

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
OF JOSEPH ANTHONY STEWART

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from California, Ms. ESHOO, to honor the memory of Joseph A. Stewart, who passed away on December 6, 2013, after a full and enriching life looking out for others.

Joseph was born on January 20, 1941, in Newark, New Jersey. He attended Seton Hall University, earning a degree in classical languages. He received his MA and PhD in human relations and social policy planning from New York University.

His concern for the sick spurred a prolific career in health care that spanned more than 40 years, taking him everywhere from large academic medical centers to community nonprofit hospitals.

The first administrator of Cooperative Care at New York University Medical Center, Joseph went on to hold academic appointments at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Southern California.

Joseph was also actively involved in his local parish, where he mentored new ministers.

Monsignor Scott Daugherty of St. Anne and Holy Cross Catholic Church in Porterville, California, said Joseph "was a great man, greatly respected by many."

Similarly, Deacon Jim Deiterle said, "He was a great man and had a great outlook on life. . . . He was so committed, so enthused with what he was talking about."

Porterville Unified School District Superintendent John Snively said of Joseph, "What I admired about him is how quickly and how completely he embraced the community."

Indeed, Joseph Stewart was a man who shared and spread every one of his passions—be it faith, education, or health care. He didn't just do a kindness for someone; he connected with them. He moved people.

Joseph will be remembered as a friend, an educator, a mentor, and a leader. He will also be remembered as a brother to Michael, and a father to David, Brian, Charles, and Catherine.

David serves as Policy Director in the Office of the Speaker, and has been a trusted advisor of mine for the last five years. Charles worked for the Senate Commerce Committee before assuming his current position as Communications Director for Ms. Eshoo nearly two years ago.

Both of these gentlemen are held in high regard by colleagues and members of this body. Their outstanding service to this institution makes clear that Joseph's legacy is in the best of hands.

To David and Charles, and to all their loved ones, we offer our prayers and those of the entire House of Representatives.

Let us also offer our deep appreciation for the service of Joseph Anthony Stewart, and

for all the good he did in a life of purpose and accomplishment.

INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for the Innovation Act, H.R. 3309, but also to note my concerns about provisions of the bill that could undermine patent holders or make it more difficult for them to assert their rights. I hope a conference committee or the Senate will address and resolve these issues before the bill reaches the President's desk.

Patent litigation reform is important and necessary. Over the last few decades we have seen the rise of entities that are created to make profits by extracting payments from small businesses through the assertion of vague allegations of patent infringement. These so-called "patent trolls," also known as "patent assertion entities" (PAEs) buy patents on products they didn't invent and don't manufacture and then threaten and sue innovators who are actually contributing to our economy and creating jobs.

This scheme preys on the unwillingness or inability of small businesses to fight expensive lawsuits in court. PAEs know they can simply send a demand letter including a threat to sue, and regardless of the validity of the claim, a small business more often than not will pay the PAE to make the lawsuit or potential lawsuit go away. Often there is no examination of the validity of the patent or the claim. In fact, in many cases, the business never knows who is threatening or the nature of the alleged infringement. By some estimates this practice is costing American companies \$29 billion each year. Something needs to be done.

This bill takes important steps to protect the rights of entrepreneurs and small businesses if litigation is filed or threatened. The Innovation Act introduces a heightened pleading standard that requires patent holders to identify specifically the patent claims they are asserting and the product or process they allege infringes upon it. They also must identify those who have financial interests in the asserted patent. Importantly, the bill also limits expensive discovery before the court determines the scope of a disputed patent claim. And where the claim is against an end user of the technology, the bill would stay those proceedings in most instances where there is an ongoing action against the customer's supplier. I am quite concerned, however, that other provisions of

this bill have the potential to impede legitimate patent holders from enforcing their rights and expose nonprofit organizations and research universities to unnecessary risk.

First, the fee-shifting provisions make it significantly less likely that an individual inventor or a small business would be able to assert a legitimate patent against an infringer. Patent suits are expensive, and in our American system parties are responsible for their own costs. In recognition of this, attorneys often take cases on a contingency fee basis and get paid a portion of the recovery only if they win. If plaintiffs and their attorneys now have to factor in the risk that they may need to pay not only their own costs and fees but also the costs and fees of the other party, they will be much less likely to assert legitimate enforcement claims. This provision is purported to stop frivolous lawsuits, but it does more than that—it equates a loss with a lack of merit. There are many reasons why a party may have a genuine dispute regarding law and fact and still lose the case; that does not mean that the case was frivolous. This bill creates a presumption of fee shifting, limits judicial discretion, and sets litigation reform on the wrong path.

Second, the joinder provisions in the Innovation Act could allow nonprofit organizations and research universities to be forcibly joined into a case against a downstream user. The purpose of the joinder provision is laudable—to ensure that a troll that loses a patent case cannot hide behind shell companies or other complicated corporate structures to avoid paying a judgment. In such a case it would allow the prevailing party to join another entity that has an economic interest in the patent. But the provision is overbroad. Nonprofit organizations and research universities often spend a great deal of time and effort on research and development; as a result, they frequently hold patents and license them for commercial use. Under this bill, a research university like Oregon State or Portland State could be joined in a lawsuit and forced to pay the judgment of a losing party if that party can't or won't pay. That isn't fair and it could potentially nullify state law. This provision must be narrowed before it goes to the President's desk.

Finally, there are a handful of amendments that would make this bill stronger and I regret that the House has not adopted them. The automatic stay provisions would be stronger if limited to small businesses only, as the Jackson-Lee amendment would do. Likewise, the Watt amendment would mitigate some of the concerns with the fee-shifting provisions by allowing judges to consider whether a prevailing party acted in bad faith or unnecessarily delayed the proceedings when making a fee award. And the Conyers-Watt substitute amendment represents a far better path overall for reducing patent troll litigation without advancing reforms hostile to legitimate plaintiffs.

Mr. Chairman, patent trolls are a problem for small businesses and tech startups in my district and across the country. Their business model is to sue the job creators and

• 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.

innovators who drive our economy forward. I am glad that the House has taken concrete steps to address this problem, and I expect improvements will be made to this bill as it continues through the legislative process.

HONORING COLLINS FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collins Funeral Home, Inc. in Jackson, Mississippi. This is the funeral service business for African-Americans which began in the 1880's. The business was Lyman and Harvey Undertakers at the corner of Pearl and Farish Streets. Lyman came from Vicksburg, Mississippi where he had also started a funeral home. He and Jack Harvey sold their business to G. F. Frazier who operated from 406 North Farish Street beginning in 1903. Records from this year forward are maintained by Collins Funeral Home.

In the late 1880's, Malachi Collins and E.W. Hall established a funeral service business, Hall and Collins Funeral Home was in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This was the first funeral home owned by African-Americans to service the African-American population.

In 1924, as G. F. Frazier prepared to move from Jackson to Cleveland, Ohio, he sold his business to Malachi Collins and his wife Mary A. Collins. For many years, although owned exclusively by Mr. and Mrs. Collins, the company was known as Frazier and Collins Funeral Home. The Collins Burial Insurance Company was established in 1925.

In April, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Collins moved the business from 406 North Farish across the street to 415 North Farish Street, its present location. Mr. Collins died later that year, and Mrs. Collins, along with a dedicated staff continued to operate the business.

Clarie Collins Harvey, the only child of Mary and Malachi Collins, joined her mother in management of the business in 1950. The Frazier name was dropped and the business became known as Collins Funeral Home, Inc. Mary A. Collins remained president and CEO until her death in 1970 when her daughter assumed these responsibilities.

Since Clarie C. Harvey had no children or siblings, she developed a close relationship with some of her many cousins. Two of them joined her in the business: Ralph E. Collins in 1963, and his sister, Annette Collins Rollins in 1973. They have owned and operated the Collins Funeral Home and Insurance Companies since Mrs. Harvey's death in 1995.

Collins Insurance Company was formed to offer burial insurance to people of color in the community at a time when standard life insurance was not available. Mrs. Harvey took this service a step further by offering to Collins' patrons a funeral service for these limited amounts. In an effort to meet the needs of our changing society, Collins now offers life insurance in face amounts up to \$5,000 and has continued the burial insurance allowing patrons the opportunity to upgrade. Prearrangements are also available for those who want to assure that their needs are met and to lighten the burden on loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Collins Funeral Home, Inc.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DONNA WILLIAMS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to commend the recognition of the House to an individual who has had an immeasurable influence on the lives of young people in the Sixth District and the State of Alabama, Donna Griffin Williams.

One of my longest-serving staff members, Donna has devoted a large part of her working and volunteer life to creating opportunities to help young people achieve their dreams and to highlighting the many positive things that our students are doing in their schools and communities.

Donna's role as the Special Projects Coordinator in my district office has touched the lives of countless young people.

As a congressman, some of my proudest moments have come when I have met with young people who feel called to defend freedom and serve our country in the U.S. military. That is why a function of my office that I have always taken most seriously is the nomination of students to attend a Service Academy. Donna has expertly coordinated this process for me, and over the years it has been a privilege and an honor to have been of help to so many outstanding young people with high character and an abiding love for America.

Donna has also served as our local organizer for the annual Congressional Art Competition, which provides students with the opportunity to have their original artwork displayed at the U.S. Capitol. This competition attracts entries from schools across the Sixth District and is a public showcase for the positive accomplishments of our students.

Donna has also been a principal organizer of a program that brings great joy to my wife Linda and I during each Christmas season, the Holiday Card Call for Art. This program, run in cooperation with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, invites students with visual impairments to submit artwork for our annual Christmas card. The breadth of the creativity is inspiring and Donna has always worked to encourage an excellent level of participation by students and their schools.

Donna's concern for young people has extended beyond work to her civic and volunteer activities. She has provided service as President of the Alabama PTA Board of Directors, a National PTA Board Director, a member of the Mayor's Education Committee, past president of the Vestavia Hills City School Foundation, and member of the A+ Foundation Board. Donna's many other community contributions include her service on the Board of the American Village Citizenship Trust, VIP for United Cerebral Palsy, and her involvement with Leadership Vestavia Hills and Leadership Alabama.

Donna would be the first to say that she has been blessed with a supportive and loving family which includes her husband of 46 years, George, three grown children, and five grandchildren with a sixth soon on the way.

For her service to the residents of the Sixth District and especially the young people who will be the future leaders in our communities, Donna Williams is well-deserving of this recognition and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to her for her loyalty and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was unable to be present for H.R. 3521. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather on December 10th, my flight was cancelled and I was unable to vote on H.R. 3521 Dept. of VA Major Medical Facility Lease and H.R. 1402 VA Expiring Authorities Extension. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted for both pieces of legislation. I applaud the passage of these resolutions which will positively benefit our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "SHACK" HARRIS, A BARRIER-BREAKING PIONEER IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my fellow colleagues Rep. JIM CLYBURN (SC-06), Rep. KAREN BASS (CA-37), Rep. CORRINE BROWN (FL-05), Rep. JOHN CONYERS (MI-13), Rep. ELIJAH CUMMINGS (MD-07), Rep. CHRIS COLLINS (NY-27), Rep. SUSAN DAVIS (CA-53), Rep. BRIAN HIGGINS (NY-26), Rep. JOHN LEWIS (GA-05), Rep. VANCE MCALLISTER (LA-05), Rep. GARY PETERS (MI-14), and Rep. JON RUNYAN (NJ-03) to pay tribute to James "Shack" Harris, in this year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington. Like such pioneers as Paul Robeson, Joe Louis, and Jackie Robinson, James Harris applied his brilliant talent and steadfast determination as an athlete to advance the cause of racial equality in America.

James Harris was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, during some of the harshest years of segregation when a policy of "massive resistance" against court rulings and federal laws denied equal rights for Black citizens. Racial inequality pervaded football fields as much as buses, hotels and lunch counters in the South.

But the Reverend Nashall Harris, James' father, gave his son an appropriate nickname: "Shack," after the Old Testament's Meshach, one of the three ancient Jews who refused the

orders of a Babylonian tyrant to bow down and worship his golden idol. Like his namesake, James Harris would not submit to an unjust system.

From his early teens, he aspired to play quarterback in the National Football League—a position that no African American had ever been allowed to play for more than a handful of snaps. In setting this goal, Harris challenged bigotry, stereotypes and the status quo. At the time, it was taken as fact in both college and pro football that Black athletes did not possess the necessary intelligence, leadership, and character to play quarterback. Shack shattered the vile myth.

Inspired by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, Harris persisted in pursuing his own dream. After a record-setting career at Carroll High School in Monroe, he went to Grambling State University and was coached by the legendary Eddie Robinson. Coach Robinson shared James Harris's goal of breaking the color barrier at quarterback in the NFL. And Robinson had recruited him for that very reason.

James Harris had an illustrious career at Grambling. He led the Tigers to three conference titles, set numerous passing records, was selected MVP of the 1967 Orange Blossom Classic, and was chosen the nation's outstanding player in 1968 by the Washington Pigs Club. Despite these achievements, he was not invited to any post-season all-star games and he was not selected in the NFL draft until the eighth round.

James Harris did not give up. He would not be forced into changing positions to receiver or defensive back, as had so many promising African Americans before him. He was determined to play quarterback. Every night during training camp as a rookie, he called Eddie Robinson for advice and moral support.

He ultimately won the starting job, and opened the 1969 NFL season as the Buffalo Bills' starting quarterback. It was the first of many "firsts" in his career. During three pivotal years with the Los Angeles Rams in the mid-1970s, James Harris led the team twice to the NFC title game, led the conference twice in passing efficiency, was chosen MVP of the Pro Bowl, and was voted captain by his teammates.

From 1969 through 1977, Harris was virtually the only African American quarterback to be a starter. He endured hate mail and death threats. He also bore the hopes of an entire people. As Eddie Robinson had once told him: "You have to make it. Otherwise, people will say you sent us your best and he wasn't good enough."

By being much more than good enough, James Harris opened the door of opportunity for African American quarterbacks to follow, from Doug Williams and Warren Moon to Russell Wilson and Robert Griffin III.

But Harris' legacy did not end when he walked off the playing field. He went on to become a prominent NFL executive for the New York Jets, Baltimore Ravens, Jacksonville Jaguars, and currently the Detroit Lions. As such, Harris has helped to pave the way for other African American coaches and general managers whose success demonstrates the power and promise of diversity and inclusion.

So it is an honor to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of James Harris. Dr. King once called himself a "drum major for freedom." We might call James Harris, the

barrier-breaking quarterback, a field general for racial equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 630–636. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 630, "yes" on rollcall 631, "no" on rollcall 632, "yes" on rollcall 633, "yes" on rollcall 634, "yes" on rollcall 635, and "yes" on rollcall 636.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT NISHIOKI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Nishioki, who has served as a valued member of my staff for the past nine years. Scott joined my staff during the beginning of my first term in Congress, and he has made a real difference. This month, Scott will be leaving my staff to find other ways to serve our nation beyond the walls of Congress. Scott's years of service to the people of Central California, spanning from Kern County to Merced County, deserve to be commended.

A Sanger native, Scott grew up in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and graduated from Sanger High School before becoming a Bulldog at California State University, Fresno. He earned his Bachelor's degree in 1976, and shortly thereafter began to pursue a career in public service that led him from California to Washington, DC.

In his 31 years in Washington, Scott has done it all. As an aide to Congressman Rick Lehman (D-Fresno), Scott wrote the Truth in Savings Act, legislation that protects consumers and encourages healthy financial savings. Following his service with Congressman Lehman, Scott held a number of important positions within the telecommunications industry, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the American Bankers Association. As a result of his years of service, Scott understands and appreciates the inner workings of this city better than anyone else.

Scott's true value is his ability to focus on what really matters. Spending a lifetime in DC can sometimes leave you blinded by partisanship, ambition, or money, but Scott has never forgotten why he left his home and moved to Washington in the first place. He moved here to solve problems and make a difference for the people of the San Joaquin Valley and the nation. And, that is exactly what he has done.

In addition to his legislative achievements, Scott made a difference by mentoring every member of my staff and several others both on and off Capitol Hill. For years, Scott has calmly helped my staff navigate personal and professional pressures. Together our staff has achieved a great deal both as members of Team Costa and in their professional lives after their service in my office.

