

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KATHARINE CARR
ESTERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Katharine Carr Esters. Mrs. Katharine Carr Esters, a devout Christian and member of the Presbyterian Church since the age of seven years old, gives thanks to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for her accomplishments, especially since returning home to Mississippi back in 1972.

After retiring from the Veterans Administration in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she wanted to start a small business, so in October of 1972 she built a 12 x 15 concrete block grocery store on her parents' land. She mixed the mortar and hauled it in a wheelbarrow herself. Her small enterprise was a success that enabled her to later add two gas pumps at the store. She felt fortunate to get approval for gasoline on the gravel country road where she lived. Along with obtaining a license to sell groceries she was also issued a beer license.

Seeing the need for improving the standard of living in her neighborhood, in 1975 she applied for community water from County Supervisors. They initially denied her, so she got an easement for a waterline right-of-way from neighborhood property owners. With that breakthrough she rented equipment and bought the pipe, then hired workers to lay the waterline. Ford Motor Credit loaned her some of the money. After completion, the County Supervisors reassessed the taxes on all property where her waterline was put down and that was how she got her area of the county road surfaced.

A politician and staunch democrat, in 1976 she became a Governor Cliff Finch Colonel and placed on the Probation and Parole Board for the State of Mississippi, replacing Dr. Leslie McLemore. Shortly afterwards she was reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Department of Mental Health where she served two consecutive seven-year terms. Working hard on the Board, she is credited with the idea of the State building group homes for mentally challenged citizens so they can have some independence while not being totally on their own, helping to keep their dignity and humanity intact. The first group home was built in Meridian and named the Katharine Carr Ray Esters Group Home and the group home in Kosciusko was also given her name in 2002.

A relative of the rich and famous Miss Oprah Winfrey, in 1988 Mrs. Esters contacted the Northern Highway Transportation Commissioner and persuaded him to name the road that passed the bend from Buffalo Methodist Church near where Oprah was born the Oprah Winfrey Road. Miss Winfrey came home for the celebration and the road was dedicated on the grounds of the Buffalo Community Youth

Center—the old church. The evening of the dedication a benefit was held in Oprah's honor at the Coliseum where money was raised. The proceeds were split. Half the money was given to the Buffalo Community Youth Center and half to the Kosciusko/Attala Cultural Center. After that Mrs. Esters refurbished the Buffalo Community Youth Center.

A history major in college she has a love for the past and people who survived hard times with dignity and respect, especially family members. So over the years she has bought and had installed permanent signs at several historical landmarks. She bought a sign for the site at the old retired Black Presbyterian Church at Ethel where she was baptized, a sign at Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church where she is a member that is on the "Tour Guide" in Kosciusko, and a sign for the Carr Graveyard on #12 Highway near Ethel. She also reactivated the abandoned Civil War Era Cemetery and extended its entire perimeter so that indigent people today can be buried there, and bought and placed 36 granite headstones for those buried there whose graves had not been marked. She also bought and lettered a 14-foot metal gate for the cemetery.

But perhaps her best known accomplishment is her memoir titled *Jay Bird Creek and My Recollections* published in 2003 that told of when Jim Crow was law in Mississippi. Her book has sold many copies and touched the hearts of readers young and old. Also, in 2005 she wrote the history of Plantation Missionary Baptist Church for the benefit of future members.

She is a Life Member of the NAACP, a Life Member of the Attala County Cultural Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Oprah Winfrey Boys & Girls Club, a member of the Democratic Executive Committee, and an Elder at Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church.

In closing the interview she said, "I have given too many scholarships to number, taken high blood pressure medicine everyday for 60 years and taught Christian Education even longer. From my dialysis chair I am still privileged to enjoy my family and friends and, most of all, I remain a grateful servant person."

EXTENDING COUNTERTERRORISM AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the new majority in the House has told us that the decisions they make will be guided by two things. First, loyalty to the Constitution. And second, a belief that the government is too large and too intrusive.

Well, here is their chance to act on those principles. The PATRIOT Act provisions we're

voting on today represent Big Brother at its creepiest and most invasive. They are a clear violation of the 4th Amendment's "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures."

It's been close to a decade now that we've lived under the PATRIOT Act. For close to a decade, we've been told that our individual freedoms needed to take a backseat. For close to a decade, we've been told that our civil liberties must be shredded in the name of a so-called war on terrorism. We've been told that the national security imperatives of the moment are so great—and so different than any we've faced in our history—that we must submit to roving wiretaps, that we must empower the government to obtain "any tangible thing" related to a terrorism investigation.

"Any tangible thing"—that gives the government pretty broad discretion to ferret out just about whatever it is that they want. It is an invitation to overreach and abuse.

Meanwhile, it's not at all clear that the PATRIOT Act has made us safer. I believe it has stifled freedom more than it has advanced it. There is a real incoherence to an approach that says we have to do violence to our values in order to protect them. Benjamin Franklin's words are just as powerful today as they were more than 200 years ago: "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

I was impressed that so many members of the majority, in particular those just elected, voted against this measure when it came up on the suspension calendar earlier this week. I strongly urge them to do so again, and I hope they will be joined by more of their Republican colleagues who claim such a passionate belief in modest government. Or do they want to be known as the party that believes we should be tapping Americans' phones but not giving them affordable health care?

I believe we must let these provisions expire. And let's not stop there. Let's move toward a fuller debate about civil liberties and national security, one that revises and ultimately repeals the PATRIOT Act once and for all. This law is Constitutional graffiti. Patriotism means affirming and celebrating the values that have given America its strength and vitality for more than two centuries. A bill that violates several constitutional amendments has no business calling itself the PATRIOT Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 72, DIRECTING COMMITTEES TO REVIEW REGULATIONS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today and tomorrow we are spending more

• 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.

than 10 hours of our time debating whether or not we should tell committees to do what they are already supposed to be doing.

Lake County, in my district, has 19 percent unemployment rate.

The people of Lake County know that we are not creating jobs by telling committees to do their jobs.

The people in my district, who are waiting on banks to call them back about their loan modification applications, know that this debate will not help them keep their homes.

There is real work to be done in Congress and this is not it.

I think we can stipulate that there are regulations that are redundant and unnecessary.

I, for one, know that a regulation from Federal Housing Finance Agency has shut down the incredibly successful Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

PACE is an innovative program in my district, and districts across this country, that has created jobs, saved energy, and slashed homeowners' utility bills.

Spending 10 hours of debate on this meaningless resolution is not going to reinstate the PACE program.

It is not going to bring back the jobs for the people who installed residential solar panels and weatherized houses under PACE.

This resolution is a lot of talk and no action. Committees have oversight responsibilities; it would be a much better use of our time to have simply scheduled 10 hours of Committee hearings on the matter.

A TRIBUTE TO LES OESTERREICH,
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Les Oesterreich, a resident of Dixon, California, a man respected as an American, a husband to Pat Oesterreich, a father to their combined seven daughters, and a grandfather. Perhaps more germane to this moment is his position as chairman emeritus of Superior Farms, the largest harvester and processor of lamb in the United States. Under his leadership, the company has grown from having a single plant in Dixon, California, to having plants in Denver, Colorado, Boston, Massachusetts, Hawarden, Iowa, and Blue Island, Illinois, with contractual arrangements in Australia as well. Today, Superior Farms employs 494 employees and operates under an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), so that every employee has a stake in the company's bottom line.

As CEO of Superior Farms, Mr. Oesterreich skillfully guided the company by working with other industry organizations. He was honored in 2008 by the American Sheep Industry Association with its Campender Award. He served several terms as a director of the National Meat Association, and as chair of its Small Stock Committee. He was recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture for his work with the Agricultural Marketing Service on the implementation of fair standards for lamb grading. He served on the Advisory Committee for the Animal Science Department

at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and the University of California at Davis. His input to the American Lamb Board and the California Sheep Commission has guided those organizations, and during all these activities he has guided the growth and prosperity of Superior Farms to ensure that he recruited the brightest and best professional management talent available.

