVERSITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Fisk University on its 150th anniversary.

Fisk is a national treasure with a deep history and sense of purpose. Established months after the end of the Civil War, Fisk was founded to educate all students, regardless of color.

Over the last 150 years, Fisk has become one of the top Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation and is synonymous with academic excellence. Fisk's alumni, leaders, and scholars have played prominent roles in the civil rights movement, changed how we think about science, landed in Hollywood and on Broadway, and sat on the Supreme Court. Notable alumni include NAACP founder W.E.B. Du Bois, celebrated dancer and choreographer Judith Jamison, and Nikki Giovanni, an award-winning poet. And, of course, our good friend and civil rights hero, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, is also a Fisk alumnus.

From the world-renowned Fisk Jubilee singers, to the countless contributions made by

scholars and leaders, to the many students with bright futures ahead, Fisk has always been committed to excellence and remained at the forefront of making the world a better place. I join my fellow Tennesseans in honoring Fisk University for the indelible mark it has left over the past 150 years, and for what it has in store in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL PLASMA
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, International Plasma Awareness Week will occur October 9 to 15, 2016. Around the world, there will be observances to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are more than 450 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives, join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR.
BRUCE HARTER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Dr. Bruce Harter as West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) Superintendent.

As the second longest serving superintendent in the history of WCCUSD, Dr. Harter has played a large role in the district both in and out of the classroom. During his

tenure, WCCUSD experienced significant increases in the success of English Language Learners, increases in graduation rates, decreases in drop-out rates, and a significant increase in the proportion of graduates attending postsecondary education.

As a testament to his emphasis on addressing the whole child, WCCUSD has made great strides during his service to incorporate additional student services to help students learn and grow. To that point, WCCUSD is now the only school district in the Bay Area to have health centers in every high school, providing greater physical and emotional safety, and implementing social emotion programs that substantially reduced disciplinary actions.

Dr. Harter's commitment to promoting the success and well-being of West Contra Costa's students is deeply appreciated by the community that he serves, and he should be proud of the clear and steady improvement in overall student achievement during his service.

I thank Dr. Harter for his service and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT
CAPOZUCCA, ITALIAN AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF LUZERNE
COUNTY'S 2016 PERSON OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Capozucca, who will be honored by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County as Person of the Year during the organization's 39th Annual Columbus Day Banquet on October 9, 2016.

Albert was born October 9, 1936 in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania to Raymond and Emma Capozucca. After the death of his father, Albert enrolled in the Hershey Industrial School for Orphan Boys, now known as Milton Hershey School. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in vocational plumbing and heating. Albert was drafted into the army and served from November 1959 to February 1962. When that service concluded, he returned to the plumbing business. He and his brother, Ray Capozucca, formed Capozucca Bros. Plumbing and Heating. They later expanded their business to add Capozucca Brothers Oil Company. Albert worked with his brother until they both retired in the early 2000s.

Albert remains active in his community and is involved in many organizations. He is a member of the St. Joseph Marelo Parish in Pittston. He's served with Pittston Township Volunteer Fire Department for a whopping 59 years. He is the current president of Pittston Township Lions club and serves as the club's representative for the Upper Valley Eye Bank Association. He helped establish the Pittston Township Little League, where he served on the board of directors for many years. He also served on the Pittston Township Sewer Authority Committee. Finally, Albert is a former member of the Pittston Knights of Columbus and is a member of both the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and the Italian Citizens Enjoyment Club.

It is an honor to recognize Albert for being named Italian American Association of

Luzerne County's Person of the Year. I am deeply grateful for his military service and his many contributions to his community. I wish Albert and the Italian American Association all the best.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE COTTON
FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE
TO THE SEMINOLE COUNTY RE-
GIONAL CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE AND THE SEMINOLE
COUNTY COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay recognition to a great community leader who has helped the Seminole County business community through her volunteer service and her role at the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce: Mrs. Debbie Cotton.

Debbie is leaving the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer after more than two decades as an employee and volunteer at the chamber. Her work over the years has helped Seminole County become one of Florida's best places for business with multiple major companies relocating to the county and thousands of businesses prospering in Seminole County.

Debbie Cotton started as a volunteer with the Chamber in 1995 and then joined the Chamber in 1998 as the receptionist. Over the years, she served in a wide variety of roles, serving as the communications and events director, business development director, interim president, chief operating officer and vice president.

In addition, she served as a board member on the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools, participated in Leadership Seminole Class 2002 and was named Ambassador of the Year by the Chamber in 1996. She was named the COO of the Year by the Orlando Business Journal in 2014.

Over the years, Debbie Cotton has worked with thousands of businesses. She has helped them grow and prosper and thrive in Seminole County. Our business community is better because of Debbie Cotton.

Debbie Cotton will be leaving Seminole County on October 7 to become the President of the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. I know that I am joined by my colleagues from Central Florida in thanking her for her service and wishing her well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate Debbie Cotton on her many accomplishments in Seminole County and all of Central Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I joined U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other U.S. leaders in Cartagena, Colombia, for the formal signing of the peace agreement between the Colombian

government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

As a result, I was absent for roll call votes 557 and 558. Had I been present, I would have voted no on roll call 557, final passage of the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, H.R. 3537, because it adds new synthetic drugs to Schedule I, expanding mandatory minimum sentences and hindering research on these substances.