Michael Doyle, reporter in the Washington bureau of McClatchy newspapers, may have

said it best: "Scott hits the trifecta. He's smart, candid and funny. I have always been able to trust his insight and his judgment. I will miss him; Congress will be a lesser place without him."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I recognize Mr. Nishioki today for his many contributions to not only my Congressional office, but the entirety of the San Joaquin Valley. He is truly a son of the Valley, and the place we both call home is better for his many years of service. It has truly been an honor to work with him over the years and I wish him the best of luck in his next adventure.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNUAL MONTEREY COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th Annual Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival. The Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival is a non-profit organization composed of a group of volunteers who love cowboy poetry, western music, cowboy movies and western art and gear. The volunteers work tirelessly to bring us the, "Cowboy Way of Life" and its most talented musicians, poets and artisans to our region. I have a short poem by Monterey County resident, Wendy Brichnan, to read which captures the essence of this award-winning event.

A GLANCE AT THE MONTEREY COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

From the Land of the proud California Vaqueros
set in beautiful Monterey, the first capital of California

a modest festival has, for the past 15 years,
celebrated the legendary Cowboy Way.

Through cowboy poetry, through cowboy songs,
through cowboy crafts and artifacts of the past,

the Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival

has shared important values that all should recall.

Honesty, Integrity, Friendship and Loyalty
Courage, Hard Work, and Dedication.

Collaboration, Teamwork, and Honor.
The Cowboy Code of Ethics is one to admire.

Founded by former Monterey police chief,
Gary Brown

this special Cowboy Festival has shared
highlights

of the Western Heritage that Monterey County

residents remember with pride.

Mike Beck, Monterey native musician and
horse trainer

and visiting Western singers such as
Juni Fisher, Dave Stamey, Don Edwards
and others charm all ages with their prowess.

Their clever and moving songs celebrating
the

spirit of the cowboy and cowgirls—
through hundreds of years, and thousands of miles,

and spark our imagination and pride.

They bring the world of the cowboy alive
with imagery that tugs at our hearts and minds

wide open spaces, shady oak trees, whispering pines and swaying grasses. The jingle of spurs, the soaring hawks, the creak of leather, the sound of hooves, the cattle grazing down the hillside along the trails the heat of the day and the cool of the night. Amazing cowboy poets such as Paul Zarzyski, Diane Tribitt and Jim and Karen Ross reach us deep inside with their talented and humorous views of life. We see through their eyes, their minds, and their souls.

Young poets and buckaroos come to the Festival and share their respect for cowboy lore, and adults step forward and recite their own memorable poems for all.

It wasn't that long ago that renowned artist Jo Mora walked in Monterey and lived with the cowboys and Native Americans throughout the land.

In his tradition, the Monterey Cowboy Festival looks to other multi-talented Western artists like Jack Swanson, Joelle Smith and many, many others who drew and painted and illustrated what came before them in the cowboy way of life.

Salinas saddle-maker G. S. Garcia's granddaughter steers this festival and allows us to admire the man whose saddle brought home the Gold Medal from the St. Louis World's Fair. And, artisans from around America journey west to Monterey to proudly display special Cowboy boots, jewelry, Navajo blankets and other symbols of our time-honored Western tradition.

The cowboy today is still seen on the slopes of Monterey County in rambling ranches that stretch over mountain tops. The festival honors our hard-working ranchers like the Violinis, Dorrances, and Pedrazzis, and others who work with grazing cattle, day in and day out.

And, training horses through their "Feel", a well-loved method developed by Monterey County's Bill Dorrance and carried on by Others, such as Marvin and Marguerite Roberts and Ray Hackworth revealing their unending respect for horses, also a part of the Monterey Cowboy Festival. The Festival's Saturday Night Dance lets everyone kick up their heels in the popular Texas Swing tradition performed by the always spunky Carolyn Martin Band, bringing back lots of foot-stomping fun. Raising money for the Salvation Army through its famous Cowboy Church on Sunday morning, with featured performers singing songs of respect for all religions, a tradition that graces the Festival stage. And during the year, too, always loved by teachers and students, learning history the very best way through real live demonstrations.

The "Cowboys in the Schools" program Held each year and teaching so many local youth self esteem, history, cowboy culture and key values.

The three day festival draws to a close and

people meander out, sad that the time went to quickly, taking home special artifacts of the Cowboy Way. knowing they won't see some friends again until the next time. but recharged with another year of Monterey memories.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Monterey County Poetry and Music Festival on their 15th anniversary. The Monterey County Poetry and Music Festival always bring the finest western entertainment; cowboy poets, western music entertainers, fine cowboy art and gear to Monterey, the first capitol of Old California. I give a sweeping "Hats Off" on their 15th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

HONORING IVER DELL ADAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Unsung Hero, Mrs. Iver Dell Adams. Mrs. Adams is affectionately known by most in her community as "Mother Adams" and is a resident of Bolivar County.

Mrs. Adams currently serves as Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School Department, President of Christian Women Council, Church Mother and Evangelist at Saint Mark Church of God in Christ in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She also volunteers with other church auxiliaries at Saint Mark.

Mrs. Adams is a faithful Christian servant whose ministry has led her to feed and clothe thousands in the State of Connecticut. She and her husband Lonzie would use their own money to purchase food, school products, and often housed new and used clothing which were donated to assist others. They also, opened their home to a diverse population who was temporary without shelter. Mrs. Adams and her husband shared everything they had without any reservations. After her husband passed she moved to the Great State of Mississippi where she continues her service to others by assisting in raising four children whom she calls her own. These children never desire to leave her residence. Her love to see others "be all they can be" has led her to work hard and diligently for all those she comes in contact with. In her community she and her neighbors', young and old alike, enjoy their conversations and her words of encouragement.

Mrs. Adams has received numerous accolades and awards for her service to others.

Mrs. Adams has six children: three daughters: Virginia, Mamie, Geri and Betty (deceased) and two sons: Lonzie Jr. and Vastie. She and her husband instilled in their children to work hard and smart, to be an asset to society, assist the less fortunate by giving a hand to those who are in need, and to know that they don't have anything they cannot share with someone else.

Mrs. Adams is often invited to minister during various Christian events held throughout the county. She believes in prayer, and that all things are possible as long as you have God as your leader and choice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero, Mrs. Iver Dell Adams, for her dedication in serving mankind.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, as President Calvin Coolidge said, "A nation that that forgets its defenders will soon be forgotten." I rise today to recognize the contributions of The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a group that recently invited me to participate in an event honoring the sacrifice and the service of our servicemembers. There, I had the privilege of meeting Corporal Donny Daughenbaugh, a Coalition spokesman who was severely injured during routine patrol in Iraq, as well as Sergeant Mary Herrera, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), and Sergeant Jorge DeLeon, U.S. Army (Ret.). Herrera and DeLeon also were injured in the line of duty while serving our country overseas. Despite their injuries, these selfless heroes have weathered an extremely challenging recovery and are now using their own experience to help fellow veterans make the transition to civilian life. Like so many other veterans, their resilience and love of country endures after they return home and begin to face these tremendous challenges.

The event focused on the growing, serious challenges facing young veterans, particularly, homelessness, which is fast becoming a crisis among female combat veterans. These veterans, who step up to serve and are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation, all too often don't have the support they need when they return home.

I have seen firsthand the overwhelming challenges our returning warriors face in Hawai'i and across the nation. Tragically, more than 1,100 veterans in Hawai'i alone have experienced homelessness. While the overall number of homeless veterans is decreasing, homeless female veterans are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. Female veterans are also more likely to suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and frequently have children who also suffer.

The Coalition, led by David Walker, is a national 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-partisan organization, established in 2004 to address the needs of severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families. The organization provides emergency financial assistance and other support services to help them recover from their injuries, rebuild their lives, and successfully transition back into civilian life. In addition to its work to address homelessness, the Coalition's emergency aid services also aim to combat the troubling rates of suicide and domestic abuse among servicemembers and veterans.

This week in Orlando, Florida, the Coalition is hosting 100 combat-wounded veterans at its seventh annual Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute, a program that provides sessions on professional development, financial planning, and relationships.

Hawai'i has a proud tradition of military service to our nation, and is the grateful home

of thousands of veterans and their families. I commend the work of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes to ensure that our nation's defenders are never forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631, I was unable to be present for H.R. 1402. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING BOBBY COX'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the long and accomplished career of one of baseball's all-time greatest managers, for Atlanta Braves Manager Bobby Cox.

On Monday, Cox was unanimously elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame by a 16-member committee, and will be inducted in Cooperstown this coming July.

Throughout his 29 years as a Manager in the Major Leagues, Cox became one of the winningest coaches of all time. He accrued 2,504 wins; the majority taking place during his 25 years leading the Braves. During that time, he brought an unprecedented 14 consecutive division titles, 5 National League championships, and the 1995 World Series pennant to Atlanta.

As a manager, Cox was respected by his players and kept only three rules—show up on time, wear your uniform correctly, and play hard. After the 2010 season, he retired from his job as the team's Manager, but still holds a role as a special assistant that allows him to keep being a part of the game he loves.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District and Braves fans everywhere, I extend my thanks to Bobby for the decades of entertainment and the legacy he brought to our great state. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on achieving the highest level of recognition possible in America's pastime. Go Braves.

CONGRATULATING DR. BERNICE DUFFY JOHNSON, IN RECOGNITION OF HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson on her 34 remarkable years of service to the students, faculty, and staff of North Carolina Central University, NCCU, located in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Johnson was raised on a sharecropper farm along with a large family that never benefited from a formal education. Her ascent to become one of the preeminent educators of our time serves as an inspiration to us all and is a testament to her lifelong commitment to bettering the lives of others through education.

Dr. Johnson's meteoric career trajectory is even more impressive as an African-American who made her way during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. As a 1963 graduate of what is now known as University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a subsequent graduate of a Pennsylvania State University graduate school, Dr. Johnson began her career in education teaching junior high school in Indianapolis.

In 1979, Dr. Johnson returned to the south as an adjunct professor at my alma mater, NCCU. Her exemplary career at NCCU embodies the best qualities of the Civil Rights Movement and shows the immeasurably positive influence a single individual can have when committed to helping others. While teaching at NCCU, Dr. Johnson earned her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and served in various capacities before being named NCCU's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The importance of Dr. Johnson's many accomplishments during her 34-year tenure at NCCU are beyond the pale. A small sample of Dr. Johnson's many contributions include helping design a \$36 million state-of-the-art science complex, helping six degree programs reach accreditation, and co-authoring a renowned textbook that received \$6 million in research funding from the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson for her exceptional leadership and dedication to educating future generations of leaders. Of the many accomplishments in her career, I know her greatest pride is positively impacting the lives of more than three decades of NCCU students.

Dr. Johnson's legacy is built on hard work and determination and she is an example to which the next generation of educators should aspire. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson's many achievements in her 34 years of service to NCCU.

IN MEMORY OF LEROY TYSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leroy Tyson. Leroy, or "Tyson" as he was better known in our office, served as a custodian in the Day Cleaning Division of the House Office Buildings. He began his service with the Architect of the Capitol, AOC, on August 6, 2007, where he worked around the clock to help maintain the U.S. Capitol buildings.

Over the past several years, I came to know Tyson through his kindness, hard work, and exceptional service. He became a great friend to me and my office, and touched the lives of all those who had the pleasure of knowing

him. Tyson brought an energy and commitment to excellence despite his ongoing struggle with cancer. He prided himself on being here every day, living his life as normally as possible, and consistently making it a point to ask how everyone else was doing. In the midst of chemotherapy and in the days leading up to his untimely passing, Tyson always had a sense of humor and checked in often with our office to share a laugh.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a great man. I feel truly blessed to have known him, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Tyson family during this difficult time. May Leroy Tyson's memory serve as a reminder to show our appreciation to each other while we still have the chance.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF JENNIE MIRZA ESHOO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jennie Mirza Eshoo who passed away on November 27, 2013, in Turlock, California at the age of 98. Born in Chicago, Illinois on July 17, 1915, to Aghassi and Martha Mirza, Jennie was the first-born in her family of five sisters and two brothers. She graduated from Waller High School in 1934, and was accepted to the University of Illinois. Though she was unable to attend college due to the Depression, she devoted herself to lifelong learning. She was an avid reader of biographies, history, the National Geographic, Smithsonian, her local newspapers and many other publications. Most of all, she cherished her Bible and its words nourished her soul over a lifetime.

Jennie married Paul Eshoo on September 22, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois. In October, 1936, they bought a farm in Turlock, California, where they farmed wine grapes, walnuts, and chickens.

Jennie was a homemaker for many years, and later in life she took a position at Stanislaus State University when it first opened, and later worked as a teacher's aide. She enjoyed traveling and was able to visit the Holy Land and Europe twice. She was extremely active in and deeply devoted to her church, St. John's Presbyterian, where she served as Elder, Clerk of the Session, Delegate to the Stockton Presbytery, and many other leadership roles.

Jennie was a charter member of the Assyrian American Civic Club and was honored in 2011 as the Club's oldest charter member. She volunteered until the age of 90 for the Emanuel Medical Center Auxiliary, and was a member of the Senior Citizens of Turlock. She volunteered for decades as a poll worker, dedicating herself to one of the great manifestations of a democracy, voting. Her life was devoted to Christ and her community, and she served as a role model for all who were privileged to know her.

Jennie was preceded in death by her husband Paul Eshoo and her sister Esther Aziz. She leaves four children; Peter and Genny Eshoo of Buffalo Grove, Illinois; George Eshoo of Menlo Park, California; Agnes and John Williams of Livermore, California; Alice and

Dale Pollard of Turlock, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. As Jennie was being taken to her final resting place, the family received the sad news that her sister, Julia Alexander, had just passed. She is now survived by two sisters and two brothers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a patriot. Jennie Eshoo was a woman who served her community, her church and her country with great dedication, and today the entire House of Representatives extends its condolences to all her family.

HONORING KIARA L. WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambitious and talented young woman, Ms. Kiara L. Walker. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to achieve greatness.

Ms. Walker, a native of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, made her embark on this journey of life January 9, 1990. She is the youngest of 6 children by Eldridge and Anne Walker and second oldest child of Delores Myles.

Ms. Walker graduated from South Delta High School in 2008 where she was the Valedictorian. During her 4 year matriculation of high school at South Delta, Kiara devoted herself not only to academic excellence, but also community involvement, mentorship, and other extracurricular activities. She was a section leader (trumpets) and member of the South Delta Marching Band for many years, inductee and board member of the SD Chapter National Honor Society, as well as, student council, peer counselor, and elected Vice-President of her senior class. In 2005, Kiara was a chosen ambassador and is now a reoccurring volunteer facilitator each summer at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference (HOBY) at Millsaps College. She was also listed in Who's Who Among High School Students.

Ms. Walker is a founding member of the Mayor's Youth Council of Rolling Fork, an active member of local 4-H Club, and partner with local elected officials to host many community events throughout the year, such as, the local Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Children's Day Fest and Thanksgiving/Christmas dinners for the elderly. At an early age, she was instilled with the morality of always sharing her many gifts and talents; therefore, she tutors elementary students.

In May 2013 Ms. Walker earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Healthcare Administration. Kiara was a recipient of the Valedictorian scholarship, a student of the WEB DuBois Honors College, and inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She's a former member of Tiger P.R.I.D.E. Connection, Pre-Health Society, American Chemical Society, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBECHE), Interfaith Gospel Choir, and the JSU Concert Chorale. Also during her undergraduate progression, she has studied research in the areas of Molecular Biology and

Computational Chemistry and has been a part of scientific publications in assistance with mentor professors.

Ms. Walker's philosophy on life can be drawn from Matthew 19:26 which states, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." This is a key verse that she understands.

Therefore, she honors her Christian values and strives daily to become a better servant leader. She is a faith member of Mt. Lula Baptist Church in Rolling Fork, MS where she serves in the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Kiara L. Walker for her dedication to her community and mankind.

HONORING CHARLES J. O'LEARY
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Charles J. O'Leary, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this month.

A current resident of Tonawanda, Mr. O'Leary was born and raised on the City of Buffalo's West Side and has both witnessed and endured some of the city and the nation's most tumultuous times. Born on December 12, 1933, Mr. O'Leary knows the true nature of what it is to be resilient in times of hardship, and in effect, what it means to be a true American.

Mr. O'Leary proudly served my hometown and its residents as a dedicated public servant throughout his 37 year career with the City of Buffalo Fire Department. He completed his courageous tour of duty in 1993 as Captain of the renowned and respectfully remembered Engine 10 at Ohio and Ganson Streets in our most historic, industrial waterfront community.