Mr. Oesterreich's father worked for Armour Food Co. for 35 years and he learned a lot about the meat business during his formative years in Brownsville, Texas, and Sterling, Illinois. He started work in the slaughter facilities at age 16, then learned how to load trucks, and was finally trained in meat cutting, all at Armour. He joined Superior Farms in 1981 as general manager of the Dixon, California, facility and moved up the chain of management, by dint of hard work, to become its CEO in 2004.

Off the job, he has served as president of the local fire district in Dixon; he is passionate about cars and horses; and he is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association.

As Mr. Oesterreich moves into retirement, he leaves behind an incredible legacy to be continued by the professionals that he has recruited to Superior Farms. Men like Mr. Oesterreich make the United States of America a wonderful place to live. Congratulations, Les Oesterreich!

HONORING LOU ELLA ROBINSON-
WELTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lou Ella Robinson-Welton. Ms. Welton was born to the late Reverend John D. (Doc) Robinson, a Baptist Minister, and Ella Jones-Robinson, a homemaker, on April 10, 1921, in Itta Bena, Mississippi. She was the youngest of six and is the only surviving member. Her siblings were Russell, Frank, Arie, and Seavon and Cleavon (twins). She was married to Sammie Lee Welton Senior, also from Itta Bena, Mississippi, for 41 years until his death in 1986. Sammie Sr. was a World War II Disabled Veteran, a Purple Heart Recipient, a Radio Technician, Printer, and Retired Mississippi Valley State University Laundry Technician. They have 5 children: Vernola, Arie Lue, Sammie Jr., Joyce, and Wanda, all graduates of Mississippi Valley State University. Lou Ella has 12 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Lou Ella Robinson Welton is an educator, community activist, and for 42 years, was a full-time teacher to generations of students in and around Leflore County, and is affectionately known throughout her community as "Miss Welton." Miss Welton began her career as a teacher/educator when she graduated high school, taking her first teaching job when she was 18. Public schools for African Americans in the early 1900s were rare, so her family sent her to private boarding schools. She was the first in her family to complete high school and the only one to graduate college.

She began her education in Humphreys County but the family moved back to Leflore

County after only several months. She attended school at the Saint John's Palo Alto and the Leflore County Training Schools in Itta Bena and graduated from the Stone Street School in Greenwood, Mississippi in 1941. She attended Rust College, and later Mississippi Vocational College, now Mississippi Valley State University, when it was little more than a dream in the eyes of its first president, Dr. James Herbert White. Attending Saturday and summer sessions, she and her husband, Sammie (vocational degree in printing), were among the first graduating class of 1953. She was the only sibling to graduate from college and is one of only two surviving members of the first Graduating Class of 1953 at Mississippi Vocational College in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

After receiving her B.S. degree in elementary education, Miss Welton taught in the Leflore County School System for over 42 years. She taught elementary education, special education, and migrant education with an emphasis on independent living, during her career. She has attended numerous training programs at universities around the country and received certificates in many academic areas related to teaching.

Miss Welton has also been active in her community and church where she has lived for the last 89 years. She was a member of the church choir, Sunday School teacher, Home Mission Society, and still serves as a Mother of the church. Miss Welton has been a member of the Goodwill Industrial Club, which she co-founded (a group of women who assisted needy families), The Cancer Network Control, Leflore County Homemakers, and the Mississippi Education Association.

Her other activities have included selling a variety of commodities in the community that included: Avon, Shaklee, Sarah Coventry, World Book Encyclopedia and Sewing for anyone who wanted something special. She made costumes for many years for the sororities and fraternities at Mississippi Valley State University.

She worked part-time at the Roses Department Store and the Spotless Cleaners in Itta Bena, Mississippi. She has mentored numerous students who still call and come by to maintain the friendships that were garnered many years ago. She has a good memory and likes to talk about the good old days to former students, family and friends. Miss Welton remains active by attending local functions, Adult Day Care, talking on the telephone, and keeping abreast of current events through the newspaper and television.

IN HONOR OF ANN SOLDO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ann Soldo, a generous community leader in California's Pajaro Valley and the first female mayor of Watsonville, California. Ann passed away at the age of 90 on January 24, 2011. She was an admired teacher that taught from the heart and touched the lives of thousands in the Pajaro Valley.

Born in Watsonville, California, on May 27, 1920, Ann received a bachelor's degree from

San Jose State University in 1942, before getting her Master's degree from Stanford University in 1954. From there, Ann began her 40-year career as an educator on California's Central Coast. In addition to teaching, Ann furthered her contribution to education through her role as principal at several schools including Aptos Junior High, where she was the first female principal. She retired from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in 1978. In 1999, Ann M. Soldo Elementary School was named in her honor.

Ann was the epitome of public service in the Pajaro Valley. She became involved with her local government in 1979, when she was elected to the Watsonville City Council and appointed as Vice-Mayor. From 1983 to 1987, Ann served as the first female mayor of Watsonville. Moreover, she volunteered for numerous community organizations, including the Salvation Army, YWCA, and the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, she co-chaired the fundraising drive to rebuild a local church and construction of the Henry Mello Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Soldo was an inspiring leader to so many, a woman who dedicated herself to bettering her community. Ann was proud of her Croatian heritage and took comfort in calling the Pajaro Valley home. She was preceded in death by her husband Andrew Soldo and is survived by her sister Grace Leavitt of Newport Beach, California and stepdaughter Mary Ann Jurchan of Colorado. I know that I speak for the whole House in mourning the passing of this dedicated and loving woman. Her life was a gift to her community.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF KYLE D.
KING FOR A LIFETIME OF COM-
MUNITY SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Kyle D. King for his commitment to community service in Farmers Branch, Texas. Chief King retired from the City of Farmers Branch on December 31, 2010, after completing 35 years of service.

Chief King was born in Carnegie, Oklahoma, attended Southwestern State University, and graduated from Oklahoma State University. After moving to Texas, he began his employment with the City of Farmers Branch as a Fire Inspector on January 1, 1976. He rose quickly, and was promoted to Fire Protection Safety Technician in 1979, Fire Marshal in 1981, Chief Training Officer in 1985, and Fire Chief in 1991.

As Fire Chief, Mr. King held certifications as an Instructor, Master Fire Inspector, Master Fire Fighter, Master Fire Investigator, and Master Peace Officer. He was a member of the Texas and International Fire Chiefs Association and is past President of the Dallas County Fire Chiefs Association. He has most recently served as Texas State Vice President of the Southwestern Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief King has overseen the construction of several fire department buildings, including the Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 3 and the

Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building. He also helped to set up the construction documents for new Fire Station No. 1. Additionally he has supervised the implementation of a mass casualty incident task force, the development of an emergency management plan, initiation of the Citizens Fire Academy, and the beginning of the paramedic engine program. Other achievements for the department include receiving a Class 2 ISO rating, recognition for maintaining an outstanding cardiac save rate, and the maintenance of extremely low annual fire losses through innovative fire prevention programs.

Beyond his work at the Fire Department, Chief King is active in his community. A Baptist deacon for over 30 years, Chief King has held several leadership roles in First Baptist Carrollton, his home church. He is also a former Chaplain for Dallas North Gideons International and currently holds the position of Membership Chair. Additionally, he mentors middle school students through the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I would like to thank Chief King for his exceptional career and community service contributions to the greater north Texas area. Because of his leadership and expertise, thousands of residents in Farmers Branch receive vital services each year. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief King for his lifetime of community service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our Nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. During testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary, the Office of Inspector General stated that the Office "continues to believe that the diversity visa program contains significant risks to national security from hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists attempting to use the program for entry into the United States as permanent residents."

Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from planting members in the U.S. by having those members apply for the program. As long as those individuals do not have previous criminal backgrounds, these types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our Nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in a September 2003 report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a five-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Brazil, Canada, India, the Philippines and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our Nation's security, make the administration of our immigration

laws more consistent and fair, and help reduce immigration fraud and opportunism.

HONORING FANNIE M. WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Fannie M. White, a life-long resident of Issaquena County. Fannie White was born on September 2, 1950, to Mr. Sidney and Marie Marshall, the seventh of nine children. She is a 1973 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a BS in Business Administration. She is retired from the Mississippi Department of Human Services after 28 years of service. She is married to Supervisor Larry White, who is also the assistant pastor of Rose Hill M.B. Church in Mayersville, MS, and has one son, Tristan White, who is a student at Alcorn State University.