I would have voted yes on roll call 558, final passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. I strongly support H.R. 5392, which will help support veterans experiencing emotional or mental health crises by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan to ensure that every call paced to the Veteran Crisis Line is answered by a live person.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAWRENCE
DICKHAUS

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my long-time constituent, Mr. Lawrence Dickhaus of St. Petersburg, Florida, who sadly passed on September 24, 2016, surrounded by his loved ones.

Having moved to St. Petersburg from the suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio, Lawrence embodied many of the sacrosanct values that embody the American spirit such as a love of God, strong work ethic, unbridled optimism, the belief in helping others, and a wonderful sense of humor that was enjoyed by everyone he met. A hard-working, blue-collar plumber by trade, Lawrence was also a professional musician as demonstrated by the thousands of lives he touched through his music by entertaining the residents of St. Petersburg with his band, The Downtowners, at the St. Petersburg Pier. His love of music was also demonstrated by the many hours he gave volunteering for the Northeast High School Viking Band. Lawrence was also a lover of recreational fishing, a love that his children and grandchildren have enjoyed, following his example; and a baseball fan who cheered tirelessly for the Tampa Bay Rays.

These admirable qualities in Lawrence made him a loving husband to his wife of 65 years, Phyllis. They also made him an incredible father to his children Debbie, Phil, Marty, Brian, Rob, Patrick and Mary; as well as his nineteen grandchildren, and nineteen great grandchildren. As evidenced by such a large family, it is no wonder that so many residents of my district call the Dickhaus family their friends and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask my colleagues to join me and the Dickhaus family in celebrating and honoring the incredible life of Lawrence Dickhaus. His long life as a family man and musician demonstrated his commitment to improving the lives of everybody he touched and worked for. His good nature will be greatly missed by the residents of St. Petersburg.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE SARAH EVANS BARKER FOR HER 32 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Sarah Evans Barker and to her exceptional public service. The District Judges of The U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana signed a resolution naming Courtroom 216 in Judge Barker's honor, commemorating her 32 years of service. It is where Judge Barker has worked for much of her judicial career. The courtroom resides in the Birch Bayh Federal Building, which has been home to Indiana's Federal Court for over 100 years. The building and the "Sarah Evans Barker Courtroom" is sculpted from Indiana limestone and houses ornate decorative features, and it remains a place where history is made. This courtroom is the first Indiana courtroom to be named for a female judge, and it is fitting that Judge Barker should be the first woman to be honored as she also holds the distinctions of being the first female Assistant U.S. Attorney, first female federal judge, and first female chief judge for the United States District Court in Indiana. She has been a tireless advocate for women's leadership and a great connector of women throughout her career. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Judge Barker's contributions to the Hoosier community and our country, and it is my privilege to honor her today.

A lifelong Hoosier, Judge Barker was born in Mishawaka, Indiana. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1965 from Indiana University and later earned her Juris Doctorate from the American University Washington College of Law in 1969. She started her career as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Gilbert Gude of Maryland and Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois, eventually working as special counsel to the Senate Government Operations Subcommittee. After her time in Washington, D.C., Judge Barker continued her public service in Indianapolis as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1972 to 1976 under United States Attorneys Stanley B. Miller and James B. Young. She then joined the Indianapolis law firm of Bose, McKinney & Evans where she became a partner. After her time in private practice, in 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Barker as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana and later, in 1984, he appointed her as the first female federal judge for the United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana.

Ever since her appointment in 1984, Judge Barker has been an influential member of the bench. She has shaped judicial practice and policy through her appointments to numerous committees and commissions. In 2004, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed her to the Special Study Committee on Judicial Conduct and Disability, otherwise known as the "Breyer Committee." Chief Justice John G. Roberts asked the Committee to continue its

work and reappointed Judge Barker. In addition, she works on the Judicial Conference of the United States, with the Executive Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Standing Rules Committee, Budget Committee, and Judicial Branch Committee as well as a number of 7th Circuit committees. She served as president of the 900-member Federal Judges Association from 2007 to 2009 and currently sits on their Board of Directors.

She has been, and continues to be, a dynamic member of the community through her work with various organizations. Judge Barker is an active member of the Morgantown United Methodist Church. She is a member of the Indiana Academy which seeks to encourage and promote charitable, scientific, literary, and educational goals in conjunction with institutions dedicated to these same objectives in the state of Indiana. She also sits on the boards of the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana University Health Partners, and Conner Prairie. Higher education has a special place in her heart as she is a trustee on the advisory board for Indiana University, as well as its law schools. She has also been a part of search committees for IU law school deans, an IU chancellor, and two IU presidents. She was also appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to participate in the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. Judge Barker is a member of the Gathering, the Lawyers Club and the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis where she shares her wit, good humor, and sharp mind with all in attendance.