As impressive as his valiant professional life, Mr. O'Leary is to be commended for his commitment as a caring and active family man. In addition to celebrating this birthday milestone, he and his wife Elinor will soon be sharing their 60th wedding anniversary—a mark representing Mr. O'Leary's devotion and dedication as a husband and father to six children—Charles, Robert, Kevin, Eileen, Patrick and Paul. Mr. O'Leary now enjoys quite the extended family, with 20 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of Charles J. O'Leary. His good works, devoted public service and gifts as a family man will be celebrated with those whose lives he has so deeply influenced on December 20, 2013 and I am pleased and proud to offer sincere congratulations and best wishes to this good and faithful servant on this most happy occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAGDAD, FLORIDA
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bagdad, Florida Volunteer Fire Department and recognize the selfless service, sacrifice, and dedication of its members, past and present, in protecting the citizens of the Northwest Florida community.

Formally established in 1963, the Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department was initially founded in 1962 as a Fire Rescue team of ten men led by Chief Dan Fowler. Despite having little equipment and no firehouse, this team of dedicated individuals was inspired by the need for a department to provide for the safety and rescue needs of Bagdad and the surrounding Santa Rosa County community. Bagdad Elementary School opened its doors as a meeting place for the volunteers to discuss business and other issues, while the Florida Department of Forestry provided the team's first truck that was stationed at the Chief's home. With the continued support of the local community and to meet the growing needs of its citizens, the department built its first firehouse in 1965 on donated land and acquired a second fire truck. A third truck was acquired in 1975, and the 1980's brought the deployment of a pager system and acquisition of a fourth and more modern fire truck. Today, the department comprises 25 volunteers, 2 Class-A 1,000 gallon pumpers, an E-1 rescue truck, an E-1 brush attack truck and a 17.5-foot rescue boat.

Throughout the course of Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department's fifty-year history and transformation, what has remained constant is the clear vision of the required capabilities needed to successfully meet the safety needs of the growing community, as well as, the passion and dedication of its numerous volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bagdad, Florida Volunteer Fire Department. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of the volunteers for their faithful service and wishing them and the department continued success.

HONORING EVAN JOSEPH
HERONEMUS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Joseph Heronemus. Evan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 218, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Evan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Evan

contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Joseph Heronemus for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 I was unable to be present for H.R. 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN MEMORY OF RONDAL K. MOORE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rondal K. Moore, of Aurora, Colorado, who passed away from a stroke on November 12th at age of 71. Rondal was born on May 25, 1942 in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the son of Clarence Delmer and Golden Viola Moore. In 1961, he graduated from Wheeler County High School in Fossil, Oregon. He went on to serve in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War on board the aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea* as well as duty in Rhode Island at the Naval War College. In the spring of 1963, he married Nancy E. Heily and on March 29th of this year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Rondal began working for United Airlines in 1966 and spent decades in the field of de-icing until retiring in 2003 after 37 years. He held multiple patents for inventions in both information and system operations as well as software products used in the process of de-icing. His inventions and patents are still in use today in order to help determine check time for de-icing fluid, which allows for safe airline travel during inclement weather. My thoughts and prayers go out to his surviving family member including his wife of 50 years, Nancy Moore, of Aurora, Colorado; his son, Jason Moore, of Chula Vista, CA; his daughter, Sondra LaValley, of Aurora, CO; and his sister, Carol Ellis, of Kennewick, WA.

HONORING LINDA HOWARD JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of an unsung hero. Often times the neighbor next door goes unnoticed because of their ability to quietly go about life helping others without any nudge

from the outside to do so, the only nudge they get is the one that is in their heart to do what needs to be done. Mr. Speaker her name is Linda Howard Johnson and she lives in my district, Mississippi Second Congressional District. People in the community call her "Mama or Grandma."

Linda's start in life helped to shape the road she would travel later in life. As a young child, she was given away to be raised by a woman not related to her, Ms. Clara Tanzy. As a child she was constantly changing elementary schools and places to live. Her mother wanted change and a better life for them, so she chose Tutwiler, MS. Tutwiler was the answer they needed to end their roller coaster ride. Linda said it was the first time they were able to call an apartment home, just for the two of them. The stability gave her the grounding she needed to focus on school, being a child, being a little girl, making friends, and all those things important to a child.

Linda went on to attend Coahoma Junior College in 1978 and 1979, where she played basketball. The team won the regional level basketball competition among three states, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas and advanced to compete at the national level in Kansas City in 1979. In fact, she credits basketball for having taught her the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. As a mother, Linda instilled that same value in her children, Claretta, Lazerick, and Ramona and her grandchildren, Tashayla, Raileigh, Savannah, Diamond, and Courtney. All three of her children went to college and are successful in their careers. Linda's children are constantly trying to encourage their mother to move away but she reminds them, "Tutwiler grounded me and contributed to who I am, so this is my home and extended family, so I'm here to stay and help someone else." I'm pleased that Linda has decided to stay in Tutwiler and help someone in need.

Linda is constantly giving back in many ways. She is a teacher's assistant in the local school district and a bus driver for the district as well. In addition, Linda serves as a basketball coach for both the West Tallahatchie School District and the Tutwiler Community Education Center. She says what she does is not much but it is what she loves, "helping family," because Tutwiler is her family.

Linda has helped raise eight children. She comes to their aide because she recognizes those same issues that occurred in her life rising in theirs. So, she steps in to try and curtail those circumstances or prevent them from occurring in their lives. Linda recalls the story of child who came from a family that hadn't had a female to graduate from high school in twenty years, well Linda got involved in the child's life from birth and nurtured her through high school until she graduated, thus breaking the chain. She invited a 17 year old young man struggling to get out of the 8th grade, who had no one to guide him, so she invited him to come live with her only if he promised to finish school. The young man got his GED and that was better than nothing. In fact, there have been situations in which Linda has taken in entire families consisting of the husband, wife, and children. She says her house is not the Hilton but it's a home and she's willing to share it with those in need at no charge.

Linda says "I don't know, to me it seems like I need my community and my community

needs me and that's why I tell my children I can't move away, I'm at home and a mother's place is at home."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero of the Tutwiler Community for stepping up to the plate and influencing many lives, Ms. Linda Howard Johnson.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN TRUAX

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major John Truax of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Truax and his wife Alaina will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison and will soon be reassigned as a Cyber Operations Officer for the Army National Guard.

Army Congressional Liaisons officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

Following his graduation from Valley Forge Military College in May 2001, Major Truax was commissioned in the Army National Guard as an Engineer Officer. Major Truax reported to his first operational assignment with Charlie Company, 276th Engineer Battalion in West Point, Virginia where he served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer. Following a period of reorganization across the Army, Major Truax transferred branches and became a Military Intelligence Officer.

He left his civilian career in management and sales to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2007 to June 2008. During his time in combat, John was responsible for providing security and Area Response Forces in Northern Kuwait as a staff officer in HHC, 2-183 CAV before assuming command of Alpha Troop. After returning from his tour in Kuwait, Major Truax remained on active duty and was assigned to the Army National Guard Materiel Programs Division in Arlington, Virginia. At the completion of an exceptional four years there, he was selected to represent the Army National Guard in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Legislative Liaison.

Major Truax's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Major Truax over the last year. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending his dedication to service and the sacrifices he and his family have made. We wish him, his wife Alaina, and their children Xander and Margaux all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment in the United States Army.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL
INTERNS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barr Benyamin, Jacqueline Brittain, Diego Sanchez, and Matthew McCabe for their dedication and hard work for the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the fall 2013 session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work in public service next year with various organizations around Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Barr Benyamin, Jacqueline Brittain, Diego Sanchez, and Matthew McCabe for their service this fall.

RICHARD WILLIAMSON: A TRUE
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter a Washington Post obituary commemorating the life and legacy of Richard Williamson who passed away this weekend at the age of 64.

I had the distinct privilege of working with Rich on a myriad of issues, including Sudan. Rich had a keen understanding of the issues marked by a welcome sense of moral clarity. His advice and counsel were reliably sound.

Many will mourn his loss, not the least of which are the Sudanese people whose basic human rights he championed.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 10, 2013]

RICHARD WILLIAMSON, R.I.P

(By Jennifer Rubin)

Richard S. Williamson was not a household name, but for decades he was a tireless public servant and resolute defender of America's national security. He passed away suddenly this weekend; he was 64. A release from the McCain Institute recounts, "He was involved in a wide variety of civic organizations, including serving as a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, as senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and as a trustee of Freedom House. Williamson was also Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs in the Reagan White House, Ambassador to the United Nations Offices in Vienna (including the International Atomic Energy Agency), Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, member of the

President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control, Ambassador to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs, Ambassador to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the Republican Party's nominee for U.S. Senate in 1993." While he lost that Senate race to Carol Moseley Braun, he was an accomplished lawyer, author and speaker.

I came to know Richard in his capacity as a senior foreign policy adviser to Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign in 2008 and Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. He was a staunch advocate for his candidates, and beyond that for the principle that foreign policy is the most critical aspect of any presidency and therefore must be a topic of debate in presidential elections. When other policy advisers pleaded to downplay foreign policy, Richard insisted it deserved a full airing. Many of the positions he helped his candidates articulate—the danger of Russian aggression, the Obama administration's duplicity in Libya, the rise of the Iran-Syria axis, the need for adequate national security spending and the need to speak boldly on behalf of human rights—have proved entirely accurate. The country would have been greatly served had he returned to public office.

In the hurly-burly of a presidential campaign Richard was unflappable, honest and gracious treasured qualities in a public servant. In the best sense of the phrase, he was an old-school gentleman.

Elliott Abrams, a former deputy national security adviser who knew Richard well, e-mails: "Rich Williamson was a happy warrior. He was an unflappable soldier of freedom, serving several Republican presidents in the Cold War and then the war against terror, and always, always, in the peaceful but often very rough battle against the Democrats. His ready smile, his sharp political instincts, and his dedication to public service will be long remembered." He adds, "In politics there's a lot of ego and self promotion, but Rich was there to help the party and serve the nation. In the next Republican administration he would have had a very senior foreign policy position, and when that day comes we will miss his counsel, his calm, and his unchanging good humor. He was a wonderful man."

His passing reminds us how essential a strong foreign policy is to the country's well-being. He stood up for a strong America, one that leads the Free World. In addition to conservative groups, including the RNC, which have remarked on his passing, I would hope in the near future our current U.N. ambassador and others in the elite foreign policy establishment who knew him well will honor his achievements. He, as they know, was never one to put partisanship above country. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE DEARBORN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Dearborn County Commissioners to the success of the 6th District Job Fair.

On October 21, 2013, over 150 job seekers from across the district met with 36 businesses looking to hire new employees. In a time when jobs are still hard to come by,

these job fairs are an important tool in linking job seekers with prospective employers. I am proud we were able to bring community leaders together and provide this service to the people of the 6th District.

The job fair would not have been the success it was without the help of the Dearborn County Commissioners. I want to recognize the work of Commissioners Kevin Lynch, Art Little and Shane McHenry and Dearborn County Administrator Terri Randle. Their efforts show a deep commitment to their community and the well-being of the people they serve.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in recognizing Dearborn County Commissioners Kevin Lynch, Art Little and Shane McHenry and Dearborn County Administrator Terri Randle. I look forward to working with them often on behalf of the people of Dearborn County and Southeastern Indiana.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON AND
LOIS MOORE

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Don and Lois Moore, proprietors of the Quartzsite General Store. Mr. and Mrs. Moore opened the Quartzsite General Store in Quartzsite, Arizona on December 12, 1972. This December 12 will mark the 41st anniversary of its opening. The store's western-themed storefront has been a mainstay of Quartzsite's Main Street for those 41 years, adding to the town's character and economy. Known for its fresh meats and produce, cleanliness, and great customer service, the General Store has consistently contributed to the community of Quartzsite.

The store could not have been successful without Don's and Lois's hard work and dedication. Don retired from the store in 1999 and Lois retired from school teaching in 1995, but they both work at the store again today. Their determination to achieve their American dream is a shining example not only to their 6 children and 15 grandchildren, but to all current and future entrepreneurs. Small businesses like theirs are the backbone of our economy, and it is those businesses that will lead us out of our current economic problems.

Congratulations to the Quartzsite General Store and to its owners, Don and Lois, on 41 years of success. May they have continued success for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 633, I was unable to be present for H.R. 2319. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MAGGIE W. FORREST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Maggie W. Forrest who is a remarkable Director and extraordinary public servant.

Mrs. Forrest was born in Winona, Mississippi, which is located in Montgomery County, on December 5, 1958 to Johnny and Birdie Woods. Mrs. Forrest is one of ten children.

Mrs. Forrest attended J.J. Knox School in 1965 and graduated from Winona High School in 1976 and completed some courses at Wood Jr. College. Mrs. Forrest worked at Winona Elementary School for sixteen years. Her first job was a first grade teacher's assistant. Later, she became an assistant for a third grade class and afterward an assistant for a kindergarten class. During her last three years in Winona School System, Mrs. Forrest served as a library assistant. She enjoyed working with all students. Reading to classes was her most favorite thing to do. After leaving the school system, Mrs. Forrest would see former students and some would tell her how much she inspired them to enjoy and appreciate reading.

February 5, 2001, Mrs. Forrest became the first African American Executive Director for Winona Housing Authority. She seized that opportunity to reach out compassionately and serve people in the community. As Executive Director, not only does Mrs. Forrest provide safe and sanitary housing for eligible low income families but she counsels and encourages her residents when needed and financially donates when someone falls on hard times.

Mrs. Forrest serves on the Zoning Board for the city of Winona. She serves as secretary for the United Methodist Women in her church and a substitute Sunday school teacher. She is the Vice President for Member Services for MAHRO, the Mississippi Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and serves on the Member Services committee for SERC NAHRO, the Southeastern Regional Council National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

Mrs. Forrest is married to Pastor Nelson Forrest. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Forrest loves God, her family, her church, her job and all people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a Director Extraordinaire, Mrs. Maggie W. Forrest for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

OBAMACARE ADS**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this administration is desperate to enroll young, healthy Americans in new exchange plans.

A recent ad campaign from Progress Now Colorado shows just how low some groups

are willing to go to catch young people's attention. The ads depict young men drinking right out of kegs of beer and objectifying young women. They try to encourage people to sign up for health care by making light of unhealthy behaviors.

I recently received a letter from Dr. Julie Welch, which I'll submit for the RECORD, an emergency room physician in Indianapolis, specifically concerned about how the ads promoted risky sexual behavior. The "Let's Get Physical" ad depicts a young woman thanking Obamacare for the words "for providing birth control pills." Dr. Welch writes "As a taxpayer, I am puzzled at why advertising campaigns for health insurance appear to promote high-risk behaviors."

Promoting health coverage by condoning binge drinking and promiscuity is not a step toward a healthier America. What good is it to enroll young people in plans if their actions make them unhealthy?

It's just another way that Obamacare just doesn't work.

McCordsville, Indiana, December 1, 2013.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to bring to your attention a recent advertising campaign for the new Obamacare government health insurance marketplace through ProgressNow Colorado. The ad campaign was launched by ProgressNow Colorado and the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative for the online marketplace called "Connect for Health Colorado" in October 2013. The ads are housed on the website of Progress Now Colorado (<http://doyougotinsurance.com>).

The campaign is titled "Got Insurance" and is a play on the "Got Milk" phrase. But unlike the health benefits of milk, the "Got Insurance" ads do not universally advertise healthy choices; rather, many celebrate the unhealthy, high-risk behaviors of young adults. The ads of concern are referred to as "Brosurance," "Brosurance for the Ladies," or "Hosurance," by the media and depict keg-stands, alcohol consumption, and women picking up guys.

Many of the ads have gone viral on the Internet and social media. Although I have heard numerous comments from the public, I have not seen your administration take a stand one way or another on the messages being presented in this ad campaign. Silence can only be interpreted as complacency and acceptance. I, however, am neither complacent nor acceptant of the ads that overtly objectify women and promote high-risk behaviors. And as an emergency medicine physician, medical educator, woman, mother, and taxpayer I would like to express my concerns.

Although the ad campaign has expanded to pertain to a broader audience, I am concerned about the message conveyed in several specific ads. One of the ads, titled "Let's Get Physical," depicts a woman holding birth control pills and contemplating how she will get a guy to have sex with her. Five of the ads depict or blatantly celebrate alcohol consumption, titled "Brosurance," "Club Med," "Friends with Benefits," "Keg ER," and "Get Your Shots." What message are these ads sending to our young people and our children? As these ads go viral on social media, young people may think that keg stands and one-night stands are okay. Especially since they are being advertised in association with healthcare, Obamacare specifically.