Mrs. White has always had an interest in working with the youth in Issaquena County. Since the 1970's, she has been very active in working with the youth in the church, putting on plays to celebrate different holidays. She is the Adult Sunday School teacher at St. Peter M.B. Church where she is a dedicated member. She is also the founder and president of the Mayersville Youth Development Committee, and the director of the Mayersville Children's Village. Mrs. White has worked with these organizations for several years with such services as the Summer Feeding Program, the After School Tutoring Program, as well as the Summer Enhancement Program. She enjoys summer activities with the children, which consists of Summer Fun Days at the park, trips to educational museums such as the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN, the Natural Science Museum, the Planetarium, and the Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, MS. Mrs. White is also instrumental in participating with St. Jude and Muscular Dystrophy Foundation to help raise money for their organizations, also is an alderman for the town of Mayersville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2011, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 35–37. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 35: “yes”—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; rollcall No. 36: “no”—To extend expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 relating to access to business records, individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and roving wiretaps until December 8, 2011; rollcall No. 34: “yes”—On Approving the Journal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 36, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

HONORING JESSIE PEARL WATT STEWART

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jessie Pearl Watt Stewart. Jessie Pearl Watt Stewart is the eighth child of 12 born to the late Plummie and Cora Yates Watt in Grenada, Mississippi where she was reared. She attended the Grenada Colored Public Elementary and High School where she received her high school diploma. Upon graduation from high school, she matriculated in Mississippi Vocational College, now known as Mississippi Valley State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She also did further studies at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

It was at Mississippi Vocational College where she met and married the late Coach Conway Stewart, a native of Greenwood, Mississippi. To this union was given three beautiful daughters, Rev. Cora Denise Stewart Lowe, Valeria Stewart Skinner Moses and Yolanda Yvette Stewart Spinks.

Jessie Stewart's genuine love for children and people and her respect for education were the guiding forces that led her to a career of teaching for more than 39 years in Indianola, Grenada, Leflore County and Greenwood Public Schools. Her dedication and commitment to the successful education for Black children and young adults of the cultural, civic/moral development of Black women were her inspiration in teaching the whole child every facet of life. This was also instrumental in her organizing several young Black women organizations, a young men's organization, Gentlemen of Quality for high school boys. She worked with junior and high school girls for more than 25 years as sponsor and counselor of a civic, social, cultural and educational club. She worked as counselor, advisor and teacher of youth, and young adults, in the Mississippi State Baptist Congress of the Young People Department of Christian Education for 10 years. Jessie's love for God is evident having served at Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, as assistant secretary for more than 40 years, President of the Missionary Society, Director of Christian Education, Director of Baptist Training Union and Sunday school teacher. She has always exemplified strong Christian faith and gives God all the praise for her successes.

Her leadership ability is reflected in her service to the community, having served as President of The Rising Sun Community Organization, which has more than 300 residents, President of the Greenwood-Leflore Retired

Education Personnel Association, Past President of the Third District, City and local Federation of Colored Women Clubs Inc., An active Silver Star of Kappa Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), Past President of the Cotillion Federation of Colored Women' Club, Board member of the Salvation Army, originator and sponsor of orphan residents of local nursing homes. She is an active life and local member of Mississippi Valley State University Alumni Chapter and she has served on the United Way and Girl Scout Boards.

She is the recipient of numerous plaques, awards and recognitions for work in the community, schools and churches. Teacher of the Year from Threadgill Elementary School 1978, Teacher of the Year Dickerson Elementary School 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1996. Employer of the Year for Greenwood City Schools 1995, A+ Teacher of the year 1992, Who's Who Among American Teachers 1993, Community Services Award for volunteers, Wesley United Methodist Church 1997, 4-H Youth Volunteer Award 1993, Club Woman of the Year, Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women Third District, Cotillion Federated Club Woman of the Year and the Greenwood Commonwealth Newspaper *Unsung Hero* 2004.

She continues to work untiringly, teaching, mentoring, guiding and providing active participation in her church, The Greenwood-Leflore Retired Education Personnel Association, The Rising Sun Community Organization, AKA Sorority, schools, nursing homes and wherever she is called.

UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, last month, The Economist exhorted Western Leaders to more openly and consistently criticize Russia for its sham democracy, its brutal treatment of human rights activists and political dissidents, and its utter disregard for the rule of law. It was a challenge that should be taken seriously.

Our approach to Russia has been characterized, paradoxically, by a failure to be both sufficiently pragmatic and sufficiently idealistic at the same time.

Russia is a key international player with whom we must engage. That's undeniable. It is a permanent member of the Security Council. It is a key actor in any united international effort to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions. It exerts great influence in regions, such as Central Asia, with implications for our struggle against violent extremism in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Keeping our engagement with Russia as constructive and effective as possible is essential to pursuing our vital national security interests.

But this reality cannot preclude our commitment to promote democracy around the globe and condemn those who brutally suppress it. We must stand up for human rights and the rule of law, even when—especially when—they are undermined by major international players. We cannot remain silent when journalists and activists are killed or savagely

beaten with impunity, while political prisoners face years of jail time. The new guilty verdict imposed on Mikhail Khodorkovsky late last year makes it appear that the only crime that's actually punishable in the Russian Federation is opposition to Putin.

Days after the verdict was handed down, opposition leader and former Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov was arrested for participating in a peaceful rally. He had committed the grave offense of expressing support for the protection of constitutional rights and condemning the sham Khodorkovsky verdict.

Hostility to the rule of law extends beyond Russia's own borders, as we saw in the August 2008 invasion of our democratic ally Georgia. Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity remains under threat today.

In our relationship with Moscow, we must learn to balance the twin imperatives of effective engagement and criticism of gross miscarriages of justice. This will only become more essential in the context of the coming debate on Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Russia has moved closer than ever to acceding to the WTO. We are likely to face this prospect in the coming year and the resulting vote on whether to extend Permanent Normal Trade Relations. We will need to have a full and robust debate on this issue. We will need to ensure that PNTR is not granted until we have confirmed that Russia has fulfilled the basic obligations that WTO membership demands.

If those obligations are met, my view is that WTO accession would be a very positive step forward. Bringing Russia into a rules-based trading system would bind Moscow to the rule of law. It would create consequences and enforcement mechanisms for failure to live by its commitments. WTO membership is by no means a panacea, particularly for systems as deeply flawed as Russia's. But it would be a significant step in the right direction.

Not only would it impose the rule of law in Russia's trading relationships. It would demonstrate that even Moscow recognizes the value of international rules of fairness. This should serve as a reminder that their presumed indifference to our criticism is no excuse for failing to voice that criticism. We need to engage with Russia, but Russia also needs to engage with us. We cannot shy away from taking a public stand against increasingly brutal repression at the hands of those with whom we have important negotiations.

Neither can we lose sight of the fact that supporting the rule of law is not just about promoting American ideals. One of the most important lessons of the last decade is that democracy strengthening is as firmly grounded in realpolitik as it is steeped in lofty, high-minded ideals. If our moral clarity helps to strengthen democracy advocates in Russia, we will further our strategic goals in the long run. A less corrupt, less autocratic regime in Moscow will result in a better international partner.

As Vladimir Kara Murza has written in *World Affairs*, defending the rule of law is not just our right but our duty. Last week Vladimir wrote that statutes of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to which both the U.S. and Russia are party, make this clear. The statutes state "issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law are of international concern, as respect for these rights and freedoms con-

stitutes one of the foundations of the international order" and "commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States."

As a member of key international bodies and an aspirant to the WTO, Russia has subjected itself to international norms. The U.S. and its Western allies must take seriously the responsibility to hold Russia accountable for its commitments and its actions.

The Russian people have a long and tremendous history. Their government has very tragically tried to return this great people to a dark chapter of that history. But if we refuse to stay silent in the face of egregious human rights violations while constructively engaging in key negotiations, I believe we can effectively encourage positive change in Russia.