Judge Barker has been recognized for her work and contributions through many honors and awards. These awards include the Trailblazer Award given by the Indiana Commission for Women. She has been designated as a Distinguished Alumna of Indiana University. She was given the Living Legend award by the Indiana Historical Society. She was presented the Silver Gavel by the Indianapolis Bar Association. Several Midwestern colleges and universities have conferred ten honorary degrees upon her.

Not only has Judge Barker received many awards and honors, but she continually seeks to nominate deserving women in the community to be recognized. I had the honor to first hear Judge Barker speak at my own law school commencement from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law at Indiana University in May of 1985. Her dedication to provide guidance to young lawyers is inspiring. She is personally committed to championing the women of our community and has been an essential mentor to me as well as many others. Judge Barker is an amazing connector, by providing opportunities for Hoosier women to meet, socialize, and develop professionally. She is an exemplary role model for public servants, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the wonderful contributions she has made to the Hoosier community. Judge Barker has been a teacher, counselor, and friend to many aspiring public servants.

Despite her long tenure on the bench, Judge Barker cares deeply about each case that comes through her courtroom; she demonstrates genuine care with her decisions, particularly sentencing decisions, which greatly impact lives. Judge Barker has undoubtedly left an immensely profound influence on the court, and it is quite fitting that this beautiful and historic courtroom be named in her honor. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I'd like to congratulate Judge Barker on her success and wish

her, her husband Kenneth, three children, and five grandchildren much joy as they celebrate Sarah's place in history.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JAMES PEARCE BRICE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of The Honorable James Pearce Brice, a devoted jurist and public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who was born in Roanoke, Virginia, on August 7, 1926, and passed away on September 15, 2016, at the age of 90.

In our years of practicing law, both Congressman GOODLATTE and I had the pleasure of arguing in front of Judge Brice. We benefited from the expertise and wisdom he shared, as a street lawyer and a personal mentor, accumulated from an accomplished life.

At the age of 16, Judge Brice entered the Virginia Military Institute. He joined the Merchant Marines, as soon as he turned 18, during World War II. He bravely served as a helmsman on an oil tanker in the North Atlantic and suffered the loss of his brother, Robert, on Omaha Beach in 1944.

Before war ended, Judge Brice joined the United States Army and became a Japanese translator and interrogator. With his intelligence and flare for foreign languages, he continued serving with distinction in the Army Counterintelligence Corps in northern Hokkaido after Japan surrendered.

Upon returning from abroad, Judge Brice went back to school and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, then earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1954.

He launched his legal career in private practice back in his hometown of Roanoke. He spent time working for the Veterans Administration, and then the United States District Attorney's Office, as an assistant prosecutor. Judge Brice was dedicated to his vocation. At the age of 42, he was appointed to the bench of the Roanoke General District Court, where he served as judge from 1967 through 1987. He retired as the chief general district judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, but continued to travel across the commonwealth as a substitute jurist until the early 2000s.

Judge Brice had a tremendous impact on many of our communities, as well upon countless individuals all across the region. Judge Brice will be remembered as a family man and a friend to many. We always appreciated his outgoing nature and shared his love of history. Judge Brice left the repeated impression of being a compassionate and fair arbiter, and he will be forever remembered by how much he believed in redemption. May his spirit of fairness and compassion remain with us. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and influence will be long remembered across the entire western region of Virginia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Brice's wife of 62 years, Phyllis; his three sons, James, Steven, and Michael; his three

grandchildren, Taryn, Trey, and Melissa; his family, friends, and many loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 26th, 2016, while recovering from a surgical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll no. 557 and YES on Roll no. 558. I applaud my colleagues on passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. Recent reports show that as many as one-third of calls to VA's veterans' crisis line go unanswered. Mr. Speaker, this is as unacceptable as it is appalling and I intend to push Secretary McDonald for answers and see that this atrocity is quickly rectified.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL LEGAL SERVICES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS).

This organization, formed in 1966 at the University of Mississippi, makes it possible for low-income and elderly residents to have access to legal services they could not otherwise afford.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys provide a wide range of counsel in 39 counties across North Mississippi. Their cases are as diverse as the people they serve. Attorneys have built cases to preserve civil rights, protect vulnerable children, and defend the elderly.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has committed leadership in Executive Director Ben Thomas Cole II and Director of Litigation Ruby White. While serving as District Attorney of Mississippi's First Circuit Judicial District, I saw firsthand the dedication to NMRLS of my former colleagues Nebra Porter of Tupelo and current NMRLS board member and Brian Neely of Tupelo who served on the NMRLS board for ten years. North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys work tirelessly to ensure that the ability of citizens to exercise their rights under the law is not contingent on their ability to navigate the legal system on their own. I look forward to hearing of the good work they will continue to do in the communities of North Mississippi.

I commend North Mississippi Rural Legal Services as they continue their pursuit of justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 26, 2016, I was absent from the House and missed roll call Nos. 557 and 558.

Had I been present for roll call No. 557, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call No. 558, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016 I was absent for recorded votes Number 557 and Number 558.

On Roll Call Number 557 I would have voted no, and on Roll Call Number 558 I would have voted yes.

