

the position as Secretary of the Army, he was faced with numerous challenges that had left the reputation of that organization in low esteem. However, through hard work and determination, he has helped to repair the Army's standing and has placed it on a positive track for the future.

Madam Speaker, Pete Geren is a dutiful public servant, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring his achievements in Congress and at the Department of Defense.

TRIBUTE TO WALID J. BADDOURA,  
MD

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Dr. Walid J. Baddoura, who was recognized with the 2009 Kendrick P. Lance, MD Distinguished Physician Award, on October 17, 2009 for his distinguished service in the field of medicine.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for his story truly embodies the American Dream.

Dr. Baddoura serves as the President of the Medical Staff of St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey. He is also the Program Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program. His dedication to the medical profession is also evidenced in his leadership at the Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Services, where he serves as Chief of the Gastroenterology Division, and the Program Director for its Gastroenterology Fellowship as well.

Dr. Baddoura embarked on his journey into the field of medicine at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. Upon his graduation in 1976, he left Lebanon for New Jersey, and first joined the St. Joseph's family as a resident in Internal Medicine. He later left New Jersey for Connecticut, where he pursued a fellowship at the Yale-affiliated Gastroenterology Program in Waterbury and New Haven. He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

He returned to St. Joseph's and since then has taken an active role in the education of students, residents and fellows. In 1986 he was appointed the Chief of the Gastroenterology Division, and since 1992, has held this position along with the aforementioned directorship at Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Services. He also maintains a private practice in Clifton.

At St. Joseph's, Dr. Baddoura serves on many committees and has been on the Medical Board for several years, as a member and also as an officer. He has represented St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center on the Board of Trustees of the Passaic County Medical Society. This past June, the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored him with the Distinguished Health Care Service Award. Dr. Baddoura resides in Pompton Plains and is the proud uncle of six nieces and nephews.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing

compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of exceptional individuals like Dr. Baddoura.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Dr. Baddoura's family and friends, all those who have been helped by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Dr. Walid J. Baddoura to his community.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2009

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, I express my appreciation to the nearly 55 million Americans with disabilities who have made significant contributions to the American workforce.

As a proud sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I salute this milestone legislation and other comprehensive efforts to create equal access to employment opportunities.

I am proud of efforts like AbilityOne, a laudable, federally-managed program that is the largest source of employment for the blind and those with severe disabilities. I was also a proud co-sponsor of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that is providing vital stimulus dollars to programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help educate disabled children and youth.

This October, as we rededicate ourselves to increasing employment opportunities for disabled Americans, let us also honor the value, skills and contributions individuals with disabilities have made to the American workforce.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. LAMAR DENKINS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents and dear friends of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Denkins.

On October 25, 2009, Lamar and Joyce Denkins will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Lamar was born on March 12, 1935, and his wife, Joyce, was born on October 4, 1938.

Lamar and Joyce met while working at Anniston National Bank in Anniston, Alabama. They married on October 25, 1959, at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Over the years, Lamar and Joyce have been blessed with two children, Susan and Jeffrey, as well as two grandchildren. Lamar has spent his life as a public servant as a minister and working for two different Members of Congress. He also served proudly in the Armed Forces.

On Sunday, October 25th, the couple along with their family and friends will celebrate their anniversary at West Weaver Baptist Church.

I would like to congratulate my friends, Lamar and Joyce, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF JUDGE WILLIAM WAYNE JUSTICE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Judge William Wayne Justice who passed away on October 13, 2009 at the age of 89.

Judge Justice was one of the most remarkable judges in Texas history. Born in Athens, Texas on February 25, 1920, Justice's father actively encouraged him to pursue a career in law from a young age. The younger Justice went on to receive both an undergraduate and a law degree from the University of Texas before spending roughly four years in the army during World War II. Upon his return to the United States, he took up work at his father's law practice in Athens, and in 1961, he was selected by President Kennedy to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. In 1968, Justice was appointed by President Johnson to be a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Judge Justice served in that capacity for more than 40 years and gave countless rulings that dramatically affected the way the State of Texas educated children, treated prisoners, and housed its poorest citizens. With an unwavering regard for the human condition, Justice ordered the integration of public housing, forbade inhumane treatment in prisons and the juvenile justice system, and upheld rulings that caused Texas to desegregate its schools. At a time when many of these decisions were unpopular, Justice made the hard choices and helped carry Texas into the modern era because of them.

Madam Speaker, I am incredibly grateful for the decisions and sacrifices Judge Justice made for the people of Texas and the entire country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering this courageous sentinel who helped so many of our nation's most distressed citizens.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance who celebrated, their 75th Anniversary on October 17th. Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance was originally founded in 1934 to cater to the unique insurance needs of our agriculture community. It has since expanded to provide

life, home, auto, and business services and today is the largest writer of farm insurance and the second largest writer of personal lines of insurance in the state. In Indiana, Farm Bureau Insurance is truly a “part of your life”—with offices in all of our 92 counties, and 1700 employees across the Hoosier state.

While the company has experienced significant growth and development, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has remained deeply committed to the community it serves. They have always believed that the strongest investment you can make for the future is to invest in young people, and their actions bear this out.