RECOGNIZING MARY EVELYN ARNOLD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize Mary Evelyn Arnold, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2011 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor.

The title, "Alcalde" or "Alcaldessa" when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "Mayor." During the Spanish colonial period in California, the Alcalde was the primary civil authority. In modern times in the City of Sonoma, it is an honorary title and the contemporary Alcalde or Alcaldessa presides over ceremonial events for the city.

Alcaldes and Alcaldessas are nominated by the community and are representative of individuals with a long record of volunteer work. Ms. Arnold is no exception to this rule.

At the top of the list of Ms. Arnold volunteer passions is the library. She has served on both the Sonoma County Library Commission and as Chair of the Sonoma Valley Library Advisory Board.

She also serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee at Vintage House, organizes the Wednesday cooking crew at Meals on Wheels and bakes birthday cakes for the WillMar Center, which offers support and counseling for children and teens grieving the death of a loved one.

Pets Lifeline (where she is the unofficial cat cuddler), Kiwanis Club of Sonoma Plaza and the AAUW Scholarship Committee round out her volunteer community activities.

Ms. Arnold is also very active in her church, serving on the Committee on Ministry of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and serves as Vice Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Sonoma.

Ms. Arnold moved to Sonoma County in 1987 and was the co-owner of a specialty wine business and worked for the Wine Business Monthly and Wine Business Insider for several years, finishing her career with internet.com.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Evelyn Arnold is the quintessential volunteer, a dynamic and well respected member of the community. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her

today as the City of Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2011.

HONORING MICHAEL LATIKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Latiker. Mr. Latiker was the first born to the late Charlie and Earnestine Latiker. He is a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, Mississippi. He attended school in Yazoo City and graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1977. Michael is a man with a heart of gold. He is a selfless servant to the public, a helping hand to those in need, a visitor of the sick, and a fierce friend.

Latiker was introduced to Christianity at an early age by his parents. He is an active and a most dedicated member of King Solomon Baptist Church, where he serves on the deacon board and a committed usher. Besides his Christian duties, he acquired other responsibilities which include: The Outreach Program of the community established by Herman Leach, The King Solomon Male Choir, softball coach of males at Roy Capernella Park (ages 6 through 14), Yazoo Brotherhood and mentor for the youth as well as his children Roderick Miguel, Verneda, and Eureka.

Michael's work never ends without a loving smile. No task for him has ever been too enormous. The philosophy he shares, "Never too early; Never too late, Just call." He has affected and changed the lives of many people and has made the community a better place in which to live. With his faith in Christ, he in a portrait true of brotherhood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained in my district and missed several votes on February 14, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 35, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, and "no" on rollcall No. 36, final passage of H.R. 514.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT GEORGE
H.W. BUSH ACCEPTING THE
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREE-
DOM

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today President George H.W. Bush accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama.

President Bush, dubbed "41," and I share the common bond very few combat veterans have experienced. We both were shot down while flying for our country. I am thrilled to report that he had a better experience after the

shoot down than I did, but it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that instantly bonds you with fellow survivors. I will always recall the day that I said goodbye to him on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base as he left Washington when President Clinton took office. I still hang the note that he wrote me thanking me for being there in my office. He's just that kind of personable guy who not only thinks of the little things that helps people feel great, he makes time for them.

To commemorate the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I would like to submit a poem, the *Man the Lord Pulled from the Sea*, written by Albert Caswell.

Congratulations, President Bush. You're an outstanding American and a great patriot. God bless you, and I salute you.

THE MAN THE LORD PULLED FROM THE SEA
A patriot's plane was shot from the sky . . .
Would this brave heart live or die?
What was to be?
With his two comrades gone . . .
As their fine souls rose up to Heaven, with
our Lord living on, eternally . . .
And from the heavens up above, our Lord
God in his love . . . reached down and
pulled this Hero, this Man From The
Sea!
Our 41st President . . . born,
George Herbert Walker Bush in Milton
Massachusetts . . . on June 12th,
1924 . . .
Score a lifetime of public service, to his Na-
tion so great be assured!
As none other in history, have so equaled so
before!
When all is said and done, his records are the
ones . . .
The historians will contend, are one of the
greatest Presidents I'm sure!
Born of wealth, power, social prestige and
such fame . . .
How so easily, he could have so
made . . . his life just a game!
Instead, he chose public service . . .
As had too, his most distinguished Father
Prescott Bush . . . all of Senate fame!
With a lifetime of public service, he can now
so claim . . .
Has so given even greater honor, to that al-
ready prestigious family name!
Just out of Phillips Academy, at 18 as he
knew he had to be . . .
Off to war for this his country 'Tis A
Thee . . . ready to die!
With, The World To Be Saved, and a war to
be won!
This hero flew off, to that land of the rising
sun, up in the sky . . .
Not hiding behind social position, as the
world lie in such a horrid condition!
All because, patriot's never ask why!
Leaving, he was barely a man . . .
But returning home, as before us now so
stood a hero so grand . . .
One of America's Best, no one denies!
As once again, in 1944 he was so blessed . . .
As he wed his true love and wonderful wife,
Barbara Pierce no less . . .
And still, to this very day . . .
Their great love story and wonderful family
they consider, of their life's greatest of
all success!
Returning home, as straight to Yale . . .
As his heart would so roam, eager to grow at
Andover he had been ready to
learn . . .
Captain of a championship baseball team,
even then the word Bush meant lead!
As great respect as a Leader, he had so
earned . . .
For athletics and exercise, he truly
yearns . . .
For within his heart, this great passion and
way of life has ever so burned!

As a cowboy at heart, as so soon he drove off
westward ho . . . out of town . . .
As to Texas as an oilman, he was so surely
bound . . .
Then, giving up his company he had built
from the ground . . .
As when inside his great heart, so came a
calling sound!
So soon he discovered, it was public service
that he was in love with . . .
Where his future and heart, and life's work
were so to be found . . .
Following his respected Dad, Prescott foot-
steps into Congress for two terms . . .
And as the head of the CIA, as all of those
commies he so burned . . .
Ever striving to improve, growing and learn-
ing, as The Man On The Move, as for
great challenges his heart ever
yearned!
With it becoming clear, that "The White
House" was ever near, and all of the
World... The Name of Bush would so
soon learn . . ."
Serving as Vice President . . . for two
terms . . .
As no higher respect . . . in this that office
has so since been so returned!
As Timber Wolf, was the "Go To Guy!"
Among world leaders, his respect was so very
high!
That's something, that which must be so
earned!
Then The President in 88, no more accom-
plished resume has ever been so great!
As has had The Electoral College so con-
firmed!
As history one day . . . shall so forever
say . . .
No more productive 12 years of Executive
service, has ever come her way!
Because in 12 years . . . such incredible
events!
As a real future for our children, had so
commenced . . .
As the records will say . . .
Bush and respect, and World leadership, are
now one in the same . . .
As communism fell, do you remember that
magnificent day?
Our Lord so remembers, your great fight and
devotion doing right . . .
To save that most sacred gift of life, "The
Unborn Child!"
As now, high above you he so stands so
proud . . .
With tears in his eyes, as all across the heav-
ens with great smile . . .
For each and every life, is so precious and so
dear . . .
For it's our Lord's greatest gift which so
blesses us, as Robin your sweet child so
clear!
While, all of the others questioned . . . it
was you who so drew that line in the
sand! "This aggression shall not
stand!"
Mr. President, your plan saved the Mid East!
Bringing together each, Jewish and Arab,
woman and Man . . .
For you had seen Hitler, and the evils that
men do . . .
As you all in your lifetime, had so lived
through . . . "No Never Again!"
As you had stood in harms way once before!
And you knew of the great cost to families in
of war!
So you followed a code!
Giving to each and every hero, all that they
would so need so!
So that they could so carry that load!
As you said, "if a hero must die valiantly in
this honor's code!"
Then, to their loved ones . . . their true fine
worth must be showed!
And no classier First Lady, or President
have ever so graced our Heartland . . .