CELEBRATING THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the country of Georgia's 25th anniversary of regaining its independence from the Soviet Union. In these two short decades, Georgia has embraced freedom and made remarkable progress.

Georgia has worked to become a leading example of democracy in a region where dictatorship is all too common and is reaping the fruits of free market reforms that bolster growth by reducing government regulation, fighting corruption, and simplifying the tax code. Through these efforts, Georgia strengthens its commercial, political, and security ties with the West—particularly with the United States through a strategic partnership built on shared democratic principles.

Georgia has been a steadfast ally of the United States, strongly supporting U.S. security initiatives in the fight against terrorism and is the third largest contributor of troops to the Global War on Terror's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

These accomplishments shine all the more when taken in context of the challenges Georgia continues to face from Russia's voracious appetite for aggression in the region.

Today marks the 23rd anniversary of the fall of Sokhumi, Georgia, to Russian troops and local separatist forces in 1993. The brutal massacre, torture, and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Georgians from their

homes that followed marked the beginning of Russia's efforts to occupy Georgia's territory. The U.S. State Department reported that:

"The [Abkhaz] separatist forces committed widespread atrocities against the Georgian civilian population, killing many women, children, and elderly, capturing some as hostages and torturing others . . . they also killed large numbers of Georgian civilians who remained behind in Abkhaz-seized territory . . ."

"The separatists launched a reign of terror against the majority Georgian population, although other nationalities also suffered. Chechens and other north Caucasians from the Russian Federation reportedly joined local Abkhaz troops in the commission of atrocities . . . Those fleeing Abkhazia made highly credible claims of atrocities, including the killing of civilians without regard for age or sex. Corpses recovered from Abkhaz-held territory showed signs of extensive torture."

It is in the interest of the American people to support Georgia's long-term stability by promoting its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgia's primary foreign policy goal is to attain membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, thereby integrating itself into the Euro-Atlantic community and containing Russia's expansionist efforts in the region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to the U.S.-Georgia strategic partnership. We must stand with the Georgian people as they continue to pursue free and democratic reforms in the face of Russian hostility.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Georgian people on their 25 years of progress as an independent state, wish them well in the upcoming parliamentary election on October 8, 2016, and offer my support of our continued friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, on Roll Call Number 557 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537, Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537.

On September 26, 2016, on Roll Call Number 558 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392, No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392.

TRIBUTE TO BRET PERRY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sergeant Bret Perry, of Adel, Iowa, for being awarded the Soldier's Medal, the highest honor a soldier

can receive during peace time, for rescuing three people from a burning house.

Staff Sergeant Perry was traveling to work at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Urbandale, IA, in August 2015 when he noticed the smoke from a house fire on a nearby hill. Once he arrived at the house, he found the neighbor tapping on a window trying to wake those inside. After no one answered the doorbell, he burst through the front door with his shoulder and rolled down the stairs to the bottom floor of the split-level house. Forced to crawl up the stairs because of the smoke, he checked each room. In one, he found a woman who was only awakened by his kicking open the door. He got her outside to safety. He then entered the house two additional times to rescue two young adults in the house. After his last daring rescue, the local fire department arrived. Bret left the scene and went to work. His co-workers did not believe his incredulous story behind arriving to work late until they smelled the smoke on his uniform.

This was not the only time Staff Sergeant Perry has rushed to the aid of others. A few months after the fire rescue, according to the Army Times, Perry ran to a car which had lost control, rolled over several times, and ended on its side in a ditch. Perry rushed to the vehicle, rescuing the woman and her baby in the back seat as the car began to smoke. He was awarded the U.S. Army Achievement Medal for his actions. Years earlier when he was stationed in Italy, he ran to the aid of two off-duty U.S. soldiers caught up in a vicious fight, successfully driving off the assailants.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Staff Sergeant Perry for the selfless heroism that has earned him the Soldier's Medal. Throughout his life he has chosen to protect and serve others, and it is because of lowans like him that I'm proud to represent our great state. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Perry and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

VOTING RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, to help my constituents gain a better understanding of the negative impact of the Supreme Court decision *Shelby County v. Holder*, on May 20, 2016, I hosted a forum titled "Protect Your Future: Restore the Vote." My co-chairs were Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Representative JUDY CHU, Chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus; and special guest, Representative KAREN BASS.

Members from our communities heard expert testimony from the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund. For that reason, I include in the RECORD testimony from Tom Saenz of MALDEF.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. SAENZ

PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

MALDEF

REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF *SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER*

Since 2009, I have had the great honor of serving as President and General Counsel of

MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund), a national legal civil rights organization whose mission is to promote the civil rights of all Latinos living in the United States. MALDEF pursues its mission through litigation, policy education and advocacy, community education, and media/communications in the areas of education, employment, immigrant rights, and voting rights. In the area of voting rights, MALDEF is one of a small handful of national non-profit organizations that have been involved in both litigation and advocacy under the federal Voting Rights Act over several decades. MALDEF currently coordinates a consortium of ten voting rights litigation organizations striving to better coordinate activities nationwide in the aftermath of the 2013 United States Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Our nation and its most precious democratic values have unquestionably suffered from the Supreme Court majority's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* and the subsequent refusal by congressional leadership to consider, much less vote upon and enact, well-crafted proposals to reaffirm and strengthen the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) by implementing new formulas to apply the impactful pre-clearance provisions in section 5 of the VRA.