Being an emergency department physician, health insurance ads should not glorify alcohol consumption, doing keg stands, drinking shots, or promiscuous sex. In the emergency department, cases of trauma, physical as-

sault, sexual assault, and motor vehicle crashes are commonly associated with substance abuse, including alcohol consumption. In addition, alcohol consumption, for some patients, becomes a lifelong disease of alcohol addiction leading to serious health effects including hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver, bone marrow dysfunction, esophageal varicosities, intestinal bleeding, and death. And it typically begins with partying as a young adult, a time when the message is "it's cool to drink" and "you have to drink to have fun." The message I want my patients and medical students to understand is the opposite message I see in these ads. In fact, many of these ads could be used to educate patients (including our teenagers) to the potential negative health consequences of high-risk behaviors. For instance, if you go to a party and do keg stands, then hook up with a girl because she is on birth control pills, what are all of the negative outcomes you can foresee? Having health insurance will be the least of your worries the next morning.

The ad I am most concerned about is "Let's Get Physical." (I have included a copy with this letter.) It depicts a young woman hold a packet of birth control pills standing next to a young man and reads: "OMG, he's hot! Let's hope he's as easy to get as this birth control. My health insurance covers the pill, which means all I have to worry about is getting him between the covers. I got insurance. Now you can too. Thanks Obamacare!" There is an asterisk at the bottom of the ad that reads in tiny print: "The pill doesn't protect you from STDs, condoms and common sense do that." The message from this ad is alarming in several ways and sends the wrong message to women, men, girls, and boys.

1. This ad objectifies women, making her the object of sex. This alone is the most damaging consequence of advertising such as this. This ad seriously harms the progress we have made in women's rights and the way in which women are depicted in the media. It is degrading and offensive.

2. Promiscuous sexual behavior has serious risks for a woman including increased risk of cervical cancer, transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI), unintended pregnancy, as well as psychological aftermath.

3. Birth control pills do not protect against HIV, herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, or other sexually transmitted diseases. And the small asterisk message at the bottom of the ad does not outweigh the message put forth in the ad. In fact, using a condom does not eliminate the risk of STD transmission via other routes.

4. Birth control pills are not 100% effective in preventing pregnancy.

5. Birth control pills and reproductive health rights do not equal healthy sexual choices. This ad does not depict responsible reproductive rights. In fact, this ad seems to say that women with birth control pills are sexually promiscuous and just take them to hook up with a guy. This ad also seems to insinuate that now that she has birth control pills, the barriers to a having a sexual relationship are nearly gone. Just getting the guy into bed is all that's left.

6. Finally, what message does this ad send to men? Or teenage boys? That a female just wants to get "him between the covers"? I fear this ad could promote aggressive behavior towards women, especially if combined with the people in the ads doing keg stands and drinking alcohol.

In 2013, we are in an age when women make up 51% of the workforce and 50% of medical students. Women cannot be silent as advertising emerges that sends the wrong message about our healthcare choices and us.

As a taxpayer, I am puzzled at why advertising campaigns for health insurance appear to promote high-risk behaviors? Do I as a taxpayer have to cover the consequences of these high-risk behaviors? Does the government agree with this? In an age when many insurance companies risk stratify your premiums based on smoking, obesity, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, where does the government stand on the high-risk behaviors in these ads? Will Americans have to share the costs?

The new health care plan is an opportunity to teach our populations about health responsibility, avoidance of risky behaviors, and promotion of good choices, because our country is shouldering it. Health insurance advertising should promote responsible behavior, no matter the source of the advertising. Please take a stand.

Sincerely,

JULIE WELCH, MD,
Emergency Medicine Physician
and Educator.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 636, "yea."

IN HONOR OF MURIEL JOHNSON'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Muriel Johnson, an unparalleled leader and a prominent member of our community, as she celebrates her 80th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great civic-minded woman whose vision and commitment to both public service and the arts has contributed so much to the Sacramento region.

A Sacramento resident since 1962, Muriel has dedicated her life to public service and civic involvement. She served several terms on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, was elected President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and served on the CSAC Board of Directors for twelve years. She also served as Chair of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and was the Governor's appointee to the Capitol Area Committee for eleven years. Additionally Muriel served on the Sacramento Public Library Authority, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Cable Commission, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, Sacramento Regional Transit, and the Sacramento Air Quality Management District. An ardent advocate for women leaders, Muriel served as President for the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research, now known as California Women Lead, working to increase appointments of women to state boards and commissions.

As a steadfast leader in our community, Muriel has championed local causes and orga-

nizations, raising funds for charities and holding various leadership positions, including President of the Crocker Art Museum and of the Sacramento Junior League. Muriel was appointed Director of the California Arts Council by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005 and during her six year tenure, she promoted awareness of and public participation in the arts, while strengthening outreach and education efforts. A consistent supporter of investing in local arts, Muriel championed Sacramento County's Art in Public Places which expands the presence of art in public spaces. In 2004 she was named the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's "Sacramentan of the Year" honoring her decades of dedication to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the great life of my friend and mentor, Muriel Johnson, as she celebrates her 80th birthday with her husband Ernest, her children, grandchildren, friends and family in Sacramento. Her work has made a lasting impact on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EARL P. WILLIAMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Earl P. Williams as he is honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA). Earl is the first individual to ever receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. His decades of service and dedication to cotton ginners and growers around California and the entire nation make him very deserving of this recognition. I have also worked with him personally over the years and know him to be one of the leaders of American agriculture.

Since 1997, Earl has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of CCGGA. The associations represent California's cotton ginning and cotton growing industry in the legal, legislative, and regulatory arenas.

Earl's passion for cotton farming began at a young age due to his family's background in the industry. He spent his childhood years in Arkansas, and in 1958, his family moved to Buttonwillow, California. After graduating from high school in Shafter, California, Earl went on to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Crop Production. His background in cotton growing and technical understanding of crop production prepared him well to serve at CCGGA. From day one, Earl has understood the importance of hard work, and he knows what it takes to produce quality crops.

Earl was one of fifteen charter members of the California Cotton Ginners Association board of directors from 1972 to 1980. He is the past chairman of the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Crop Science Department's Advisory Council; a past board member of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association; and a past board member of the California Agricultural Education Foundation which oversees the California Ag Leadership Program. Earl is a founding member and past Chairman of the Agricultural President's Council. He is also an

advisor to the National Cotton Council of America, the American Cotton Producers, and the National Cotton Ginners Association. Earl serves on the board of directors of Supima, and he is on the Western Agricultural Processors Association's board of directors. Earl's wealth of knowledge coupled with his ability to get things done make him a great leader for the cotton farming community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Earl P. Williams for the contributions he has made to the cotton industry. He serves as a pillar of the agriculture community, and I thank him for his hard work and devotion to maintaining California's valuable agricultural strength.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was unable to make the vote due to inclement weather, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MAE ELIZABETH ROBINSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother Mae Elizabeth Robinson. She was born on October 9, 1917, and departed her earthly habitat to join Heaven's family on December 5, 2013. She was the center of the family universe and will be so missed.

Mae was a licensed psychiatric technician for the State of California. She loved her family first and loved to host family dinners, which were well known, especially for her fried chicken. In her later years she enjoyed playing cards with her retired friends.

Mae Robinson was an active member nearly 54 years of the Escalon Republican Women Federated Club, California Federation of Republican Women and National Federation of Republican Women. At age 96, Mae served most recently as Vice President of the Escalon RWF club and participated in meetings, activities, Escalon Park Fete, and 'Get out the Vote' efforts in the last election cycle. Mae was known as Mrs. Republican Woman in the Escalon community and served as a mentor to many with great enthusiasm and energy.

Mae was preceded in death by her husband, Claude Robinson and son, Charles Alfred Robinson.

She leaves behind three children: Colleen Woods (Fresno), Bonnie Tabor (Modesto), Carl Robinson (Stockton), and a daughter-in-law, Helen Robinson; two siblings: Gladys Eiland (Los Angeles) and Alfred Stapleton (Modesto); six grandchildren: Rick McCombs (Modesto), Cindy Brown (Fresno), Michael McCombs (Modesto), Diane Goin (Clovis), Cheryl Camacho (San Antonio, TX) and Robbie Robinson (San Angelo, TX).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mae Elizabeth Robinson for her accomplishments and contributions. The life of Mae Robinson serves as an example of excellence to those in her life, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING MICHAEL LEE PLEZ

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to Mr. Michael Lee Plez; a community advocate and unsung hero for the children on the west side of Tallahatchie County.

Michael is a minister by trade, but a father of many, not just his own but all children. His passion and love to help children comes from his own childhood story. He was raised in a single parent home, where his mother was also his father. He joined the West Tallahatchie Mentor Male Involvement organization to encourage children at an early age by reading to them and participating in educational and fun activities. His colleagues and community members saw this passion in him and voted him as President of the Board for the Tallahatchie County Headstart Center. There was a lack of male involvement in the lives of children in the county, so, Michael reached out to the men and fathers and got their commitment and support on his efforts to increase male involvement. And, now the word on the street is that he has been successful in doing so because he led the charge as the model. Michael got the men to donate their time, skills and money to this worthy cause. Male presence began to increase in activities during school, after school and even on weekends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero for the children on the west side of Tallahatchie County, Mr. Michael Lee Plez.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fifty-six African-American students whose bravery and determination resulted in the University of New Orleans being the first university in the American South to open as a fully integrated institution of higher education. This year is the 55th anniversary of that historic moment in my district.

Established in 1956, The University of New Orleans was originally called Louisiana State University in New Orleans, or LSUNO. Classes began in September 1958 with a total of 1,460 students, all freshmen and double the number originally anticipated. Of that total, fifty-six African-American students registered to attend LSUNO that fall.

Four years after the Supreme Court struck down "separate, but equal" in the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, there were still some who would seek to deny these

students admission to the public university. Civil rights activists led by Alexander Pierre Tureaud, an attorney for the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during the civil rights movement, and Ernest V. "Dutch" Morial, who later became a two-term New Orleans mayor, brought suit in federal court to allow black students to attend LSUNO. While the local branch of the NAACP sought to prepare the African-American students for their groundbreaking efforts, leaders of the White Citizens Council of Greater New Orleans worked to provide harassing and degrading conditions for the students on a daily basis. Some of the African-American students were not able to endure such conditions for many weeks, while others remained in place for a few semesters. One of them, Mrs. Louise Williams Arnolie, still managed to graduate within four years.

The students encouraged one another throughout the painful process. LSUNO's classrooms and campus were integrated, but its privately managed dining hall barred African-Americans. The students petitioned the LSUNO administration to end the cafeteria's contract. Following continued pressure from attorneys Tureaud and Morial, as well as student boycotts, Dean Homer Hitt gave the cafeteria's managers an ultimatum in the fall semester of 1960: Either serve all students or give up the lease. The company chose to give up the lease, and every part of the university was by then integrated.

Today, the University of New Orleans is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the most ethnically diverse public university in the state. Let us never forget that this remarkable diversity did not come easily. I would like to acknowledge the names of those fifty-six brave and determined individuals who enrolled at the University of New Orleans in 1958: Brenda Holman Allen, Vincent A. Angeletta, Louise Williams Arnolie, Charles P. Breaux, Yvonne Buckles, Dorothy M. Caulfield, Janice E. Coleman-Sawyer, Laurence Crawford, Shirley M. Crawford, Claudine Curtis, Crystal M. Davis, Samuel Dugar, Josephine Eli, Wilson (Willison) Fleming, Harold L. Fontenette, Ferdinand J. Fortune III, Phillip L. Fortune, Geneva M. Gambrell, Jo Ann Gaskin, Charles S. Gibson, Peggy M.C. Jackson, Shirley M. Jennings, Alvin F. Johnson, Ervin C. Kinsey, Daniel J. Lewis, Sylvester Lyle Jr., Ernestine M. Lyons, Rosalee McKinley, Rosemary J. McLean, Doris J. Mackey, Lucy Madere, Rose Mary Mays, Priscilla L. Metoyer, Phillip F. Mitchell, Joseph L. Narcisse, Gwendolyn A. Norman, Audrey M. Page, Walter L. Peck, Marilyn J. Phillips, Nelson J. Pierce, Samuel G. Poplus, Geraldine Reimonenq, William Ricks, Patricia R. Robinson, Ronald Shiloh, Charles W. Smith, Mildred T. Smith, Warren A. Smith, Jacquelyn M. Stansberry, Gloria Stokes, Angela A. Vaughn, Jennie F. Warmington, Algie V. Williams, Charles K. Williams, Joseph L. Williams, and Ellis Wilson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634, I was unable to be present for

S1471, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF DEAN MAXWELL MITCHELL

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong and heartfelt appreciation of Mr. Dean Maxwell Mitchell, who has served as my Chief of Staff and Press Secretary since I was first sworn in to Congress in 1997. As he prepares to retire from more than seventeen years of service to my staff and me to the State of North Carolina, and to our nation, it is only appropriate that he be honored today.

A native of Quitman, Georgia, Dean graduated from the University of Georgia in 1986. He moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for U.S. Representative Charles Hatcher for eight years, during which time he rose from Staff Assistant to Legislative Assistant to Legislative Director, and ultimately served as his Chief of Staff. Before joining my office, he also worked as a Government Affairs Representative at King & Spalding Law Firm.

Upon my election to Congress in 1996, I knew I wanted to select an ethical, effective, intelligent Chief of Staff and Press Secretary who would serve the people of Eastern North Carolina with honor and kindness. Not only did I find those qualities in Dean, but I also found a friend and brother in Christ whom I have not only depended upon, but also admired.

For the past seventeen years, Dean has served as Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in my Washington office, which serves North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District. In his two critical roles, Dean has acted as my chief advisor on policy, communications, political matters, budget, and personnel; he has successfully managed the day-to-day operations of five congressional offices and twenty-one employees; he has instituted a number of effective outreach initiatives to assist constituents; he has supported our democracy by keeping the people of Eastern North Carolina informed about the work we do on their behalf. Not only this, but he has personally helped thousands of residents of the Seventh District with a wide range of requests, from the simple to the complex. On countless occasions, he has gone far beyond the obligations of duty for our constituents and staff.

Over the course of seventeen years, Dean has held his position of leadership with integrity, grace, and a spirit of giving. He has demonstrated an enduring and enthusiastic dedication to public service that makes him worthy of this recognition. Mr. Speaker, as Dean Mitchell's service to the Seventh Congressional District comes to a close, I ask you to join me in applauding his hard work and unwavering leadership.

May God's blessings always be upon him and his dear wife, Maggie, as well as his sons, Campbell, Henry, and Porter.

HONORING SETH MARTIN
HERONEMUS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Martin Heronemus. Seth is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 218, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Seth contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Seth Martin Heronemus for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
VICTORY BELL AND CHUCK JEFFERSON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victory Bell and Chuck Jefferson, who were recently honored by the Booker Washington Center in Rockford, Illinois.

Vic Bell and Chuck Jefferson have both been incredible leaders in the Rockford community for decades. The first African-American elected to the Rockford City Council, Alderman Bell served for 38 years before retiring in 2009. During his years representing Rockford's most diverse ward, Bell helped increase diversity throughout city government and fought to bring economic development projects to all of Rockford. He was an inspiration and a mentor to many who have since entered public service or joined the City Council and, in 1999, he was named one of the Rockford Register Star's "100 people of the Century."

Chuck Jefferson has been serving as State Representative for Illinois' 67th District since 2001 and is currently the Assistant Majority Leader in the State Assembly. After completing six years of service in the Army, Representative Jefferson moved to Rockford with his wife and began his career in public service. He has been involved in numerous community organizations over the years, including the New Zion Day Care Center, United Way and the Rockford Sportsmen Golf Association, which organizes after-school programs for underprivileged youth.

The Booker Washington Community Center in Rockford is Illinois' oldest African-American community center. It hosts an impressive array of programs for people of all ages dedicated to art, music, violence prevention, education and much more.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to again congratulate Vic Bell and Chuck Jefferson and thank the

Booker Washington Center for recognizing their many years of dedicated service to the people of Rockford.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DAVID ROMAN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major David Roman of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Roman and his wife Dymphna will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York.