Reaching out to all, with but a warm
hand . . .
The Old System, a Member of The Gold
System . . . for which you so surely
stand!
In your treatment, of the average woman
and so man . . .
We come this way but only once, and how
the big people treat us, so surely
makes our world's of such . . .
All in our Lord's plans . . .
For in this Capitol Town, the words class are
often found . . .
Whenever, the name of George Bush we so
sound!
As his secret service tell of a man so re-
nowned!
While, working for Timber Wolf in
town . . . he's a guy they love to be
around!
With his great sense of humor, as him and
Dana roll on the ground . . .
And his buddy Arnold, never lets him down!
On your last days in office, how some people
had forgotten what you had
done . . . "Oh, how it gives us such pain!
But, history shall be far kinder and remem-
ber your name . . .
And never forget your great record there, as
always will remain . . .
As it's your words which so ring true, indeed
it is what you do! "It's all about
character" . . . Time and Time Again!
Now, listen ever closely . . .
From up in the Heavens up above . . .
As our Lord looks down upon you, on this
earth in all of his love . . .
As he's been watching you, throughout all of
these years . . .
As these words you may hear, on a gentle
breeze from up above . . .
"George my Son, you've never let me
down" . . .
I'm so glad that I pulled you, from the sea as
I found . . . on the wings of a
dove" . . .

—Albert Caswell

HONORING JOSEPH CLEOPHUS
DAVIS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speak-
er, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Cleophus
Davis, Sr., a long time resident of Port Gibson,
Mississippi for 53 years. He was born June 5,
1934 in Claiborne County, Mississippi, to the
union of Benjamin Davis, Jr. and Paris Smith,
and he shares the June 5th birth date with his
mother who celebrated her 102nd birthday on
June 5, 2010. Joseph was reared by his paternal
grandparents Abby & Benjamin Davis, Sr.
and his father in Lorman, Mississippi. Mr. Jo-
seph Davis attended the Jefferson County
Schools before he enlisted in the United
States Army at the age of 18. He served his
country for 3 years, being station at Ladd Air
force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska; and at Fort
McCullum Army Base in Anderson, Alabama,
he served 6 months in the capacity of TDY/
Military Policeman. While serving in the Army
Reserve in 1961 he was inducted back into
active duty because of the Berlin Crisis. He re-
ceived an Honorable Discharge from the
United States Army in 1962.

Mr. Joseph Davis was employed with the
Westin House Electric Company from August
1965 through April 1967. Mr. Joseph Davis

was sworn in as a Port Gibson City Policeman in April of 1967, taking this oath gave him permission to carry a weapon in the city, making him the first official black policeman for the City of Port Gibson. Later in life, he was afforded an employment opportunity at one of the great Historically Black University, Alcorn State University. He served in the capacity of Campus Police Officer for 8 years. His great leadership quality and abilities lead him to be offered the Chief of Campus Security position. Her served in this capacity for a total of 11½ years. He celebrated his retirement at the age of 58 in 1992. After a few months into his retirement he decided to become a Deputy for the Claiborne County Sheriff Department from 1993 to the present. He also works in his store F & J's (Faye & Joe); the store is a very special place for the children of his community.

Mr. Joseph Davis joined Christian Chapel Church in 1957 under the direction of Elder T. E. Harris. He has served the church as a junior deacon, a deacon, Chairman of the Board (two terms), Christian Men Fellowship (two terms) and has volunteered on many committees; he presently serves as an Elder.

Mr. Joseph Davis is a graduate of Alcorn State University with a BA in Sociology, a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, St. John's Lodge #4, a Charter Member of the NAACP, two time President of the Claiborne County Branch of the NAACP, a former member of the Board of Governors for the Claiborne County Family Health Center Community Health Center, and a former leader for Boy Scout Troop #253.

Mr. Joseph Davis has been married to Faye Vera (Holt) Davis for 52 years. They are the parents of four children: Belinda, Joseph, Jr., Myrtle and Patrick.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2011, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to illness. If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 35—nay; rollcall No. 36—aye.

HONORING MATTIE KNIGHT WASHINGTON—EDUCATOR AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mattie Knight Washington. Ms. Washington, the sixth of fourteen children was born and raised in rural Yazoo County, Mississippi. Mrs. Mattie Knight Washington—an outstanding educator and community activist; first and foremost professes God to be her personal Savior. With the firm belief

that family is the most basic and important institution in society, Mrs. Washington proudly represents the adage “a Knight in shining armor”! She is a fine example of bravery, heroism, courtesy, and generosity. This celebrated woman is the epitome of courage, strength and love.

A trailblazer in the area of education, Mattie Bee (as she is affectionately called) learned her first lessons in a home where she was raised by God-fearing parents amid several siblings and members of her extended families. During her teen years she entered Jackson State College (JSU) where she worked very diligently to earn her General Education Diploma (GED). She pursued her goals and later earned a Bachelor of Science, making her first in her family to attend college. Being thirsty for knowledge she obtained a Masters of Science and Education Specialist degrees, all at her dear JSU. Although she has completed further studies at Delta State University, Mississippi State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi, Jackson State remains her “school of the heart.” She has served as president of the local chapter of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association.

Mrs. Washington has not only taught for over 32½ years, retiring in 2004, but she also displays her strong desires to give every child the opportunity to be educated and expand their experiences through sponsorship/coordination of many successful educational field trips for students in Yazoo County to various sites in Mississippi, as well as Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, New York, and the nation's capital—Washington, DC. A lifetime member of the Mississippi Association of Educators (MAE) and the National Educators Association (NEA), Mrs. Washington takes pride in teaching children to find a love for education within them. She actively participates in educational enhancement programs and projects in the community, including the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, the Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce-Competitive Community, Adopt-A-School Programs, serves as a board member of the Historical Preservation Society, and is an Election Commissioner.

Reflecting on the biblical passage “The Lord loves a cheerful giver. (11 Corinthians 9:6–7), Mrs. Mattie K. Washington is a strong supporter of the church. Having served in various capacities, particularly in the organization of the Youth Choir, she was one of the first three members of King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church to make a sizeable monetary contribution to the renovation efforts of its fellowship hall. She also assists other community churches in their efforts.

Mattie believes in balance in her life, so she not only gives materialistically, but she also gives of herself through donation of her time and talents. She was the first African-American woman to have started a catering service in Yazoo County, and still enjoys cooking and baking for large numbers of people. One will still find this being displayed over the last 26 years as she honors the Mother Board of King Solomon's Church with an elaborate tribute dinner, where her culinary prowess is demonstrated. She thoroughly enjoys lauding others for their good work so she often takes on sponsoring dinners for the Police Dept., the Mayor and Board of Alderman, as well as fam-

ily gatherings where city, state, and national officials come to break bread also. This year was her first year spearheading the “Make a Difference Day” event that was formally headed by nationally acclaimed local sponsor, Ms. Leola Dillard.

People from all walks of life, ages, and ethnic backgrounds have benefitted from Mattie's contributions. Her philosophy of whether you are prince or pauper, queen or maid, you will find the same warm, friendly welcome to her home, heart, and life. (She is still educating through modeling!)

Mrs. Washington attributes her inspiration to be an educator from the following: her parents, Roosevelt and Minnie Vaughan Knight, who were not afforded the opportunity to obtain formal education; daughter, Debra Knight Howard, an educated business leader; Joseph G. Williams, a fellow educator, who all preceded her in death; supported by her loving husband, George Washington; daughter, Jennifer Washington; and grandchildren, Deidra, David B., Draven Howard, and A.J. Washington; along with her 13 siblings and countless other relatives, friends and associates.

Mrs. Mattie Knight Washington lives to “make a difference,” symbolizing courage, strength and love.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WASHINGTON CHANNEL BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this non-controversial bill, which the House passed by unanimous consent in the 111th Congress, will allow development at the Southwest Waterfront in the District of Columbia. This bill will benefit not only D.C. residents, but also regional residents, businesses and national and international visitors, by permitting the District to extend docks and increase recreation and maritime activity just an eyeshot from the U.S. Capitol. The District urgently needs this bill to finalize plans for the Southwest Waterfront, which it hopes to convert into an attractive location for residents and visitors alike.