In *Shelby County*, the Court voted 5-4 to strike down the pre-clearance coverage formula in section 4 of the VRA. The coverage formula had been overwhelmingly approved by bipartisan supermajorities in both houses of Congress in the latest VRA reauthorization in 2006. The coverage formula that the Court majority struck down required those jurisdictions—mainly states, with some counties and other parts of states—with histories of low electoral participation and of efforts to suppress participation by minority voters, to comply with a pre-clearance obligation as to all proposed electoral changes. The effect of the Court's decision was to completely disable the application of the pre-clearance obligation absent a rarely-issued federal court order subjecting a specific jurisdiction to pre-clearance for a limited period of time. Of course, the Congress can, at any time, subject to the requisite constitutional showing of adequate findings, enact a new coverage formula or formulas to subject other jurisdictions to the pre-clearance obligation with respect to specific or all electoral changes.

It is no exaggeration to label, as it has now often been characterized, section 5 of the VRA and its pre-clearance mechanism as one of the most effective civil rights provisions ever enacted in federal law. Before the Court decision in *Shelby County*, pre-clearance had, through almost half a century, blocked the implementation of numerous proposed electoral changes that were intended to suppress minority participation or to limit minority electoral power, and numerous other proposed changes that would have been retrogressive in effect, threatening to reduce acquired minority electoral power.

In addition, however, a full appreciation of the damage the *Shelby County* decision has wrought requires recognizing that section 5 is also one of the first enactments of an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism into federal law. ADR can be powerfully efficient and effective in resolving disputes without requiring resort to litigation in court. Ironically, the same Supreme Court majority that struck down the VRA coverage formula and disabled section 5 has strongly embraced ADR in the form of mandatory arbitration contracts, even where serious concerns have been raised about bias against employees or consumers in arbitration and about unequal power in negotiating arbitration agreements. Indeed, Section 5 actually includes the very kinds of protections

that are not often seen in other ADR schemes, including the absolute right to seek court review instead of review by the Department of Justice.

With this in mind, the damage from the Shelby County decision, and the congressional inaction in response, falls into three areas. First, the nation has been deprived of advance notice with regard to electoral changes in those jurisdictions previously covered. These changes, which previously would have been developed and submitted for pre-clearance well in advance, include many changes—with significant potential effects on electoral participation, particularly among minority voters—that today are often revealed very close in time to an election. Such changes as precinct consolidations, alterations in precinct boundaries, and changes in voting locations often occur too close to an election to prevent their implementation through litigation under the still-viable section 2 of the VRA, prohibiting minority vote dilution, or other constitutional or statutory provisions. Courts are, perhaps understandably, reluctant to issue a preliminary injunction so close in time to a scheduled election. This problem is exacerbated by the lack of advance notice of such changes previously provided by the section 5 preclearance obligation.

For example, Arizona was a covered jurisdiction, so, prior to the Shelby County decision, the state and all its governmental subdivisions had to seek and obtain pre-clearance for any electoral change. Recently, in the 2016 Arizona presidential primary, there were widespread reports of very long lines and chaos at polling places. This seems to have been caused in large part by a drastic reduction in the number of polling places, a change apparently undertaken as a cost-saving measure. Whether or not this ill-considered decision had a particularly pronounced effect on minority voters in Maricopa County, such a change would have been analyzed in advance for its discriminatory potential under preclearance prior to Shelby County. Regardless of whether that analysis would have blocked or altered the plan to reduce polling locations, the requirement of preclearance would at least have provided notice, well in advance, of the intention to drastically reduce polling places. This might have yielded challenge and change, wholly apart from the process of pre-clearance itself.

The second area of damage from the Shelby County decision lies in the inability to review electoral changes for their potential discriminatory elements before the changes are implemented. As noted above, courts are often reluctant to issue preliminary injunctions with respect to elections matters. Indeed, a preliminary injunction is extraordinary court relief in any circumstance, but there is a particular reticence with respect to elections because of the potential disruption of the plans and efforts of so many voters and candidates. However, elections are also particularly resistant to remedy after the fact. Once an election has occurred under a particular electoral change, it is nearly impossible to “unring the bell” and discount an election or its results once reported, even if only unofficially by media engaged in exit polling. Thus, the inability to bar implementation of an electoral change by requiring pre-clearance prior to implementation results in severely limited or no remedy at all to what may be actions with significant discriminatory effects. When this occurs, this does palpable and lasting harm to voters’ respect for democracy and can deter participation by under-

standably distrustful minority voters in many future elections.