Army Congressional Liaison officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

In November of 2004, Captain Roman reported to his first operational duty assignment as a Platoon Leader with the 1st-501st Attack Helicopter Battalion during their rotation to the Unit Fielding and Training Program at Fort Hood, Texas in my Congressional district. Upon completion the unit was reflagged to 4th-227th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. In 2006, Major Roman deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and served 14 months in the Baghdad area of operation. Upon redeployment in 2008, he reported back to Fort Rucker, Alabama for the Aviation Captains Career Course.

In 2008, Captain Roman returned to the 4th-227th and took command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company. In April 2009, he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom for a second time. He then took command of C Company and served under operational control of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force before moving to Al Asad Air Base in the Anwar Province. Due in no small part to his leadership, Captain Roman's company provided valuable reconnaissance and inflicted significant damage on enemy forces.

In 2011, Dave served as an Army Fellow in the office of Congressman Silvestre Reyes representing residents of El Paso and Fort Bliss, Texas. During that year he also earned a Masters in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University. In January of 2012, he arrived in the House Army Liaison Division where he assumed his role as a Legislative Liaison and continued to honorably serve as a conduit between the Army and Congress for two years.

His great work has not gone unnoticed. During Major Roman's distinguished service to this nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Army Parachutes Badge, and the German Proficiency Badge (Gold Award).

Mr. Speaker it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Roman and his wife

Dymphna, who is a former Staff Sergeant in the Army and currently serves as a Department of the Army Civilian. I wish them the best as they continue to serve our great nation and proceed to the next chapter in their remarkable careers.

ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katarina Morton of Pearland High School, who earned All-American honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. She is the first Pearland ISD volleyball player to be named an AVCA All-American.

Katarina is among 100 of the nation's top high school senior volleyball players who represent 33 states and 90 high schools. In order to receive this distinction, she was first nominated by Pearland Lady Oilers head coach John Turner. Coach Turner has commented on Katrina's passion, incredible work ethic and love of the game. It is clear that these three attributes have served Katrina well.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, it's an honor to recognize Katarina Morton and her accomplishment of earning All-American honors. We are all very proud of her and wish her the best of luck at Kennesaw State University.

THANKING DAN STRODEL FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the conclusion of the first session of the 113th Congress, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I join together on behalf of the House of Representatives to express our most sincere gratitude to Mr. Daniel Strodel for his nearly three decades of outstanding dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives.

Since 2010, Dan has been tapped by both Republican and Democratic leadership to oversee nearly every administrative aspect of the House—a true testament to the overwhelming bipartisan confidence in his capabilities. During his tenure as CAO, Dan not only ensured the continuity of daily operations, but he spearheaded major internal reforms and IT modernization projects that significantly improved the House's IT security, operational efficiency, financial accountability and transparency.

Prior to his tenure as CAO, Dan worked for the Committee on House Administration, U.S. Capitol Police and the House and Senate offices, including the Clerk of the House and the House and Senate Sergeant at Arms, in multiple capacities for the betterment and safety of the House community. As a senior advisor to the Committee, Dan provided invaluable counsel on operational matters related to the CAO, where he first started right out of college.

Dan's dedicated, longstanding service to this great institution is understood and greatly appreciated by the Members and employees who have benefited from his work.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Dan for his years of outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish Dan much happiness in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

CONGRATULATING THE LOVETT SCHOOL LIONS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize The Lovett School Lions varsity football team on an exceptional 2013 season.

This Saturday, the Region 6-AA Champion Lions will make their first championship game trip to the Georgia Dome, and their first championship game since 2007.

Following an impressive 12-1 season, the Lions defeated Brooks County 35-12 last Friday in the Class AA semifinals. They now face Lamar County in the title game. What's more, they now have the opportunity to best the team that eliminated them from last year's playoffs in a hard-fought game.

This season, Coach Mike Muschamp, his staff, and these young men have worked tirelessly to earn their place in Georgia football history. The team's seniors will enter the next chapter of their lives knowing that they have upheld their school's legacy of excellence and have set a high bar for future Lions teams.

I encourage the entire team to reflect proudly on their impressive season and remember the season's important life lessons of responsibility, persistence, and self-discipline. These traits will serve them well throughout their lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I wish the Lovett Lions football team the best of luck in the Class AA State Championship title game, and congratulate them on their impressive season. This team has brought great pride to their school, the city of Atlanta, and Georgia's 11th District. Go Lions.

HONORING MR. CLARENCE HALL, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion, Mr. Clarence Hall, Jr. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make life better for others.

Mr. Clarence Hall, Jr. was born in Issaquena County and attended school there. In 1941 he volunteered for the U.S. Army, three of his five years of service was spent in the European Theatre of Operation during World War II. After completing his military service, Mr. Hall attended Agricultural School for four years in Delta City, MS.

Mr. Hall is a faithful member of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church at Palmetto, MS. He has been married to Selvey Hall for 58 years. He has a son, Clarence Hall, III and a daughter, Ruth Ann Evans, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

While Mr. Hall didn't have multiple degrees to attach to his name, he has many, many deeds to attach. He is well versed with common sense and a sense of humility. His love for God and Humanity was instrumental in his endeavors to ensure that all men were treated fairly, which is what lead him to becoming a Civil/Human Rights Activist.

In 1957, he was the first Black in Issaquena County to pay poll tax. Later, in 1964, he was one of the founding members of the Issaquena County Freedom Democratic Party, a political action organization that helped to organize black voters into a viable political force. Mr. Hall and others appeared before the United States Commission on Civil Rights on February 16-20, 1965 to testify about Blacks in Mississippi being denied the right to register to vote and abolish the literacy test. He was also fired from Akin Saw Co., when he went to Washington D.C. seeking funds for the Child Development Group of MS which is now called Headstart.

In 1969 Mr. Hall was one of the founding members of Delta Foundation, Inc. and is a current board member. Also, he founded the Issaquena County Federal Credit Union in Mayersville, where he has been the Manager, CEO/Chairman for the past 36 years.

He filed a redistricting lawsuit in Issaquena County which resulted in the election of the first black supervisor. He was also active in getting the Mississippi Congressional Districts redrawn to make it possible for Blacks to be elected into the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Clarence Hall, Jr. has served in several capacities in Sharkey and Issaquena County to improve life for others. He has worked at Delta Opportunities Corporation, MS Delta Council for Farm Workers, elected to Western Line School Board, member of Issaquena County Executive Committee, member of the Sharkey/Issaquena Hospital Board of Trustees, member of the Issaquena County Levee Board Commission and founding member of the Lake Jackson Water Association among other things.

Clarence has also received several awards throughout his life. In 1968 he received the Rural Service Award from the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. and awards for services to the Issaquena County Federal Credit Union, Western Line School Board and the Delta Area School Board Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Clarence Hall, Jr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE THOMAS D. HORNE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Judge Thomas D. Horne, an integral member of Loudoun County's justice

system for more than three decades, who retired at the beginning of this month.

Judge Horne graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1965 and went on to attend William and Mary Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1969. He began his career as a judge advocate for the Marines and in 1979, his love of the courtroom led him to become the county's first elected commonwealth's attorney. In 1982, he was appointed to the Loudoun Circuit Court and since then has heard some of Loudoun's most prominent cases, including the 2002 first-degree murder trial of Claire Schwartz, who was found guilty of killing her father, as well as the nation's first "spam" case involving email advertisements.

Although he is one Virginia's most respected circuit court judges and described by his colleagues a "the epitome of fairness"—his leadership extends far beyond the courtroom. He helped create a bench book for judges in Virginia, which has become an indispensable resource for those involved in the legal profession. Additionally, he spearheaded the nation's first victim-witness program and started a week-long law camp mentoring teenagers interested in law.

Outside of the legal realm, Judge Horne serves his community in other ways. In the 1980's he played an important role in the development of youth soccer programs in Loudoun and later formed the Loudoun County Youth Lacrosse League.

I have had the privilege of knowing Tom for many years. I hope that he enjoys retirement with his wife, Patricia, and their children, Rob and Jennifer, and grandchildren, knowing that he has been a pillar of the Loudoun community for decades. I wish him all the best and thank him for his outstanding service, both inside and outside of the courtroom.

I submit the following Leesburg Today article on Judge Horne's remarkable accomplishments.

[From the Leesburg Today, Dec. 5, 2013]

THE EPITOME OF FAIRNESS: HORNE RETIRES,
AFTER THREE DECADES ON LOUDOUN BENCH
(By Erika Jacobson Moore)

Sitting in his office at the Loudoun County Courthouse, Judge Thomas D. Horne is reminiscing about his high school football coach in Baltimore. After being cut during tryouts for other sports, Horne saw a flyer about a meeting for football. So he went. There, coach George Young—a future New York Giants general manager and NFL vice president—told the group, "I won't cut you. You'll cut yourself." Horne joined the football team and Young became a mentor to the teenager. Then, when it came time for Horne to consider college, Young stepped up.

"I didn't have any money, but every weekend he took me to see schools," Horne remembered. That was when Horne first learned anything about Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. "I didn't know what it was. I thought it must have been in Germany somewhere. But he said, 'This is the school for you.' So I went."

It was his time at Muhlenberg that put Horne on the path that eventually led him to Loudoun, where he spent more than three decades as a cornerstone in the county's legal system.

"The point is: you can make a difference in someone else's life. And you should," he said.

It is with that philosophy that Horne has approached his life and more than 30 years on the bench in Loudoun's courtrooms. This week marks the first time since the late 1970s that Horne is not a formal part of

Loudoun's legal landscape. Horne retired from the bench Dec. 1, a result of the Virginia requirement that judges retire when they reach age 70. He plans to continue on a part-time basis after the New Year until the General Assembly appoints his replacement.

"I try to set an attitude in the courtroom that respects everybody," he said. "You have to make people understand that you are listening. That is sometimes all people want." Known for often taking cases "under advisement" before issuing an opinion or ruling, Horne said that is intentional—designed to give him time to really examine the arguments and consider both sides.

"You have to be able to look at things objectively . . . people can disagree with whether you came up with the right or wrong answer, that's one of the great things about this system. But you have to take the time," he said, adding with a laugh, "Of course, I always think I came up with the right answer."

Horne's strides to ensure fairness and compassion were always present in his courtroom, according to those who have watched his career. Leesburg attorney Rhonda Paice, who credits Horne with her decision to become a lawyer, said Horne is "the epitome of everything I thought was right with that [legal] profession." In high school, Paice shadowed Horne when he was an assistant commonwealth's attorney and then worked as his courtroom clerk the summer after she graduated from college in 1983.

"He was an extremely skilled trial attorney," she recalled. "He was very polished in the courtroom. But he never really took advantage."

"Everything he did as a prosecutor it was really him thinking, is this furthering the ends of justice? He was just really advanced at walking the line between doing his job as a prosecutor, but doing it in the right circumstances and giving people a break when they needed it."

Bill Mims, who was elected to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court of Virginia in 2010, practiced law in front of Horne when he was an attorney in Loudoun, and echoed those sentiments. In an email, Mims harkened back to the words of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, who said, "Justice is fairness."

"Judge Horne is the epitome of fairness," Mims wrote. "He always applies the law faithfully, but also with equity. A judge can receive no higher praise."

Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens first met Horne in the early 1990s, when he was a witness in a domestic case. "Even at that point I was very impressed with his demeanor, his compassion and actual interest in the people who were before him with a court proceeding," Clemens said. When Clemens became an investigator with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office a few years later, he began spending more time in Horne's courtroom.

"You could tell he had respect for everyone who appeared before him, even the criminal defendants," he said. "He ensured those rights were upheld. You could tell that with the way he was talking and how he treated them he wasn't really judging them, he was just upholding the law and applying the law."

The Loudoun Circuit Court has been stretched this year with Horne and Judge Burke F. McCahill picking up additional cases after the General Assembly failed to appoint a replacement for Judge James Chamblin, who retired in April. Judge Stephen E. Sincavage was appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell this summer, but must be confirmed by the state legislature in the upcoming session.

Even with the additional work in his final year, a week before his retirement Horne

said he was in position to have everything on his docket completed before he left.

That comes as no surprise to the people who know him best, many who touted his work ethic on the bench. Clemens says there are many nights when Horne would be the last one working in the courthouse, "sometimes as late as 8 p.m. and I would go down the hall and his light is on and he is in there."

"He just has that commitment to the profession," Clemens said. "Most importantly it was his commitment to the people involved. These were people with a very important issue in their lives and he realized that. So he was willing to work very late at night or even come in on the weekends."

After graduating from Muhlenberg in 1965, Horne went to the College of William and Mary, earning his law degree in 1969 and then serving as a judge advocate in the Marines. Eventually, Horne and his family moved to Leesburg.

"At the start of my career, it was a completely different place," he said, recalling his practice was set up in a building with doctors' offices and he "always had pregnant women and people with eye problems dropping in accidentally." Horne served as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in the 1970s—it was a part-time position so he kept his private practice as well.

"You were on a first-name basis with everyone," he said. "But in 1972, Leesburg was still a fairly closed society. The newspaper was still really a society column, about who was vacationing . . . and I'm just a guy who moved here from Reston with my family."

In 1979, he campaigned to be the county's first elected commonwealth's attorney. Horne said he felt drawn to public service. "I love the courtroom. I love the challenge of the courtroom," he said.

Former Clerk of the Court Fred Howard first got to know Horne during that 1979 campaign, and he recalls Horne's commitment coming through as he campaigned. "He walked all the way across Loudoun County," Howard said. "He would stop and do campaign stops along the way, but he walked the entire county. I even wrote a song for his campaign . . . he walked 'from the hills of Northern Loudoun to the plains of Sterling Park'."

After Horne was elected Commonwealth's Attorney, Howard said he always was struck by how dedicated to the legal process he was, with one case coming to mind immediately. A man had been charged with breaking and entering, but said he was innocent because he had been at McDonald's at the time of the crime—even going so far as to say what he ate. Horne went back and checked the man's alibi, finding out that the day of the crime was the only day that restaurant had ever been closed.

"He was always very thorough," Howard recalled. "The look on that boy's face was priceless."

Since being appointed to the Loudoun Circuit Court in 1982, Horne has presided over some of Loudoun's most well known cases—from one of the earliest "shaken baby" manslaughter cases in 1995, which ended in a mistrial and resulted in a guilty plea to a child abuse charge, to the 2002 first-degree murder trial of Clara Schwartz, who was found guilty of killing her father and luring two men into the plot.

He also heard the first SPAM case in the country, where he sentenced a North Carolina man to prison for flooding AOL accounts with thousands of bulk email advertisements. The case was tried in Loudoun because AOL is located in the county. The Virginia Supreme Court later deemed the anti-spam statute in the Virginia State Code unconstitutional, something Horne had called into question when imposing his sentence.

There was the 1999 case where the ability of the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority, which is made up of representatives of Maryland, Virginia and DC, to condemn land in Virginia was challenged. "That was interesting," Horne said, "because it involved the Compact Clause of the Constitution." The Compact Clause states that without the consent of Congress no state can enter into an agreement or compact with another state.

"Whoever thought I would be hearing a case like that here in Loudoun County?" Horne said with a smile.

And then, of course, for years, Horne has heard land use case after land use case as Loudoun's development ramped up. "In the early 2000s there was always some sort of land use case on the docket," he said. And many of them brought up complicated legal questions, and involved multiple plaintiffs.

He handled legal challenges that resulted from a large-scale Board of Supervisors-initiated downzoning. "You're working on rezonings with 200 plaintiffs and all these lawyers at the top of their game and it's just you," Horne said, acknowledging he appreciates "good lawyering" in his courtroom.

Domestic relations cases were always a staple of Horne's docket, including divorce and child custody cases. In those, he often got the "greatest satisfaction" because "in some of these cases the parents are just litigating constantly."

"It's when I hear from one of those kids and they say they have bonded again with both parents that I get such a sense of satisfaction," he said, recalling one case in particular, in which a wife did not want her husband to have any contact with their children. The father was going overseas to Iraq and "I was able to create a moment" for the father and his children, Horne recalled. "He ended up going over there and he was killed. And that was the last moment they had together."

Horne's influence in the courtroom stretches beyond Leesburg, as well. He was an integral part of the effort to create the bench book for judges in the commonwealth. The book serves as a reference for judges, attorneys and other members of the legal profession.

He also worked on the judicial boundary realignment that benchmarks how many judges are needed in Virginia, and in specific localities, based on the number of case hours worked, the number of cases and how many judges are needed to handle the total. The document easily makes the case, Horne said, for the need to fill his position quickly, and to add a fourth judge in the circuit court in Loudoun.