In order for the District to make these improvements, the Federal Government must redesignate part of the water designated by the Federal Government as the Washington Channel, so that more and larger docks can be built by the District to accommodate increased boating and waterside activity. The original width of the Washington Channel was established in the early 1800s, prior to the construction of East Potomac Park, to accommodate industrial and maritime commerce at the Southwest Waterfront. Today, however, the Southwest Waterfront is no longer a major port and does not accommodate large vessels. In fact, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have agreed that this redesignation will not affect navigation interests or adversely affect navigation safety.

I ask Members to support this non-controversial change to reinvigorate the Southwest Waterfront for the city, region and visitors to enjoy.

HONORING THE REVEREND EDWARD JOSEPH HILDEBRANDT, JR.

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Edward Joseph Hildebrandt, Jr., and celebrate a life dedicated to serving the American people. On the ninth anniversary of his passing, I would like to commemorate the selflessness and devotion that Reverend Hildebrandt exemplified in every aspect of his work.

Reverend Hildebrandt was born on June 7, 1940, in Hoboken, New Jersey. His family life was difficult, and he grew up protecting and providing for his siblings in their broken and often abusive home. He eventually enlisted in the Army, serving for 4 years as a military policeman, including a tour of duty in Korea where he was stationed at the Korean Demilitarized Zone. After leaving the military, Reverend Hildebrandt worked as a union leader and postal clerk in the Carlstadt and East Rutherford Annex Post Offices. He also worked part-time as a house painter and metal foundry worker. Reverend Hildebrandt was never idle, providing for his family as well as others in their community. He would often invite less fortunate families into his home until they were able to get back on their feet.

Reverend Hildebrandt's strong desire to serve people and improve his community led to his becoming a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1970s. He ministered to parishioners at churches in Little Ferry, Garfield, and East Rutherford; however, he would happily minister to those in need—people did not have to be a member of his congregation to receive his attention. With a growing population of Korean immigrants in his community, Reverend Hildebrandt used the cultural knowledge he gained during his military service in Korea to communicate with and provide aid to many families. He also served his community as a Boy Scout leader, Little League coach, and as a member of both the Knights of Columbus and the Rosary Altar Society. Reverend Hildebrandt was a published poet, part of the Hoboken Historic Society, and involved with the National Park Service. He was a founding member of New Kid Ministries in Stockholm, New Jersey.

Despite his deep involvement in many aspects of his community, Reverend Hildebrandt's most proud accomplishment was his 39-year marriage to his wife Rosemarie Ali Hildebrandt, and the nine children they raised together in the Borough of Carlstadt. He was also blessed with four grandchildren. Reverend Hildebrandt's passing on February 2, 2002, was a tremendous loss for both his family and the community which he served.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the life of Reverend Edward Joseph Hildebrandt, Jr., and join his family and friends in fondly remembering his many years of devoted service to the people of Northern New Jersey.

HONORING JOYCE ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joyce Robinson. Ms. Robinson was born on December 8, 1954 to Doris Murray and Charles Welch. She attended Crystal Springs High School. She married Eugene Robinson on October 2, 1972. They have two sons, Eugene Robinson II and Jarvis Robinson. Joyce works for the George Harris Building Company located in Hazlehurst, MS.

She attends Brushy Creek Baptist Church where she serves in the sanctuary choir, vice president of mission ministry, secretary of the mother ministry and church clerk. She is a member of the Heroines of Jericho, Hopewell Court 118. She is also a member of the Hazlehurst Schools' PTA.

She takes care of her mom who are and other senior citizens in the Crystal Springs area. Many of the senior citizens, who are Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, depend on Joyce to help them in completing their absentee ballots. She does voter registration throughout Copiah County. During Hurricane Katrina, Joyce assisted in preparing meals for the displaced. She is always a "helping hand" to her neighbors.

HONORING DR. TIM BURLINGAME

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Dr. Tim Burlingame, a great American who faithfully and tirelessly served the community and inspired thousands of young people to better themselves through the word of God.

From 1980 to 1984, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Burlingame as a member of the Board of Directors of Sunrise Christian School. Dr. Burlingame dutifully worked to ensure his students received the finest academic and religious education from preschool to eighth grade. In August 2010, Dr. Burlingame retired from Sunrise Christian School as head administrator, a position he held for 35 years.

Dr. Burlingame generously gave his time to many educational causes. He served as a board member for the Western Christian School and the Association of Christian Schools International where he also acted as commissioner. He was a leader whose impact was undoubtedly felt well beyond the San Gabriel Valley communities to which he was so devoted.

Dr. Burlingame was an exceptional community volunteer. He was an active member of the Rotary Club, the Covina Planning Commission and a Director for the Covina Chamber of Commerce where he served a term as President.

On October 28, 2010, Dr. Burlingame left our mortal world and returned home to God.

Dr. Burlingame was a devoted Christian, loving husband, father, grandfather and valued community leader. I am proud of his many ac-

complishments and contributions. He has made a lasting mark on my life and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that this Congress join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Tim Burlingame, a truly great American.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE J. TIMOTHY CAMPBELL IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE AS GREENE COUNTY JUDGE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Judge J. Timothy Campbell for his outstanding efforts of preserving justice in the Greene County Community.

In receiving this distinguished tribute, Judge Campbell has been recognized as an exemplary elected official. Judge Campbell has dedicated nine years to Greene County serving as a Judge in the Greene County Common Pleas Court. Throughout his 37 years of practicing law, he has accepted many roles that range from serving as an Assistant Greene County Prosecutor to serving on educational and service boards. Along with his practice of law Judge Campbell is a renowned author and has published many articles and educational publications. Judge Campbell has also shared time as an instructor and faculty member at RETS College and Wilmington College. He has shown himself to be a prominent and hardworking member of the Greene County community.

Judge Campbell is the epitome of selflessness, commitment and impartial justice. He has demonstrated sincere dedication to providing equality and justice in Greene County. It is his exemplary efforts that assist the progress of our nation in fairly and efficiently protecting our citizens.

Thus, with great pride, I congratulate Judge J. Timothy Campbell for his commendable service to the community and extend best wishes for the future.

HONORING MANUEL WELCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manuel Welch, a retired Copiah County District Four Supervisor, born in Copiah County in the Shady Grove community. He attended Shady Grove School and joined Shady Grove M. B. church at an early age. Later his family moved into the Crystal Springs School District where he attended school. He graduated from Holtzclaw High School and soon after graduation obtained a summer job at the GEM plant.

Manuel attended Utica Junior College for one year. He received his first full-time job at a furniture plant in Jackson where he worked for 20 years. He found another job interest as he became a Tax Preparer in 1978.

Manuel was active in the civil rights era. In 1982 he was instrumental in getting Covich County redistricted. He won the 1983 election but it was taken from him. Manuel didn't get elected until 1985 as the first black Supervisor in Covich County.

He is an active member of the Covich County NAACP, the Covich County Democratic Executive Committee, and is a Mason.

HONORING BETTY DAVIS

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for almost a half a century, Betty Davis—affectionately known as Miss Betty—has been serving the community at Queens University in Charlotte. Having been at Queens for nearly a third of the university's history, she's its longest serving employee, and everywhere you look, you can see Miss Betty's influence.

She began working at Queens in 1962 as a housekeeper in one of the residence halls. She then became a housemother, saying recently in an interview that the girls in her houses respected her because she respected them.

It's her respect for those around her that has made Miss Betty more than just a friendly face on the Queens University campus—she's someone that students, faculty and staff know they can turn to at any time.

In 1978, university President Dr. Billy O. Wireman took notice, and asked Miss Betty to be his personal assistant. She says that she became like family with Dr. Wireman. He presented her with the Honorary Alumna Award in 1988; she sat with his family at his funeral in 2005.

Close to starting her 50th year at Queens, Miss Betty has recently been named the doyenne of the Queens dining hall. When she's not caring for what she calls her "Queens children" during the school year, she's often spotted around Charlotte—whether shopping or walking around Freedom Park. She's a celebrity-type figure, and anywhere you go around town, you're sure to find someone who knows Miss Betty.