Soon after the Shelby County decision, the mayor of Pasadena, Texas announced his intent to pursue a change to the city’s elections that he would not have pursued when the city was subject to preclearance as a sub-jurisdiction in the covered state of Texas. He sought to change the eight-member council from one comprised of candidates elected in eight single-member districts to one comprised of representatives from six single-member districts and two members elected at large by the entire city. Based on participation differentials between groups, this change would have the effect of reducing the growing Latino community’s chances to elect a majority of the council. The change was adopted and has now been implemented, while MALDEF pursues an ongoing legal challenge to the change and its effects on the Latino vote. It is unclear how many elections will occur under the flawed changes before the court case is finally resolved.

The third area of Shelby County harm lies in requiring the resolution of disputes regarding potentially discriminatory electoral changes through inefficient and costly litigation under section 2 of the VRA. The Supreme Court’s adopted test for resolving section 2 claims is “totality of the circumstances.” The phrase alone illustrates the scope of such litigation, ordinarily involving multiple experts on both sides of a case, numerous percipient lay witnesses, and voluminous sets of documentary exhibits. The presentation of all of this testimony and other evidence consumes many months in preparatory depositions, discovery, and resolution of evidentiary disputes. Trial, even if streamlined in multiple ways by the court, usually involves weeks or months of presentation to a judge. The court itself then faces the arduous task of evaluating the evidence and making findings of fact and drawing conclusions of law to support a decision under the “totality of the circumstances.” The costs in both time and money associated with this arduous court journey are significant, and most often imposed on and borne entirely by a challenged jurisdiction that loses a filed section 2 case. The same jurisdiction could get to the same result, at a fraction of the cost through pre-clearance.

MALDEF has long been a leader in pursuing section 2 litigation in the formerly covered state of Texas. The dispute over Texas statewide redistricting in 2011 ended up being challenged under section 2 at the same time that it was subject to consideration for pre-clearance under section 5 by a three-judge district court in Washington, D.C. The Washington, D.C. court rejected the original Texas redistricting plan even before the Shelby County decision, but the Court’s ruling wiped that conclusion from the books. The section 2 case had to be tried over several months in 2014. The trial was concluded and fully briefed as of December 2014. More than 16 months later, we are still awaiting a district court decision on the section 2 case. This ongoing wait epitomizes that third area of harm from the Shelby County decision.

Some might assume that the ongoing harms from the Shelby County decision and the congressional failure to respond with appropriate legislation are limited to the areas, and their residents, that were previously subject to pre-clearance under the coverage formula that the Court struck down. In fact, the entire nation suffers the damage inflicted by the decision and its aftermath. The pre-clearance process—the submission and analysis of electoral changes for discrimination—provided a nationwide

indication of the potential effects of specific changes and specific categories of changes. An adverse pre-clearance decision stood as a warning to non-covered jurisdictions that might be considering, or already have in place, similar electoral procedures as those rejected in a covered jurisdiction.

In this way, pre-clearance provided election administrators and policymakers interested in minimizing discrimination in voting with guidance as to where they might look in current practice to eliminate discriminatory effects and as to what changes they should avoid to prevent further discrimination. Conversely, adverse pre-clearance decisions stood as a warning and deterrent to administrators and policymakers interested in adopting changes despite or even because of discriminatory effects. Pre-clearance outcomes stood as an indication of possible or likely successful legal challenge to such changes. In effect, just as pre-clearance was a more efficient mechanism to resolve disputes about a specific electoral practice in a specific jurisdiction, it was also a more efficient means to provide persuasive precedent for other jurisdictions, both those covered and those not covered.

Thus, in a state like California, which had only three covered counties at the time the Supreme Court decision came down, everyone still benefitted from the ready and available information provided by the pre-clearance process. In addition, although the state was only partially covered, statewide electoral changes were subject to pre-clearance because of the effects in the covered counties. This meant that statewide elections procedures saw all the benefits of advanced awareness, pre-implementation analysis, and efficient dispute resolution described above.

The experience of three years, including one mid-term election, demonstrate that the absence of the efficient pre-clearance process has deleterious effects on deterring, preventing, and eliminating electoral practices with significant discriminatory effects. MALDEF urges congressional action to reintroduce a coverage formula or formulas—that are responsive to current demographics and dynamics with respect to minority communities—into the VRA. The nation as a whole will benefit from the positive repercussions of an effective pre-clearance process for voting discrimination.

TRIBUTE TO SHERI AND FRED
BERGGREN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sheri and Fred Berggren on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Sheri and Fred were married on September 18, 1956 and made their home in Nodaway, Iowa. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa’s values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CLAIRE JEFFRESS EXCELS ON
AND OFF THE FIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claire Jeffress of Pearland, TX for her outstanding extracurricular activities on and off the field.

As a strong soccer player, it was a natural fit for Claire to start playing football in seventh grade. Now a varsity football player at Dawson High School, Claire is the kicker for the Eagles and has proven she can hold her own with her teammates. When she's not kicking her way to victory on the football field, Claire puts her leadership skills to work as a member of my Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC). In her second year as part of CYAC, Claire joins 19 other high school students who provide me with critical input on issues they face, while also hearing from community leaders throughout the year.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Claire Jeffress for all of her contributions to our community. We are proud of her for breaking barriers and setting a great example for other young girls. We expect great things from her in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET AND
MICK FREEMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Margaret and Mick Freeman of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 7, 1966 at Goldfield United Methodist Church in Goldfield, Iowa.