For 20 years, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance organized the eXcel Awards, a prestigious high school art competition that granted over \$700,000 in scholarships and encouraged the talent and creativity of high school artists and performers. They sponsor the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Mental Attitude Awards, honoring students who excel in athletic ability, leadership, mental attitude, and scholarship in all 39 IHSAA tournament sports. They have also made academics and safety a priority amongst our youth through initiatives like Top Scholar and the Teenage Driver Safety and Education Program. These programs reward young drivers with a \$1000 savings bond for completing safety training and provide insurance discounts for students for maintaining a B average respectively. In my district, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance helps supply healthy activities for our children by sponsoring little league and 4-H, and they are active participants in Holiday initiatives, adopting needy families and donating clothes, toys and foods.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has assisted numerous families and individuals plan for the unexpected and has been a steadfast partner in our community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance on their 75th Anniversary.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of Thursday, October 15, 2009, I was unfortunately unable to be present for the last two series of recorded votes while I was attending to a matter related to my personal health.

I request that the record show that had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 786 (on ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 2442, H.Res. 830), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 787 (on agreeing to the resolution H.Res. 830, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2442), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 788 (the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair), and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 789 (on passage of the bill H.R. 2442, the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act of 2009).

HONORING THE SURVIVING WORLD  
WAR II VETERANS OF  
OCOQUAN, VA

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor to the World War II veterans who currently reside in Occoquan, Virginia. Their service and sacrifice represent the height of American character; something to be honored and never forgotten.

In December of 1941, the United States entered a war that had already engulfed much of the rest of the world. Throughout the course of World War II, 16,000,000 Americans answered the call of duty and served in the armed forces. The support of the nation's war effort ended in the ultimate sacrifice for more than 300,000 of these brave Americans. They were sons, daughters, fathers and mothers putting the defense of their nation above all else.

The town of Occoquan is recognizing their service by honoring the surviving World War II veterans currently residing in Occoquan. So often our veterans return home and take up leadership roles in their communities. This group, which includes former Occoquan mayors, town council members and planning commissioners, is no exception. These individuals are a living testament to the strength and enduring nature of America's citizenry. Occoquan's surviving World War II veterans:

Mr. Richard H. Bell, United States Army  
Mr. Edwin S. Clarke, United States Navy  
Mr. Robert Lehto, United States Navy  
Mr. Frank McKenzie, United States Navy  
Mr. James F. Phelps, United States Marine Corps

Ms. June Randolph, United States Navy  
Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the World War II veterans of Occoquan, Virginia. We recognize their contribution to honor the importance of their experience to the American story. To forget their sacrifice and the immeasurable cost of war is to do peace a disservice and bind ourselves to indefinite conflict.

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#### COMMEMORATING THE NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

### HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, writing is a daily practice for millions of Americans, but few people notice how integral writing has become to life in the 21st century. People now write more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes; and writing is increasingly essential for all types of occupations. Newly developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media and young people are now leading the way in new forms of composition.

Writing has enormous power. It allows people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to generate and share ideas with others. Effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community. We must find ways to help our

students tell their stories—to communicate with their neighbors around the globe, in a world that is getting smaller and smaller. We must help our students put their thoughts into words, and hopefully, into action.

As an educator for more than 30 years, I know the value of a quality education and its importance to our children's future. In order for our Nation's children to get the education they deserve and require to become the leaders of tomorrow, they need the very best teachers and educators. Not only as leaders in education, but also as leaders in the community, English teachers are preparing our next generation.

To draw attention to the remarkable variety of writing we engage in and to help connect writers from all walks of life, the National Council of Teachers of English, NCTE, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors the importance of writing by celebrating a National Day on Writing on October 20, 2009. NCTE has developed the National Gallery of Writing, a digital archive of samples, that exhibits how and why Americans are writing every day. The gallery is accessible to all through a free, searchable website that will be launched on the National Day on Writing.

I introduced a resolution to recognize the National Day on Writing to acknowledge the enormous power of writing—how it allows people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to generate and share ideas with others. The resolution calls on the House of Representatives to recognize the National Day on Writing and encourages submissions to the National Gallery of Writing. Today my thanks go out to the NCTE and their many national and local partners for facilitating the National Day on Writing. As we celebrate the National Day on Writing, I hope my colleagues will participate and submit entries to the gallery.

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#### HONORING JASMINE LYNN OF SPELMAN COLLEGE, CLASS OF 2012

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jasmine Lynn, a rising star, a wonderful daughter, and a successful student who was the victim of a senseless tragedy.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Jasmine attended the Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, where she was an active student, athlete, musician, and leader. Even though she was a member of the ROTC, the varsity basketball team, and the high school marching band, Jasmine found time to shine as a student. Her intelligence and academic success won her an opportunity to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, making her the first in her family to receive a college education. At Spelman, Jasmine continued to excel with a 3.8 GPA and intended to focus her academic program around psychology and pre-law studies. Jasmine had just completed a summer internship at Cerner Corp over the summer and had bought her first car. This accomplished young lady had a bright and promising future.

On September 3, the life of Jasmine Lynn was cut down by a stray bullet as she was