Horne recalled how he recently had someone tell him they had never seen him get upset until he had to tell someone that he could not hear their case. "We just don't have the manpower," he said of Loudoun's Circuit Court.

The ability to make a difference also drove Horne's work outside the courtroom.

As a prosecutor he helped start the county's victim-witness program, the first of its kind in the nation. "You are trying to bring [victims] a sense of closure. That is really what this is all about; you're trying to reach that closure for people," he said.

More than a dozen years ago, he started Law Camp for high school students in the 20th Judicial Circuit, which brings lawyers together to train students to conduct moot court trials, give speeches and hear from guest speakers. Paice recalled being called into Horne's office with a couple other attorneys.

He said, I have this idea and I want to do this camp, a sleepover that will last a week, and we'll have lawyers who will mentor

[teenagers] and then Friday they will try a case," Paice said. "We all sort of looked at each other like, you want to what now? He said he thought it was a worthwhile project for the Loudoun Bar. He thought the legal profession gets a bad rap, and it can be hard for kids to see how much good lawyers can do. He said, 'I think that is a really good program to showcase the things that lawyers do in the community.'"

Ian Duggan, a Loudoun Valley High School graduate, participated in law camp in 2002. Now a JAG serving in Turkey, he credits his interest in law directly to his interactions with Horne. Duggan first met Horne in the eighth grade, when Horne was coaching him in lacrosse and "knew [Horne] had a passion for the law." Then when he got into high school and participated in law camp, it further spurred his interest in the legal profession.

"Looking at him as a lawyer, he is a good example of what you want to be," Duggan said in a phone interview from Turkey. "I saw the way people respected him. He did a good job of bringing a lot of people from the Bar out and supporting the effort. Not many people could do that."

Horne, along with McCahill, also presided over Loudoun's Drug Court until the Board of Supervisors cut its funding last year. A common target for budget cuts before it was eliminated in 2012, Horne often spoke passionately about the program and the impact it can have, telling supervisors in 2009 that he would "rather take home hours of homework" than see the program cut.

He calls his work for the community "an extension of being a judge."

"I tell the new judges—that is my advice—don't go and hide. Don't sit up on high. Be out in the community; get out with people. Yes, you have your judicial ethics, and you don't talk about your cases, but you need to talk with people, and know them and understand them. You need to understand people," he said.

And Horne's influence on Loudoun's community stretches far beyond the legal system. In the early 1980s, he helped youth soccer form in the county, and at the end of that decade he formed the Loudoun County Youth Lacrosse League. The sport was one of his passions growing up, and one he passed on to his son, Rob.

"I distinctly remember our first catch, I had my baseball mitt and then we would trade off [with the lacrosse stick]," Rob Horne said. "I really took to it very quickly. I think he saw how passionate I was about the sport, and he wanted to provide me with an outlet . . . and in 1989 he founded lacrosse in the county."

Rob Horne said his father is his hero, in no small part because of his passion for his community and his ability to be just as passionate about his family. Growing up the son of a judge, Rob Horne always faced questions about a perceived strict household.

"[My friends] thought that things were incredibly strict and heavy handed in our house. They were not," he said. "My father had an amazing ability to leave the office, the courthouse, behind. He never carried any of that baggage home."

In addition to his dedication to youth sports, Horne is a former Boy Scouts cub master, Loudoun County High School PTA president and the first chairman of Loudoun County High School's all-night, drug-free graduation organizing committee.

"He has this selfless approach that he has taken throughout his adult life in all facets of our community," the younger Horne, now a teacher at Middleburg Academy, said. "It is this inexhaustible energy that he has. That is something that I have really tried to draw from him. When you undertake an en-

deavor, you really see it through. Be passionate about what it is that you do, either professionally or in some extracurricular activity."

Beyond the tangible work Horne does in Loudoun that will be absent with his retirement, it is the intangible that will be impossible to replace.

"I have dreaded 2013 for so long," Paice said. "I have always had a feeling that as long as he was in that courthouse justice was going to be done, whether it was in front of him or not. Divorce, criminal, land use, he was going to be there to be sure that justice was done. And he is not going to be there. It is totally an end of an era for this community."

Duggan, who also worked for him as a law clerk one summer, said one of the things Horne worked to instill in him was the importance of people—something he tries to remember every day he works as an attorney. Duggan said he has an "indelible mark" on him of Horne placing his hands on his shoulders and telling him:

"The law programs, the buildings they are all great, but at the end of the day it is the people that really make the system work . . . it doesn't matter if you don't have the right people."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 635, I was unable to be present for H.R. 3212. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO LENAWEЕ CHRISTIAN FAMILY CENTRE

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. WALBERG. I rise today to recognize the 25 years of service provided by the Lenawee Christian Family Centre to the community of Adrian, Michigan.

The "Centre," as it is popularly known, offers a variety of fitness, sports and other programs enjoyed by over 4,000 members of the community. The brainchild of local philanthropists Orville and Ruth Merillat, the Centre was originally built on a vision of providing a place for young people in the community to gather. While the Centre has grown over the years and their programs have changed, the underlying mission has remained the same: to encourage families and serve them in a Christ-centered way.

I had the distinct honor to have served on the founding board of the Centre and continue to be impressed to see how they've grown over the years to meet a great need in the Adrian community and all of Lenawee County.

Today, the Centre offers fitness options that range from a pool and exercise equipment to a climbing wall and handball courts. They have a cafe, an auditorium, and host a number of classes, wellness programs and family-oriented events. Through all these offerings, which are available to everyone in the commu-

nity, the Centre seeks to promote and support Christian values and ideals.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like the Centre that strengthen our civil society and meet the needs of our communities in a way the government never can. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Centre's 25 years of service and thank them for their continued contributions to the Adrian community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN NAO YENG VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Captain Nao Yeng Vang, who passed away on November 16, 2013 at the age of 67. Captain Vang was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as an iconic hero to the Hmong people.

Captain Vang never attended school, but learned to read, write, and speak Lao fluently on his own. In 1964, at 18 years old, he was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and served as a Captain under the late General Vang Pao during the Vietnam War. He bravely fought and directed Hmong soldiers to fight against communists and saved many American soldiers from torture.

In February 1965, Captain Vang married Yia Yang in Ban Soun, Laos. They were married for 38 years until Mrs. Vang passed away on October 18, 2003. They had six sons: Moua Pao Vang, Chia Neng Vang, Kou Vang, Thai Vang, Ger Vang, and Nou Vang, and seven daughters: Ka Ying Vang, My Vang, Kia May Vang, Maiyer Vang, Pa Houa Vang, Stacey Bao Vang, and Kathleen Kalia Vang.

Captain Vang and his family settled in Nampong, Thailand on May 13, 1975. They lived in Thailand for three years as refugees before receiving asylum from the United States government in 1978. The Vang family resided in Hamilton, Montana where Captain Vang worked as a press operator for three years. In 1980, he co-founded the Lao Family branch in Montana. The organization was developed to help and empower refugees to adapt and become successful members of American society.

The Vang family eventually moved to Fresno, California in 1982. Captain Vang was an independent farmer in Fresno for 16 years. As a farmer, he was able to engage in Hmong and American politics. He encouraged the Hmong community to vote during election cycles. Voting was a very important aspect in his life because in Laos, citizens did not have the right to vote and speak freely. Due to his involvement with American politics, he was able to meet former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as well as many state, county, and city elected officials.

Captain Vang was a member of Lao Veterans of America, Inc. He served as an advisor to the Hmong community and participated in various organizations as a community leader, educator, and cultural advisor. When he spoke at community events he urged the Hmong community to be productive citizens, to be united, and to love and support one another. He was a tireless supporter of education and encouraged students to stay in school and pursue a higher education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Captain Nao Yeng Vang. He will always be remembered as an influential member of our very important Hmong community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
BILL KREITTEIN

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, a true friend of veterans in the State of Alabama, Bill Kreitlein, is retiring after many years of loyal service in my district office in Birmingham. On this occasion I would like to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives his dedicated work on behalf of our men and women in uniform as well as the entirety of his service to the district.

Bill was one of the first people I asked to join my district office staff when I was originally elected in 1992. He has been a primary liaison for my constituents to a variety of federal agencies. Bill has served two "tours of duty" as a permanent full-time employee and more recently as an invaluable part-time staff member. His personal style has been to work in a respectful and determined way to try to solve problems for people.

As a member of the Alabama National Guard from 1966 to 1972, Bill was the natural choice to handle military and veterans affairs issues in my district office. The members of our military, their families, and veterans have greatly benefited from his concern, diligence, and effectiveness. He has worked tirelessly to help veterans obtain rightfully-earned benefits, health care, and military honors and to address challenges facing active duty members. Bill's unique blend of maturity, experience, and insight has provided relief and comfort to many military families during times of great distress. As a result, Bill is held in the highest regard by veterans groups in the Birmingham region and the State of Alabama.

Bill is a native son of Alabama, having been born in Mobile on May 11, 1941. After attending high school in Pensacola, Florida, he received his bachelor's degree from Livingston State College in Livingston, Alabama. Like many conservatives of his generation, he began his involvement in politics during the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater in 1964. He has been active on the Republican State Executive Committee in Alabama, run for the Jefferson County School Board, and worked on my first campaign for Congress.

Because of his unwavering devotion and steadfast pursuit of excellence in his duties, Bill has been a great asset to me and the people of the Sixth District. The quality most associated with Bill by anyone who has come in contact with him on either a professional or personal basis is "kindness." He has demonstrated how to achieve success by living out one's faith and principles and by treating all individuals with respect and decency, and that is a wonderful and satisfying legacy to have established during a distinguished career in public service.

CONGRATULATING DANA ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL FOR BEING
NAMED A 21ST CENTURY LEARN-
ING EXEMPLAR SCHOOL BY THE
PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CEN-
TURY SKILLS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dana Elementary School in Hendersonville, North Carolina, for being named a 21st Century Learning Exemplar School by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21).

The 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program seeks to identify, document, promote and celebrate examples of successful 21st century learning across the country. For the past 10 years, P21 has advocated for 21st century readiness for every student.

Last spring, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction nominated Dana Elementary for the 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program. After visiting classrooms and interviewing teachers and students at the school, P21 stated, "A coordinated effort between school leadership and teachers helps students develop problem-solving skills, a collaborative mindset and a goal-oriented approach to learning."

Dana Elementary has also been awarded one of six National School Change Awards from the National Principal Leadership Institute.

In May, I had the opportunity to visit Dana Elementary and see the school's innovative teaching techniques firsthand. By combining a dynamic curriculum and modern technology, Dana Elementary engages students and prepares them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate Principal Kelly Schofield and the entire team at Dana Elementary for being named a 21st Century Learning Exemplar School and thank them for their commitment to our future leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDWARD O. WATTS, SR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Edward O. Watts, Sr., director of Watts Architecture & Engineering, who passed away on October 31, 2013 in Buffalo at the age of 70.

A native of the State of Alabama, Mr. Watts attended school there, graduating from Camden Academy. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tuskegee University, and went on to gain his master's degree from Baldwin Wallace College.

Mr. Watts began his career at Lockheed Martin in Atlanta as a design engineer, and moved on to work for DuPont in Cleveland, Ohio, before being transferred to Niagara Falls. He was able to follow the American Dream and start his own business, now known as Watts Architecture & Engineering. The

company began with just one employee—Mr. Watts himself—and now employs about 100 people. Recently, the firm celebrated its 25th anniversary. Mr. Watts received many business and design awards for his work, perhaps the most prominent being the U.S. Small Business Administration Graduate Firm of the Year Award in 2010.

Dedicated to giving back to communities that helped him grow, Mr. Watts was a member of the Tuskegee University Alumni Association, and frequently returned to the school to raise funds to upgrade the engineering department and for scholarships. He helped fund the Watts Family Scholarships at Alabama State University in honor of his mother, who was a graduate of the university. Mr. Watts also generously contributed to schools in his native Western New York. His company provides scholarships every year at the University at Buffalo for minority students, one for the School of Engineering and one for the School of Architecture. Mr. Watts completed the University at Buffalo Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, and for more than 10 years he returned as a mentor for numerous business owners.

Mr. Watts was a member of the Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and served on its board of trustees as church treasurer. His favorite pastime was playing the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama—a passion he pursued at home as well. He organized the Watts Open Golf Tournament for his employees as well as the American Institute of Architects/American Council of Engineering Consultants of Western New York Golf Tournament.

Mr. Watts's dedication to his community was equaled by his love for his family.

Together, he and his wife of forty-four years, Lydia, raised two sons, Edward and Jonathan. Mr. Watts was close with his siblings, Dr. Vivian DeShields, Claudette Camp, Dr. Geraldine Bell, and Harold Watts.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize Mr. Watts's incredible contributions to Buffalo's architecture and engineering community, as well as his admirable philanthropy. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, and am truly appreciative of all his great works.

HONORING THE TUTWILER FU-
NERAL HOMES 220 HANCOCK
STREET AND 218 HANCOCK
STREET AND MRS. ANN COUTEE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two historic sites in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. The Tutwiler Funeral Homes are both located in Tutwiler, MS.

Mr. Speaker it is important that I make mention of the addresses of the Tutwiler Funeral Homes. The original one is located at 220 Hancock St. There is a newer structure located at 218 Hancock St.

220 Hancock Street is the original Tutwiler Funeral Home. History has documented the funeral home as having several owners. When Mr. C.M. "Chick" Nelson owned it, it was for

"blacks only." Although records do not date the funeral home start, events in history that took place associated with it gives an idea of the time and era. Then the funeral home was eventually purchased by Mr. Edward Thomas and sold to Mrs. Ann Coutee for \$33,000 in 1981, who is still the current owner. When she purchased it, the building was in need of repair and equipment. It came with one old hearse and outdated embalming equipment.

At a time when Mississippi was experiencing racial turmoil it played a significant role in the embalming and burying of black folks. On August 31, 1955, the Tutwiler Funeral Home prepared the remains of Emmett Till. At the time Mr. Woodrow "Champ" Jackson was the embalmer who prepared his remains. In October 1985, Michael Anthony Felton, a fifteen year old boy from Cleveland, MS, was believed to be the first Aids victim in the State after having contracted it from a blood transfusion. His family entrusted his remains to the Tutwiler Funeral Home. His death captured statewide attention in both Mississippi and Tennessee, and was even filmed for television. Robert Turner, who was the son of Mrs. Coutee and in line to take over the funeral home for his mother after becoming a licensed embalmer died suddenly. Well, as you will know, Mrs. Coutee stepped in and handled the entire arrangement of his burial. The Tutwiler Funeral Home has a presence and reputation that has withstood time. It has traveled beyond the city limits to handle the remains of loved ones all across Mississippi and the United States (e.g., Chicago, IL; Providence, RI; Mobile, AL; St. Louis, MO; Springfield, MO).

Black churches were significant sure enough for funeral, social events, and even civic meetings to say the least. But under the ownership of Mrs. Coutee the Tutwiler Funeral Home served dual roles. It was also a chapel for services and auditorium for blacks, as the town folks called it. The Tutwiler community was limited in its ability to provide recreational buildings, meeting halls, and public structures for blacks to meet. In 2002, Hurricane Isidore came through and toppled the historic Tutwiler Funeral Home. The remains of the building from the storm are still in place, where the ceiling buckled in on top of one of the hearse.

218 Hancock Street is home to the new Tutwiler Funeral Home. In 2002 after the original Tutwiler Funeral Home was destroyed, Mrs. Coutee immediately sprang into action to rebuild. She made sure the new structure maintained its ability to meet the needs of Tutwiler and all that have a need to use it because she included a chapel-meeting room.

In March 2013, Frank Ratliff, the son of Mrs. Z.L. Ratliff, the owner of the infamous Riverside Hotel in Clarksdale, MS, remains was in the care of the Tutwiler Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ann Coutee is still the owner of the Tutwiler Funeral Home. She moved back to Mississippi in 1977 as a 43-year-old widow of six children. Her education and training span across several occupations, real estate, school librarian, hospital manager, and a licensed cosmetologist in both Illinois and Mississippi. So, the funeral home business was not her initial or preferred choice. But she wanted to be a business owner, provide steady support for her children and build a business she could pass on to them, and serve the community.

Mrs. Coutee is the mother of six children, two boys and four girls. Her children are Mar-

garet Turner, Sylvia Turner-Lottie, Patricia Turner-Sullivan, Reginald Turner, Robert Turner, and Sandra Hicks-Brown. Both Reginald and Robert are now deceased.