Margaret and Mick's lifelong commitment to each other and their six children, Susan, Sandy, Tom, David, Brad, and Marcia, and their 18 grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TUESDAYS IN TEXAS: BESSIE
COLEMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in January 26, 1892, a young woman was born in Atlanta, Texas. Her name was Bessie Coleman and she continues to inspire generations of African American women around the United States

and in the great state of Texas. As the tenth of thirteen children whose father had left to Oklahoma seeking refuge from racial barriers, she was forced to work at the cotton harvest every year to help support her family. However, in 1915, she moved to Chicago seeking to become something greater. She had no idea how this step would change American history forever.

She began working as a manicurist in Chicago, but the stories of pilots from the First World War intrigued her. This, along with friendly taunts from her brother, would motivate her to learn how to fly. However, schools in America denied her entrance, so she set out to attend aviation school in France. She attended the Caudon Brother's School of Aviation, where she completed a 10 month program in only 7 months. She also received her international aviation pilot's license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale, making her the first African American and Native American woman to earn a pilot's license.

But this is not the end of her amazing story. Coleman returned to the United States and specialized in stunt flying and parachuting. She earned her living by barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She became the first African American woman to perform a public flight in America. Although she changed her mind about starting a flying school for African Americans, she still encouraged other African Americans to learn how to fly. Most importantly, she stood up for an entire community of people when she refused to perform in places that would not admit members of her race.

Unfortunately, her life would end shortly at only 34 years old after a test flight gone wrong caused her to fall hundreds of feet to her death in April of 1926.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Coleman's strength, endurance, and ability to break down barriers are truly inspiring. I am incredibly proud that such an amazing legacy started in Texas. It is an honor to come from a state full of people known for breaking down barriers and overcoming obstacles against all odds.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN AND P.
RICHARD KELLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathleen and P. Richard Kelley of Elliott, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 6, 2016.

Kathleen and P. Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN HONOR OF SUPERVISOR JIM
CHAPMAN FOR 43 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. LAMALFA, to honor the service of Supervisor Jim Chapman for his 43 years of outstanding leadership in Lassen County.

In 1974, at the age of 19, Jim was first elected to the Susanville City Council. Two years later, Jim was elected to serve as Mayor. In 1976, he began serving the first of nine terms as Lassen County Supervisor representing District 2.

Jim has proudly represented all aspects of the community. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including: Lassen College Board of Trustees, Lassen Hospital Board, Lassen High School Alumni Association (President, 2013 through 2014), Lassen County Chamber of Commerce (President, 2000), Susanville Kiwanis Club (President, 1985 through 1986), Rotary Club of Susanville (President, 2014 through 2015), Lassen County Special Olympics, Rural County Representative of California (President, 1982), and Lassen County Transportation Commission, among many others.

Supervisor Chapman's distinguished career of service has not only benefited but truly inspired residents of Lassen County and beyond, as evidenced by numerous awards with which Jim has been honored, including:

25 Year Service Award from Special Olympics of Northern California;

CALAFCO Lifetime Achievement Award;

Elks Distinguished Citizen in 2010; and

2016 Lassen High School Alumnus of the Year.

In addition to his exemplary public service, Jim has led a personal life filled with community involvement. He is a co-founder of the Lassen Sportsmen's Club Junior Fishing Derby, a Past Master of Lassen Masonic Lodge, a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a Ben Ali Shriner; a 40-year host for "Old Timers Day" at the Lassen County Fair, and a Knight of the York Cross of Honour.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Jim Chapman has an incomparable record of service to his community. We commend him for setting an example of outstanding leadership.

TRIBUTE TO THE DES MOINES
AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOOD
PANTRY NETWORK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network for their 40 years of service to the hungry citizens of central Iowa.

DMARC was founded in 1952 to assist the spiritual needs of the community and promote spiritual, moral, social, and civic welfare of the community. In May 1976, DMARC officials established the Food Pantry Network, an emergency food program to help provide services

to the hungry in the area. In the 40 years since its creation, it has become the largest food pantry network in Iowa, with 11 sites in the Des Moines metropolitan area, including sites in the Des Moines Independent School District, helping to feed 34,000 people annually. The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network is comprised of 128 member congregations representing a number of different faiths. These willing volunteers provide food and service hours. The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network also receives generous assistance from individuals, businesses, and non-member congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network on their 40 years and thank them for providing such an important service. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

**FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL
COMMISSION WINS DISTIN-
GUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Fort Bend County Historical Commissioners for winning the Texas Historical Commission Distinguished Service Award.

The Commission is comprised of volunteer historians and preservationists appointed by the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court to protect Texas history, culture and education throughout the state. Volunteers have dedicated over 480,000 hours to recognizing, protecting and transcribing various parts of Texas history so future Texans can continue to learn the heritage of our great state.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend County Historical Commissioners for winning the THC Distinguished Service Award. We appreciate your continued efforts to preserve the history that has made Texas so great.