In an article recently published by the Queens University Magazine, Miss Betty recalls a piece of advice her friend and mentor Dr. Wireman once told her: "Gal, don't ever say no. Say you'll try your best." And that's exactly what Miss Betty has been doing for Queens University, her family and the Charlotte community for five decades. We appreciate her service to generations of Charlotteans, and look forward to many more years of her guiding influence.

HONORING MARY EVELYN ARNOLD
OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN

WOOLSEY, to recognize Mary Evelyn Arnold, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2011 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor.

The title "Alcalde," or "Alcaldessa," when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "Mayor." During the Spanish colonial period in California, the Alcalde was the primary civil authority. In modern times in the City of Sonoma, it is an honorary title and the contemporary Alcalde or Alcaldessa presides over ceremonial events for the city.

Alcaldes and Alcaldessas are nominated by the community and are representative of individuals with a long record of volunteer work. Ms. Arnold is no exception to this rule.

At the top of the list of Ms. Arnold's volunteer passions is the library. She has served on both the Sonoma County Library Commission and as Chair of the Sonoma Valley Library Advisory Board.

She also serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee at Vintage House, organizes the Wednesday cooking crew at Meals on Wheels, and bakes birthday cakes for the WillMar Center, which offers support and counseling for children and teens grieving the death of a loved one. Pets Lifeline (where she is the unofficial cat cuddler), Kiwanis Club of Sonoma Plaza and the AAUW Scholarship Committee round out her volunteer community activities.

Ms. Arnold is also very active in her church, serving on the Committee on Ministry of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and serves as Vice Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Sonoma.

Ms. Arnold moved to Sonoma County in 1987 and was the co-owner of a specialty wine business and worked for the Wine Business Monthly and Wine Business Insider for several years, finishing her career with internet.com.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Evelyn Arnold is the quintessential volunteer, a dynamic and well respected member of the community. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her today as the City of Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2011.

IN MEMORY OF KATHY RADKE
AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO
OUR COMMUNITY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my wife Cynthia, my sons George and Stephen, I rise today to join with the citizens of my hometown, Martinez, California, to mourn the death of our friend and neighbor Kathy Radke.

Kathy was a friend in the best sense of the word, and she was a neighbor in the largest sense of the word: she worried about us, inquired after us, and supported us as individuals and as families.

Kathy, along with her husband Ted, brought a vision of community that would be supportive of children, families, and our elderly. Hers was a vision that included environ-

mentally sound policies to make our city safer and our community a more enjoyable place to live.

Time and again she was successful in realizing this vision, as she moved through Martinez as a parent, as an elected official, as a volunteer, and as an organizer.

We were all shocked and saddened to learn of her serious illness last year and her passing last week. It's difficult to think of our town without Kathy's caring, her vision, and her drive.

Now along with Ted and her sons HT and Dylan, we will all have to work harder to maintain and grow the many gifts she left for us. We all are going to miss her and the strength of her spirit.

I know that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Kathy Radke, and expressing our condolences to her family and her many friends. I want to draw my colleagues' attention to an article in the Martinez News-Gazette about Kathy and her great legacy, and I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Martinez News-Gazette, Feb. 10, 2011]

KATHY RADKE: ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION,
CIVIC LEADER, CHERISHED FRIEND TO MANY

(By Greta Mart)

The woman largely responsible for protecting Mt. Wanda from development, conserving the Franklin Hills as open space and galvanizing community support for Alhambra Creek died this week: Kathy Radke passed away on Monday from pancreatic cancer. She was 71.

During her two terms on the Martinez City Council, Radke focused on water quality issues and worked to bring cleaner water to Martinez residents. Later, the geriatric peer-counseling program she created became a model for others around the state. Another late career change saw her becoming licensed as a conservator, managing financial and health matters for elderly patients.

On Wednesday, her son Dylan Radke, currently the chair of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission, spoke about his mother's life and touched on the many roles Kathy played in the civic life of Martinez.

Born in December of 1939 and raised in Chicago, Kathy was the middle of three sisters. Her father Otto ran a family beer distributing business, said Dylan, and she attended the Chicago Commercial High School, graduating at age 16.

For a few years Radke worked for the American Medical Association in Chicago and then New York City as an executive secretary until she volunteered for the newly-established Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps took her to rural Guatemala, where she taught nutrition and trade skills. When her stint was up, she moved to San Francisco and enrolled at San Francisco State to earn a B.A.

There she met Ted Radke, who was a fellow student and served as a teaching assistant for one of Kathy's classes.

The two were married and she dropped out when the pair moved to Martinez and had their first child, Harold Theodore III in 1969.

Asked the reason his parents chose Martinez, Dylan said it was a combination of his paternal grandparents living here and his father securing a job at what was then

called the Abandoned and Abused Children's Center, across from the County's Juvenile Hall.

Dylan was born in 1971, at a time when Ted was mounting his first political campaign. Kathy was the key staffer on Ted's campaign for City Council, which he won. Ted served for one term on the Martinez City Council before being elected to the Board of the East Bay Regional Park District in 1977, a position he still holds.

"During that same time, both my parents helped found the Contra Costa Ecology Action," said Dylan. "They were trying to draw attention to environmental issues; how pollution, poor air and water quality affect health. It was an environmental advocacy group."

Ted left county social services for a teaching position at Contra Costa College while Kathy worked as a secretary for the Martinez Unified School District and subsequently the local electrician's union.

Ted's campaign had apparently inspired Kathy to public service, as she was elected to the City Council in 1982 and served for two terms. She ran for Mayor in 1984, but lost to Mike Menesini.

"Although the office is non-partisan, my mother would not be ashamed to be identified as a Democrat. She was really into water quality; it was a hot issue then due to the proposal of the Peripheral Canal idea. She was also dedicated to maintaining Martinez's small town character," said Dylan. "Mom was active in trying to protect the Franklin Hills [from development] and same with Mt. Wanda. She worked with George Miller to get Mt. Wanda to become part of the John Muir National Historic Site."

Former Council member Peter Langley said this week that he and Kathy were very close friends when they served together on the Council.

"We were both on the water subcommittee and what we were trying to do was get better water quality for Martinez," said Langley. "Kathy was very much an environmentalist. One of the issues was a development in the Alhambra Hills, which is still before the City Council and we turned down several proposals for the Franklin Hills. South of Highway 4 where Alhambra Valley Road shoots off from Alhambra, there is a place where there is a sort of natural entrance to the hills, a canyon, and there was a guy who wanted to put a development there," which Radke opposed.

Langley said that one couldn't dislike Kathy Radke.

"She had a very sunny personality, very warm," he said.

Dylan Radke said after his mother left the Council, she returned to finish her Bachelor's degree at Cal State Hayward. She went on to earn a Master's in Human Development and started working on a second Master's in Public Health when she was recruited by Contra Costa County to do geriatric social work.

When he was on the Board of Supervisors, now-Senator Mark DeSaulnier proposed creating a senior peer counseling program and asked Kathy Radke to head it up.

"The program was very successful and became a model for others," said Dylan.

"She set up a fabulous peer counseling program that's been copied elsewhere," said Radke's friend Harriett Burt.

In the mid-90s, Radke was appointed to the John Muir Health Board of Directors and ran for Board of Supervisors, but was defeated by Gail Uilkema.

After retiring from her County position a few years ago, Radke started a new career by

obtaining her license as a fiduciary conservator.

"Conservators are people who manage the care for people who are unable to do it, older adults who no longer have the capacity to manage their financial affairs," said Dylan. "Conservators are court-appointed and Mom would essentially make sure they are being seen by doctors and bills are being paid, it enabled them to continue to live longer in a home environment."

In the late '80s, Kathy and Ted Radke helped found the Friends of the Alhambra Creek organization.

"There was concern over the accumulation of debris and trash in the creek and with more development in [Alhambra Valley], also watershed issues. [The founders] were primarily trying to restore the creek to a natural flow and making sure it was healthy for fish, turtles, and of course, beavers," said Dylan Radke. "[Kathy], along with Igor Skaredoff and Jane Moore, those three would organize creek cleanups because they saw the creek as vital to the downtown and [Alhambra] valley ecosystem."