In the beginning she did all her own driving to pick up deceased individuals, traveling near and far, and oftentimes alone. She said embalming was never her choice but rather the cosmetics of preparation. Since the funeral home business was new to her, she joined the National Funeral Directors Association and maintained a membership for years. At her first meeting, she said, she could not figure out why she was the only black and a woman attending the meeting. Well, she soon learned the invitation to join was meant for the previous owner, Mr. Edward Thomas, a white male from Webb, MS. Not only did she learn that but while at the meeting, she was asked how she acquired the building because the all white membership said, "black women don't own funeral homes unless they inherit it." Well, just so you will know, she responded, "I do and I purchased it." Nevertheless, she stayed on because she was determined to learn the business and stay connected. Her struggles to stay on and learn the funeral home business is another story to be told later. Mr. Woodrow "Champ" Jackson remained on as her embalmer for many years. I am compelled to mention that under the ownership of Mrs. Coutee and funeral home director, Aaron Gunn III, the Tutwiler Funeral Home is open to people of all races and ethnic groups in need of burial services—that's right no more "blacks only."

Through that determination and grit, Mrs. Coutee managed to not only raise her children to be successful but as it turned out, none of them are in the funeral home business. Her success did not stop there because as time passed she managed to acquire other properties in Tutwiler. She is the owner of a large majority of the previously white owned businesses and vacant lots in town, 208 Hancock St., 210 Hancock St., 212 Hancock St., 214 Hancock St., 216 Hancock St., 218 Hancock St., 220 Hancock St., and 222 Hancock St.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Tutwiler Funeral Homes at 220 and 218 Hancock Street along with the owner Mrs. Ann Coutee for their contribution to the black community and black funeral home business.

DUANE G. DUNCAN, NATIONAL 4-H
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Duane G. Duncan of Carlisle, Pennsylvania who was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame this year.

Mr. Duncan became an active participant in 4-H at the age of 12 and continued to contribute to the organization while attending college at Penn State University. After graduating from Penn State in 1958, he worked in Adams County as an Assistant County Agent where he continued to collaborate with 4-H. In 1967, Mr. Duncan was promoted to Cumberland County Extension Director. He continued to work with 4-H horse and dairy programs until retiring in 2003 after 45 years of service.

Throughout his many years with 4-H, Mr. Duncan has demonstrated leadership and dedication to both the organization and his community. He served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show from 1972 to 1991 and was honored for his lifetime commitment at the 50th annual show in 2005. In 1974, he established the position of Superintendent of the All American Dairy Show 4-H and FFA Youth Dairy Forum, and he continues to fulfill those duties to this day. Additionally, he has served as treasurer of the PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee since 1980, is on the Board of Directors of Therapeutic Riding Association of Cumberland County for handicapped children, and is a liaison to the Carlisle Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, for his outstanding service to both 4-H and the Carlisle community, I commend Mr. Duane G. Duncan and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the official Congressional Delegation to Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the memorial services for former President Nelson Mandela, I missed the votes on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 and Wednesday, December 11, 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall No. 630, H.R. 3521—Authorize VA Medical Facility Leases; "yes" on rollcall No. 631, H.R. 1402—VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act; "no" on rollcall No. 632, H.R. 2019—Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act of 2013; "yes" on rollcall No. 633, H.R. 2319—Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013; "yes" on rollcall No. 634, S. 1471—Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act; "yes" on rollcall No. 635, H.R. 3212—Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2013; and "yes" on rollcall No. 636, H.R. 1992—Israel QME Enhancement Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631 I was unable to make the vote due to inclement weather.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING JAMES CLEVELAND HUGHES III ON ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, James

Cleveland Hughes III of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

James Hughes has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic James has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend James Hughes for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. James will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. James's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating James Cleveland Hughes III on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION OF COVERAGE FOR LOW VISION DE- VICES ACT OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that more than 60 million Americans are at risk of serious vision loss—a number expected to increase as the baby boomer generation ages. Along with my colleague Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, I am proud to introduce legislation to support Americans with limited or impaired vision. For someone with a visual impairment, reading a book or crossing the street could be blurred or distorted even with the help of glasses or contact lenses. In many cases a physician can prescribe magnifiers or special optical devices to help an individual remain independent. While there are a wide variety of options to help people with low vision, currently, there is an exclusion from Medicare coverage for devices that include a lens to aid vision or provide magnification of images for impaired vision. Ultimately, not having these assistance devices could shift more individuals from independent living to care facilities or nursing homes.

To understand the impact of covering these devices for America's seniors, we are introducing the Medicare Demonstration of Coverage for Low Vision Devices Act of 2013. This legislation would create a five-year national demonstration project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the economic impact of allowing reimbursement for certain low vision devices under the Social Security Act. Coverage of such devices could help Medicare beneficiaries with low vision lead healthy, safe, and independent lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636, H.R. 1992, I was unable to be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE W.H. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic and family legacy, W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home.

W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home was founded in 1894 by William Henry and Lucy Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson was the first African-American funeral director in the State of Mississippi, while Mrs. Jefferson was a leader in education. Both fought hard to make Vicksburg and Warren County a wonderful place for all its citizens.

The Jeffersons' values for service, integrity, excellence and putting people first are honored by the facility that carries their name. The new facility, completed in 2002, provides large visitation rooms, a chapel that seats over 300, a spacious break room, and unlimited parking.

The business has grown with Vicksburg through the leadership of the family from generation to generation. Currently, W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home is co-owned by James E. Jefferson, Jr. and his uncle, Robert, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home for its legacy and strong history in the Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi, area.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAK- LAND COUNTY COMMUNITY MEN- TAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service to the Oakland County community.

Currently, only 28 percent of Americans with a diagnosable mental illness receive the treatment they need, and even Americans who do have health insurance too often find themselves unable to receive care because of discriminatory policies in their health plans. The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority helps to fill this void by ensuring that more than 22,000 Oakland County citizens have access to high quality mental health services. The Authority provides lifesaving services to those adults and children who are affected by mental health illness, emotional disturbance, or substance abuse. Most notable is the Authority's dedication to serving the under- and uninsured.

Today, the Authority serves as a national leader in the delivery of quality mental health services that improve the health and quality of life of those who are in need of mental health support.

As part of its services, the Authority is opening a new Resource and Crisis Services Center for Oakland County citizens. This facility will serve as an accessible centralized resource for individuals facing crisis and seeking referral to quality support and mental health services. I congratulate Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority for its new Resource and Crisis Services Center, and I look forward to the Authority's expanded impact in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority will celebrate its many contributions to the Oakland County community on December 17, 2013. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, and its dedicated staff, for its five decades of service to Michigan residents.

HONORING LCDR DANIEL PROCHAZKA, USN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Daniel "Prozac" Prochazka, United States Navy.

For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, a proud naval aviator and graduate of Georgia Tech, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Prochazka executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Prochazka for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. After spending the last 12 years as an E-2C Hawkeye pilot in Japan and Virginia and completing eight deployments, which included flying combat support missions over Iraq and Afghanistan, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka and his family are headed to Norfolk, VA where he will become the Executive Officer of VAW-125, the "Tiger Tails." Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, who has been selected for the rank of Commander, will return to sea and to leading Sailors as he goes back into harm's way to execute his trade as naval aviator in the service of this great Nation, flying the new E-2D Hawkeye. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Prochazka will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him, his wife Jen, and his daughter Amelia the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Dan Prochazka are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Sailors you are charged with leading. Fair winds and following seas.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, also known as the Green 301 Act. Green 301 expands the Section 301 provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 to encompass environmental effects. It provides tools to help prevent practices by other countries that cause negative environmental impacts to human, animal, or plant life or health, or to prevent the conservation of exhaustible natural resources domestically or internationally.

The United States has helped to create the largest trade network the world has ever seen.

As we leverage our commercial influence in the global economy, we can also ensure the countries we are doing business with are adhering to basic environmental standards.

Green 301 would allow the U.S. government to impose penalties, including the increase of tariffs, on countries that: fail to effectively enforce the environmental laws of a foreign country; waived or otherwise derogated from the environmental laws of a foreign country or weakened the protections afforded by such laws; fail to provide for judicial or administrative proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; or fail to effectively enforce environmental commitments in agreements to which a foreign country and the United States are a Party.

The promise of an open, mutually beneficial trade relationship with the U.S. is both a carrot and a stick. Green 301 lets our trade partners know that, not only does the United States expect our partners to adhere to environmental agreements, but now there could be serious economic penalties for countries that don't hold up their end of the bargain.

My support for international trade agreements has always been predicated on the notion that agreements establish a fair, rules-based trading regime. The economy of my state is heavily trade-dependent. Oregon's iconic brands would not exist without strong international trading relationships. Oregon's largest private employer, Intel, is a product of the international market for high-tech products.

Oregon and other states are greatly disadvantaged when our trading partners derogate from their environmental laws, which provide them with an unfair advantage and undercuts U.S. companies, which operate under our own strong environmental protections. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that trade remains free and open, but, in incorporating environmental and labor protections, also meets basic expectations of fairness.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,222,454,811,203.79. We've added \$6,595,577,762,290.71 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I speak today to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniver-

sary of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB). It was seventy-five years ago when the Wagner-O'Day Act originally helped spur the creation of NIB, whose mission is to enhance economic and personal independence for the blind and visually impaired. Each day NIB upholds its mission by relentlessly creating, sustaining, and improving employment opportunities for those who it serves.

To best meet its objectives, the NIB collaborates with over ninety-one associated nonprofit agencies—based in thirty-five states and home to more than two hundred and fifty locations—which includes the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, IFB, located in North Carolina.

In August of this year, I had the pleasure of being invited to visit the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind in Asheville, NC. During my tour, I was fortunate to learn that the facility's state-of-the-art cutting and ultra-sonic welding capabilities enable workers to compete for new, complex commercial and government opportunities. More impressive was the confidence and independence that Asheville's first-rate facility brought to its workforce—comprised of more than fifty individuals who are either blind or visually impaired—that has earned competitive contracts with our U.S. military and internationally-recognized achievements in quality control.

In the last few years, IFB has employed over three hundred blind and visually impaired workers at manufacturing facilities located in Asheville and Winston-Salem. Both facilities manufacture a significant number of quality products that are utilized to protect everyday Americans such as you and me. Altogether, IFB positively impacts our visually impaired community in seventy-seven counties throughout North Carolina, and it will continue to enhance its economic presence in our region through the introduction of a new mobile eye clinic.

Through the endeavors of IFB, many members of our community who are visually impaired or blind are afforded the opportunity to gain the confidence and financial independence—which many of us take for granted—by achieving their goal of a commendable career. As an advocate of IFB, I appreciate its proactive efforts to improve the livelihoods of our blind and visually impaired community, and I will continue to support IFB's efforts as it continually extends valuable opportunities and services in my home state of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Public Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2013. This legislation seeks to modernize the Corps permitting process so that crucial public safety infrastructure projects can be built in a sensible and timely fashion while ensuring there is a thorough environmental review. The National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act guide the Corps' actions to protect our Nation's waterways, but they have flaws that lead to unnecessary and costly delays that do not balance public safety

needs against appropriate environmental protections. Under current law, fringe groups are allowed to—for the cost of a postage stamp—file lawsuits against any infrastructure project needing a Clean Water Permit that they spot in the Federal Register. These lawsuits, and the fear of them, have stopped numerous projects that were necessary for local governments to protect their constituents and would have caused minimal harm to the environment. My legislation would modernize the application process for CWA permits submitted by local governments that are for levees, self-closing flood barriers, seawalls, flood gates, slough and stream construction and dredging for flood control, retention ponds for residential areas, and roads and bridges for hurricane, wildfire, and other extreme weather event evacuations. It creates firm time limits for the Corps to act, and a petition process should the agency be unwilling to complete consideration of the project. The legislation also caps mitigation costs to being no more than twenty percent of the total project's cost to ensure projects costs are responsible to the taxpayer. This legislation does not waive NEPA and protects practical environmental review. With local governments struggling to allocate scarce taxpayer dollars for badly needed public safety projects, we must ensure the Federal Government properly balances public safety and environmental concerns. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation through Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630 on H.R. 3521—The Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631 on H.R. 1402—VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 on H.R. 2019—Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 633 on H.R. 2319—Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634 on S. 1471—Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 635 on H.R. 3212—Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent

due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636 on H.R. 1992—Israel QME Enhancement Act, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present I would have voted “aye.”

HONORING BOLTON FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark establishment within the Bolton community, the Bolton Funeral Home.

The Bolton Funeral Home came into existence with a vision and endearing motivation to provide burial services for African Americans living within rural areas of Hinds County, Mississippi. On August 15, 1946, Mr. Walter Robinson, Sr. and Mr. Wren Walton purchased a parcel of land within the city limits of Bolton, Mississippi from Jennie Klingman. The purchasing price was \$450.00, which was paid in cash. The funeral home was constructed and opened for business in November 1946. During that time, the average cost for burial services through the Bolton funeral home was approximately \$300.00.

During the time of legalized segregation, the Bolton Funeral Home became an essential business for many in the African American community seeking to bury their loved ones. At the time, the nearest African American owned funeral homes were located in Jackson, Mississippi. With the establishment of the Bolton Funeral Home, those living within the rural communities surrounding the town of Bolton were granted closer access to a very important and much needed service.

Upon the passing of the Mr. Wren Walton and Mr. Walter Robinson, Sr., the Bolton Funeral Home was inherited by Mr. Lewis Kinney (nephew of Mr. Wren Walton) and Mrs. Ruth J. Robinson (wife of Mr. Walter Robinson, Sr.). Today, the business is operated by Mr. Willie Earl Robinson, Walter L. Robinson, Jr., Yvonne Robinson, and Minnie P. Robinson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bolton Funeral Home for providing burial services for African Americans during a period of legal segregation and, often times, isolation from such services.

BUSINESSES SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PLAY DEFENSE AGAINST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the regulatory war being waged by this administration on American families, individuals, small businesses, states, cities and towns.

The administration has developed a bad habit of making endless rules and regulations,

with little regard for their negative effects on Americans.

From writing confusing tax forms, to mandating what type of water comes out of fire hydrants, the vast bureaucratic machine in Washington delights in determining how Americans should live and work.

The exponential increase of government rules and regulations poses a clear threat to our freedom, for instance, the freedom of individuals to start their own businesses and pursue the American Dream.

But there is a solution.

I have introduced H.R. 309, the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 2013, to break this terrible habit.

I believe that reforms are needed to halt this administration's practice of regulating beyond the intent of the laws we pass, and to reduce the burden these regulations place on Americans, especially American businesses.

Before talking more about the solution, allow me to more fully illustrate the problem and its impact on growing jobs and the economy.

Now, not all regulation is bad, and businesses are more than willing to follow commonsense regulations.

The U.S. Grade Standards for fruits and vegetables, for instance, makes sense for grocers by defining the quality standards for fresh produce.

If a dispute between buyer and seller arises, the standards can then determine who is at fault.

But many federal rules are duplicative, obsolete, unnecessary, conflicting or otherwise inconsistent.

An analysis by the Government Accounting Office found that in fiscal year 2013, \$95 billion of the \$3.6 trillion the federal government spent was duplicative.

For instance, according to the GAO report, there are 76 federal drug abuse and prevention treatment programs, spread among an astounding 17 different agencies.

Combined, they generate 6.1 million hours of paperwork, almost \$300 million in costs, and 122 forms to be filled out by individuals, organizations and businesses.

This is an unacceptable waste of tax money and resources.

The engine of our economy—our small businesses—need room to innovate and expand.

But burdensome and duplicative regulations drain resources from businesses—harming their ability hire new workers and create jobs.

In Illinois' 14th District, business owners tell me this is the chief block to investing and hiring.

When it costs them more than \$10,500 per employee annually to comply with all federal regulations, their concerns make sense.

But in 2012, the Obama administration piled on \$236 billion in new regulations.

It's a little wonder we suffer from weak economic growth and still-too-high unemployment. President Obama has pledged a comprehensive review of existing regulations.

But unfortunately, his administration has actually done little to get rid of regulations currently on the books.

In fact, he's going to be adding many more next year.

According to an American Action Forum report, upcoming regulations from the Obama administration in 2014 could cost the private sector more than \$143 billion.

That's billion with a “b.”

The administration calls this the “unified agenda,” which includes 15 new “major” rules—those that cost at least \$100 million annually to our economy.

It’s these “major” rules that my bill addresses directly.