**TRIBUTE TO AGGIE AND RON
DAVIS**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Aggie and Ron Davis of Des Moines, Iowa, on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the

United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**VETERANS-SPECIFIC EDUCATION
FOR TOMORROW'S MEDICAL DOCTORS
(VET MD) ACT**

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that addresses two problems: the disparity in access to clinical observation experiences for pre-medical school students and the severe shortage of physicians at VA hospitals. By creating a pre-med observation (shadowing) program within the VA, we both expand access to medical observation opportunities, particularly for underrepresented populations such as minority or rural-based students, and expose America's future doctors to the Veteran health system, increasing awareness of job opportunities within the VA.

When applying to medical school, students who have spent time observing, or shadowing, physicians in a clinical setting have an advantage both with admissions and in deciding on a future specialty. It is recommended applicants have more than 40 hours of observational experience to be competitive. Opportunities to observe however are limited and vary widely between universities and hospitals.

Students who are from, or attend schools in rural areas, who are from low economic status, or whose families lack connections within the medical community often find it harder to attain observation hours and are disadvantaged in medical school admissions, contributing to the lack of diversity in our medical professions. Universities and hospitals with organized pre-med experience or clinician observation programs report having a significantly more diversified participation pool than those who rely purely on personal connections to attain observation opportunities.

On the medical side, the VA is chronically short physicians. In fact, more than 5,100 additional physicians are needed across the VA system as of August 2015, and annually they recruit for over 41,000 positions throughout their medical facilities. This leads to increased wait times and decreased patient care. To fill these positions, the VA must compete with private hospitals that often are able to make more lucrative offers to prospective hires.

By incorporating an organized clinician observation program into the VA, future physicians will be exposed to the unique problems of U.S. veteran healthcare and the VA will create a pool of potential medical professional recruits. Early exposure will encourage future participation either as veteran physicians themselves or advocates within the community. The VA will simultaneously be helping the next generation of physicians gain valuable experience and addressing their physician shortage problem.

**TRIBUTE TO DONNA LEE AND DON
BUCH**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donna Lee and Don Buch of Grimes, Iowa, as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.

Donna Lee and Don were married in Clarinda on August 12, 1951. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

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

**RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
LONNIE BUNCH, THE FOUNDING
DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lonnie G. Bunch III; a great educator and American historian who's relentless and dedicated work led to the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on the national mall this past weekend.

From a young age, Lonnie has cared about the stories of those who are anonymous. The experience of a four-year-old Lonnie with his grandfather looking at a photo of unidentified African-American schoolchildren in a book left him wanting to learn their stories. The curiosity inspired by hearing his neighbors speak Sicilian urged him to understand the history that led groups of immigrants to populate his neighborhood in New Jersey.

These experiences as a child helped shape the distinguished career Mr. Bunch would have as an author, educator and curator at various institutions. While serving as president at the Chicago Historical Society, Mr. Bunch was approached by the Smithsonian Institute to be the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mr. Bunch spent the next decade traveling around the world raising the \$270 million needed to open the museum while also leading the charge in opening seven different exhibits related to African American history and culture in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Mr. Bunch is also responsible for establishing a daylong workshop program designed to identify and preserve items of historical significance.

Through his career endeavors culminating in the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture,

Mr. Bunch has presented an opportunity to every American visiting Washington, DC to experience the history of the United States through a unique prospective.

TRIBUTE TO VAN WALL
EQUIPMENT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Van Wall Equipment in Perry, Iowa, on being named the 2016 Dealership of the Year by Farm Equipment magazine.

Van Wall, founded in 1977, is recognized for their continued growth, having added 11 agricultural stores, one Powersports store, and one Doosan Material Handling dealership since 2014. Van Wall Equipment was recognized for keeping diversification at the forefront by selling crop insurance, artistic concrete, and soil moisture monitors. Don Van Houweling, the owner and general manager of Van Wall Equipment, credits the great employees he has had over the years, telling the Dallas County News that the dealership motto is "the clear first choice."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Van Wall Equipment for earning the 2016 Dealership of the Year award, and for their nearly 35 years of service to Iowa farmers. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Van Wall Equipment and wishing them nothing but continued success.

REMEMBERING VIRGIL GANT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Virgil Gant of Pearland, TX, who was killed in a tragic truck accident this summer.

Virgil was the longest-serving member on the Pearland ISD Board of Trustees, having served 16 years. Throughout his time on the Board, Virgil displayed true leadership, serving as board president and being a member of the Long-Range Planning Steering Committee. In 2014, the Texas Association of School Boards awarded him the Master Trustee designation. Prior to serving on the Board of Trustees, Virgil served our nation with 28 years of active and reserve duty in the United States Navy. Virgil Gant epitomized the best qualities of a Texan and American patriot. His dedication to his country and community will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we mourn the loss of Virgil Gant. He truly was a beloved member of the Pearland community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

TRIBUTE TO BARB AND BILL
FAILOR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barb and

Bill Failor of Ankeny, Iowa, on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Barb and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this lovely couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE AND KENNY
DASS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Maxine and Kenny Dass of Ankeny, Iowa, as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.