"The first time I met [Kathy], Shirley [his wife] and I went to a slide show by the Friends of Alhambra Creek. Several members had hiked to the source, in Briones, and took pictures. That's when we joined FAC, circa 1990," Skaredoff said Wednesday in a telephone interview. "We hit it off and started doing things together like surveys and creek cleanup. Kathy and I designed a little brochure [about the creek]. Kathy also created a creek protection ordinance for the City of Martinez that is still in the General Plan. It's a great legacy from her; it's actually written into the General Plan how to protect [the creek]."

Turning to the more personal attributes of Radke, Skaredoff described Kathy as possessing a great sense of humor.

"Always she could find something to laugh about, something positive. Whenever you were around her you always felt better, she had that way about her," said Skaredoff. "She was a vital force. I'm very happy I met her and our community was so much better off with her in it."

Jane Moore also became close to Radke after joining the Friends of Alhambra Creek, and later worked on Radke's campaign for the County Board of Supervisors.

"I've been meaning to look up the definition of this word, although it's usually used in a negative way, because Kathy always comes to mind when I hear it: instigator. She was an instigator in the best sense of the word, in the way she got ideas going, got people interested in ideas, instrumental in showing people how to use their best potential," said Moore. "I wouldn't be doing the work I'm doing without her, she inspired me to get my degree. The loss of Kathy Radke is a huge loss to Martinez and Contra Costa County. She was pivotal in so many people's lives, programs and services. She was an incredibly important person, giving and generous."

Another friend who had known Radke for many years, Sheila Grilli, said described her death as "such a loss."

"We were political cohorts: I ran for City Council when she ran for Mayor. She was fair and well liked, and a happy person. We traveled together a couple of times a year to Mexico and Hawaii—and she was easy to get along with, energetic and open to suggestions. It's hard to imagine that someone as dynamic and interesting is gone," said Grilli.

Dylan said traveling the world was one of his mother's passions.

"She couldn't do it enough, she been all over the world," said Dylan Radke. "She

also loved to camp, especially with the family, and she loved to garden."

Anyone who has visited the Radke home was witness to Kathy Radke's passion for gardening. When he was young, Dylan said his parents maintained huge planters for kitchen garden crops; about 15 years ago, Kathy transformed the back yard into an Asian-themed wonderland.

Besides raising their two biological children, Kathy and Ted Radke served as foster parents to three children.

Trying to remember all of his mother's accomplishments, Dylan added that Kathy was also a licensed social worker on top of all her other achievements.

"She passed the social work exam right after I passed the bar," to practice law, said Dylan.

Dylan's wife Deidre Seguenza said Wednesday afternoon the family had set a date for Kathy's funeral; it will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at St. Catherine's in Martinez.

"She will be greatly missed," said Seguenza with heartbreak in her voice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH CORPS ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Youth Corps Act of 2011 to help increase opportunities for youth in Hawaii and nationwide.

In the worst recession since the Great Depression, 2010 marked the highest unemployment rate for youth ages 16–24 since the Labor Department began tracking the figure in World War II. Nearly 1 in 5 youth were unemployed in 2010.

Youth Corps can help. Modeled after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, today's Corps Network includes 143 programs in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Youth Corps programs have helped 600,000 youth gain critical education, civic engagement, and job training skills.

A shining example of a Youth Corps leader is my constituent Mari Takemoto-Chock, who is one of six 2011 Corps Member of the Year. Mai grew up on Hawaii Island and thrived at excellent public schools. Once she attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, she became aware of the daunting opportunity gap between young people of different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds.

Last spring and summer, Mari served as a UH Fellow in my Washington office, where she was one of the most effective employees I have ever had. Wanting to do more on-the-ground service, Mari became an AmeriCorps VISTA intern for Kupu, the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps. There she helped develop and implement Kupu's new Urban Corps program.

In 2011, Kupu itself is honored with a Project of the Year award. Kupu in Hawaiian means "to sprout, grow, germinate, or increase" and like the Kupukupu fern that grows after a lava flow, Kupu brings life back to the people, the land, and the ocean. Kupu used Recovery Act funding to create a Recovery

Youth Conservation Corps. The program provided education and job training to 45 underserved young adults; produced nearly 83,000 service hours, and yielded nearly \$1.5 million in community improvement projects.

Unfortunately, Youth Corps programs today must cobble together funding from a wide variety of sources, and they operate with tremendous uncertainty. The Youth Corps Act of 2011 would provide more stability for Youth Corps affiliates and the youth they serve by authorizing a new program through the Workforce Investment Act, WIA.

I thank Congressman ANDREWS for his continued leadership on this bill and urge my colleagues to support this effort.

RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDAL OF
FREEDOM

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to this year's recipients of the Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor; to individuals who have made our country stronger, our culture richer, our world more peaceful; to men and women who have helped shape our history and lay the foundation for a better future.

In bestowing this honor, President Obama highlighted leaders of vision and courage. Each hails from a different background. Their fields vary, ranging from public service to civil rights, from the arts to athletics, from poetry to politics, from environmental activism to labor and business. Yet they share a common commitment to bold leadership, principled action, and the common good.

In particular, I rise to recognize three recipients who I am privileged to call respected colleagues and friends.

Congressman JOHN LEWIS is the conscience of the Congress, a true hero of our history, and an inspiration to all who serve with him and to every American. From the first Freedom Ride in South Carolina to a "Bloody Sunday" in Selma to the well of the House, he stood for his own rights, and extended the blessings of liberty to others. He sought equality for African Americans, and secured justice for all. Through non-violence and courage, he advanced our most basic rights—to vote, to

speaking, to assemble. JOHN LEWIS' story is a triumph for those whose souls cry out for freedom. No one is more deserving of this recognition.

Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, founder of VSA, carries forward her family's torch of service, offering children and adults with disabilities the freedom to celebrate their artistic talents, and ushering in an era of peace and cooperation as our Nation's envoy to Ireland. For more than 35 years, she has worked to empower all people with disabilities to reach their full potential through the arts. She has long believed in the power of art to inspire and to connect individuals and communities of different backgrounds. Through her passion and her commitment, Jean Kennedy Smith has lived up to her own words: that "art is central to what makes us fully human."

John Sweeney has provided more than a strong voice for our middle class; he has fought for the freedom of our workers to organize, support their families, and earn a living wage. In California and nationwide, workers have never had a more resilient, more passionate champion than John Sweeney. His life's work is a tribute to fairness, equality, and opportunity for all. On behalf of working Americans—from the chambers of Sacramento to the halls of Washington, DC—when John Sweeney speaks out, America's leaders listen.

In their lifetimes of service, today's recipients of the Medal of Freedom have played a central role in upholding the promise of a better future for all Americans and for our fellow citizens of the world. To them, I offer congratulations and gratitude.

HELP BORDER HEALTHCARE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 541, the Pay for All Your Undocumented Procedures (PAY UP!) Act. This bill will provide payments for emergency services provided to undocumented aliens.

The costs of uncompensated emergency care for undocumented immigrants are sky high and border area hospitals, physicians, and ambulance providers are choking on the costs that they have to eat. My bill, the Pay for All Your Undocumented Procedures (PAY

UP!) Act, is the first step to solving this problem which is well known in border communities.

Undocumented aliens receive emergency services in a hospital and yet that hospital is not reimbursed for these services. My bill will ensure that the healthcare providers are reimbursed for the emergency services they provide.

My bill makes permanent a provision of the Medicare Modernization Act that provided payments to eligible providers for procedures for undocumented aliens. The bill authorizes \$250 million a year to reimburse eligible providers for this care. Two-thirds of the funds are divided among the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on their relative percentages of undocumented aliens, the last third is divided among the 6 states with the largest number of undocumented aliens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, February 11, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 32 (on the motion to recommit with instructions), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 33 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 72), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 34 (on approving the journal).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, Monday, February 14, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 35 (on the motion to recommit with instructions), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 36 (on passage of H.R. 514), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 37 (on approving the journal).