How does it actually work?

The bill establishes a responsible process for federal agencies to identify, review, and, if necessary, put major regulations that are no longer needed and serve no beneficial purpose on a path to elimination.

And I want to make sure the public—who are directly affected by bad regulations—have a say.

Under my bill, agencies overseeing these major rules will be required to consider the comments of the public, the regulated community, and Congress with regard to the costs and burdens of rules under review.

This will help them determine which rules need to go.

The agencies would then establish a review process to “sunset” bad rules.

The head of each agency would designate an existing employee as the Regulatory Review Officer, charged with implementing the sunset review.

Six months later, the Administrator would publish a first list of major rules, and then an updated list annually.

The agency would be charged with issuing reports to Congress about rules they reviewed.

But some rules are still bad for individuals and businesses even if they fall under the \$100 million cost.

The public and congressional committees would be able to petition agencies to review these rules as well.

This would ensure less-major, but no-less-harmful, regulations could be considered for elimination.

And if an agency claims it cannot change or get rid of a regulation because it is bound by congressional statute, then they would have to recommend to Congress what we can do to change the law.

This ensures a transparent review process that leads to actual regulatory reform.

We must act now to lend a hand to our struggling economy.

Federal agencies, mostly unaccountable to the people they regulate, should review and remove regulations that hurt American businesses and individuals.

My bill exposes duplicative and obsolete regulations to the public, placing them on a path to elimination.

My colleagues are hearing from their constituents about the harm excessive regulations are having on them.

And the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 2013 now has 61 co-sponsors.

We’re seeing a real desire to put regulations under closer scrutiny than they’ve traditionally had.

Mr. Speaker, our job creators need all the help they can get.

Small businesses and startups should spend their time hiring workers and growing their business, instead of wasting time playing defense against an aggressive federal government.

Let’s defend and extend the sphere of freedom, freedom to pursue the American Dream without government on your back.

H.R. 309 gets us heading in that direction.

I urge the House to take up this legislation in the New Year.

CELEBRATING THE U.S. NATIONAL GUARD’S 377TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the United States National Guard as they celebrate 377 years of selfless sacrifice to our great nation.

The National Guard pre-dates all other active U.S. military branches. On December 13, 1636, what we have come to know as the National Guard was formed as a colonial militia, made up of ordinary citizens who stood to protect their communities. From their service in the Revolutionary War where they stood their ground during the opening shots at Lexington Green and Concord Bridge, to valiantly fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Guard has participated in every major American conflict. All Guardsmen are combat-trained, and while abroad they serve in combat missions, build schools and hospitals, and train local peacekeepers.

National Guard members have established a proud history and tradition of service in all 50 states, organized territories, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Today’s force is comprised of both Army and Air Force divisions and has grown to nearly 500,000 soldiers strong.

The National Guard in my home state of Georgia will hold a special celebration at Clay National Guard Center, giving special recognition to its retirees, Maj. Gen. Jim Butterworth, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, and displaying many of its units’ specialized training.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude that I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to our servicemen and women in the National Guard for their sacrifice and hard work to protect our way of life.

TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago on September 11, 2001, al Qaeda terrorists trained and supported by Osama bin Laden from Afghanistan attacked and murdered nearly 3,000 Americans.

Shortly after that horrible day, American armed forces struck back in Afghanistan. Our troops have performed brilliantly and have significantly damaged al Qaeda terrorists’ operations and brought the ultimate justice to bin Laden. At the same time our troops have shed their blood to provide the Afghan people with the opportunity to break from the tyranny of the Taliban and achieve freedom and liberty.

In recent months, our government has offered the additional opportunity provided by a bi-lateral security agreement which would keep American forces in that country beyond

2014. To date, Afghan President Karzai has refused to sign that agreement.

I believe that agreement should be withdrawn and President Obama should bring our forces home by the end of next year. Our troops have performed brilliantly. And now it is time for the Afghan people to step up and secure their own nation. We have offered freedom and democracy to Afghans and they must either choose to take it or not. And it is time for our troops to come home.

CELEBRATING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES’ 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Episcopal Church of Saint James, located in Essex County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

The Episcopal Church of St. James began as a small, sixteen person group in 1887 lead by Reverend P.M. Bleecker. As the group grew, a Missionary Committee was established and, at the suggestion of the Bishop, the name “St. James Church, Upper Montclair” was adopted. Within that year, the congregation would grow to consist of 45 people. On December 12, 1888, the Bishop gave canonical permission to form a Parish in the Diocese of Newark. On December 27 of that same year, the Articles of Association were signed. The next day the articles were filed and the church became official.

Around the same time, the church purchased the “Cliffside Chapel” from a nearby Presbyterian Church, which now serves as the cornerstone of the current church.

In 1892, an Alter Guild was formed to attend to the clerical vestments and appointments of the altar. That same year, the Rood Screen was added to the Chancel, and gas was introduced for lighting. The first Vested Choir began in 1898, two members of which continued to sing for the church for over forty years.

In 1902, the church organ was not functioning properly because the building lacked electricity. Later that year, a pipe organ was anonymously donated to replace it. Ten years later, the church ordered a new organ, which was so large they had to modify the roof to fit it.

In 1941, the Willet Studios of Philadelphia began to commission the stained glass windows for the church. That same year, the church installed the Hildreth Meiere painting of James and John fishing over the altar. By 1956, the “Windows of St. James” were completed.

Since the church was built, the congregation has significantly grown. So, the church has developed many programs and groups to help its members. These programs include Youth Groups, Bible Studies, Adult Education, as well as a pre-school.

The church also participates in community service and outreach locally, nationally, and internationally. They work with many organizations to send their congregation, along with others who are interested, on missionary trips to various places in need of aid. Previous trips have been to Appalachia and New Orleans.

The most recent trip was to the Jersey Shore to assist in the clean-up from Superstorm Sandy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Episcopal Church of St. James in celebrating its 125th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING DAVE BORCKY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dave Borcky for his efforts in support of the newly renovated City of McFarland's Veterans Community Center.

A native of McFarland, California, Dave served our country as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. Since his return, he has worked tirelessly in the community to ensure veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dave is an active member of the Lions Club and coaches 27 students from McFarland High School in the aptly named the LEOS Club. Dave and his fellow Lions organize local food drives, back-to-school drives and many other activities that improve the lives of the McFarland residents.

In December 2011, Dave was named Grand Marshall for the McFarland Christmas Parade. Mr. Borcky is also an active member of his American Legion Post, Boys and Girls State activities.

Without a doubt, Dave has been a key player in McFarland's community for a number of years. It is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Dave Borcky for his service and leadership and congratulate him on his efforts to memorialize American heroes through the McFarland Veterans Community Center.

RECOGNIZING DENIS O'SULLIVAN AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denis O'Sullivan as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Denis lives every day with enthusiasm and appreciation for all of life's offerings. His story is reflective of the American dream, working hard to create fruitful lives for himself and his family.

Denis was born on December 2, 1933, in New York City at Lennox Hill Hospital. His intelligence and entrepreneurial spirit led him to be the owner and founder of a lucrative business, O'Sullivan Menu Publishing. The company started out small with less than 10 employees and eventually grew to a staff of over 200 individuals who were based out of the United States and Great Britain. O'Sullivan Menu Publishing provided menus to airlines, cruise lines, and various restaurant chains. Denis' company had a groundbreaking impact on the airline industry by providing the first comprehensive service for the creation and production of printed menus.

Since Denis' retirement in 2008, he has volunteered much of his time to local charities.

He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey, and maintains special interest in their Alzheimer's disease support facility. In addition, Denis is a longstanding supporter of the fundraising activities at St. Clare's Hospital in Denville, NJ.

Denis stays busy in his philanthropic endeavors, but he cherishes his time with family the most. He is a devoted husband to his wife of 33 years, Elizabeth; a caring father to his children; Roberta, Eric, Kerin, Cathlyn, Christopher, and Patricia; and a loving grandfather to his nine grandchildren. On a personal note, Denis has been a great supporter and true friend to me—his brother-in-law. Denis and Elizabeth appreciate every day of their lives whether it is by spending time with family, traveling around the world, or simply enjoying each other's company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Denis O'Sullivan's 80th birthday. We acknowledge Denis during this milestone and for all that he has achieved.

RECOGNIZING THE PACE HIGH SCHOOL "PRIDE OF THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE" MARCHING BAND AS THE 2013 CLASS 5A FLORIDA MARCHING BAND GRAND CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pace High School "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" Marching Band as the 2013 Class 5A Florida Marching Band Grand Champions.

For more than 40 years, the Pace High School Band has regaled crowds at Pace High sporting events, played at parades and events in Northwest Florida and represented the school at competitions on the local, state, and national levels. Today, more than 200 students make up Pace's band program, which includes three concert ensembles, a marching band, a jazz ensemble, chamber ensembles, an indoor percussion ensemble, and a winterguard program. This diverse and versatile repertoire highlights the hard work and dedication of the students and faculty of the Pace High Band and is the one of the keys to their success.

The 2013 Florida Marching Band Championships, held on November 23 at Tropicana Field in Saint Petersburg, FL, played host to more than 80 talented bands from across the state of Florida. The Pace High School "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" Marching Band began their preparations for this prestigious event more than six months ago and worked tirelessly to perfect their show, entitled "Once Upon Another Time," which featured pieces celebrating different eras in American history with sections on the industrial revolution, the civil rights era and the space race.

The assiduous work of the "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" paid off during the Class 5A semi-finals, where the band was awarded the highest scores in the Visual, General Effect, and Music categories and the highest overall score of any of the 80 bands

competing in the various class semi-finals. The "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" then followed their success in the semi-final round with another near-flawless performance in the finals, where they scored 92.38 out of 100 to take home the Class 5A championship.

Pace High's success at the 2013 Florida Marching Band Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the band, and it is a great reflection on the entire Pace High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" on their state championship and wish them all the best as they continue to proudly represent our area.

INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Innovation Act (H.R. 3309). While this legislation is not perfect, it represents an important step in our efforts to prevent patent assertion entities (PAE), commonly referred to as patent trolls, from extracting unfair and exorbitant settlements from innocent businesses through the threat of frivolous and expensive patent litigation.

This legislation ensures that when alleging infringement in a lawsuit, a party must at least identify what patents and claims are being infringed upon, and provide specificity as to how they are being infringed. This will provide more clarity and integrity to patent infringement claims, shining a light on the disingenuous claims from patent trolls.

Additionally, this legislation will help to protect the small businesses that have been accused of patent infringement for purchasing ubiquitous products and who are clearly not involved in the alleged infringement in a patent lawsuit. H.R. 3309 will allow for the action against the downstream customers to be stayed as the manufacturer of the product litigates the lawsuit. This is done so those with the knowledge of the production process, and not the innocent consumer, can argue the case—and it is only allowed if the customer agrees to be bound by the final judgment of the court.

I do, however, continue to have reservations with several provisions in this bill. Primarily, I oppose the provision that allows in some cases for the shifting of court and legal fees from the prevailing parties. I believe this provision has the potential to discourage legitimate patent infringement lawsuits by inventors and owners of intellectual property that may not be deep pocketed. I am also worried about the precedent that this reform could set with respect to protecting access to the courts for all Americans. I voted for the substitute amendment proposed by Ranking Member CONYERS

and Congressman WATT, which I believe strikes a more equitable balance than this legislation and which did not contain any fee shifting provisions. I look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in the Senate to produce an ultimate agreement that stops patent trolls and continues to protect the pursuit of legitimate patent infringement claims.

ISRAEL QME ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one of the cornerstones of America's security commitment to Israel is an assurance that the United States will help maintain Israel's capability to defend itself, by itself. We do this by safeguarding Israel's qualitative military edge (QME)—the ability for Israel to counter and defeat any threat that might arise from non-state actors, individual states, or even a regional coalition of states.

Four decades after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when a coalition of Arab states launched a surprise attack against Israel on the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Israel continues to face hostilities on every border: rocket fire from Hamas and Hezbollah, spillover from the conflict in Syria, increased terrorism in Egypt's Sinai, and the ever-looming threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

That is why it is critical we redouble our efforts to ensure Israel has the tools necessary to counter any and all threats. H.R. 1992, the Israel QME Enhancement Act, is an important piece of bipartisan legislation that does just that, by preserving and strengthening Israel's QME. Specifically, this law would expand the definition of QME to include defense against cyber and asymmetric threats while also increasing the Administration's reporting requirements to Congress from every 4 to every 2 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1992.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE GEORGE R. GREENE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today we ask for the House's attention to honor Circuit Court Judge George R. Greene, who is retiring from his position as the Circuit Court Judge in Russell County.

In 1975, Judge Greene began serving in the Russell County District Attorney's office as the Assistant District Attorney. He served in the position for four years until 1979, when he was appointed District Judge in Russell County. Judge Greene served as District Judge for over 18 years, and he was elected to this position in three different elections. In 1998, Judge Greene was elected to serve Russell County as the Circuit Court Judge. He has held the office of Circuit Court Judge since that election.

Judge George R. Greene is one of the longest serving judges in the state of Alabama, having served 31 years in the Judicial 26th Circuit. He is also dedicated to his community, and he is known for his selfless public service. He is involved in numerous civic and state public service organizations. One of his initiatives was the establishment of the Cora Reid Greene Home for Children, which provides protection and housing for abused children in the Russell County Area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Judge Greene for his tireless pursuit of justice in Russell County. Join me also in wishing him the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was participating in a Congressional Delegation trip to South Africa to honor the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 2019 Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

2. H.R. 2319—The Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

3. S. 1471—Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

4. H.R. 3212—Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction prevention and Return Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

5. H.R. 1992—Israel QME Enhanced Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

6. Journal Vote—Had I been present for the journal vote, I would have voted "yes".

TO HONOR DOUGLAS GREENFIELD ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Douglas Greenfield on his 85th birthday. Douglas lives a competitive and successful life in Levittown, PA. He has been an active bowler for the past 50 years and won a bet in the 1960's to walk 50 miles through Bucks County in one day.

Supporting the community's youth is another passion of Mr. Greenfield. In the 60's and 70's he was active with the Boy Scouts of America and taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (C.C.D.) at Bishop Egan High School. He also worked to establish the Pennsbury High School boys lacrosse team and today, students still recognize "Gran-Pa" for his tireless effort on and off the field.

A true American role model, Doug, and his wife, Alice, continue to volunteer in their church and community in my home town, Levittown, PA. I want to wish Doug a very Happy 85th Birthday.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3458, THE
FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE TAX CLARIFICATION ACT
OF 2013

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, we're here today because of a heinous act that took place in Webster, New York on December 24th, 2012, when a group of volunteer firefighters responding to a fire was ambushed by a gunman who had deliberately set the fire. Two firefighters were killed and two others were injured.

While donations for the firefighters and their families were made to the West Webster Fire Department, a 501(c)(3) organization, the rules governing non-profit groups prevent the funds from being distributed in a way that does not further the organization's exempt purpose. In this case, these rules prevented the donations from being distributed as intended to the victims and their families.

I am proud to stand here today in support of the "Fallen Firefighters Assistance Tax Clarification Act of 2013," introduced by my colleague from New York Rep. LOUISE SLAUGHTER to address the error and help care for these firefighters and their families.

With the anniversary of this terrible act approaching, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the memory and sacrifice of these volunteer responders and approve this common sense legislation.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
TRANSIT PARITY ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Transit Parity Act of 2013. The bill will extend federal tax benefits for mass transit and parking at current levels for one year. There is currently a permanent provision providing federal tax benefits for parking and mass transit; however, the mass transit benefit is funded at half the level of the parking benefit. The mass transit benefit was temporarily raised this year, but with cuts to the mass transit benefit set to occur on January 1, 2014, impacts will be felt throughout this region and the country.

Millions of people commute in and out of cities every day, bolstering their economies and improving the overall wellbeing of the country, with this region as a prime example. Why would we want to encourage people to drive rather than use mass transit? At the very least, there is no excuse for preferential treatment of driving.

I support a permanent equalization of commuter benefits, but given the costs associated with a permanent extension, the focus of this bill is a temporary one-year extension of benefits. I will seek to bring this bill to the floor before Congress adjourns for the year. If the bill is not passed before then, I will seek retroactive equalization of benefits.

The bill will continue to encourage commuters to use mass transit by equalizing tax

benefits for mass transit and parking. Congress did the sensible thing when it increased the commuter benefit cap to \$245 per month, the same as for parking earlier this year. Unless Congress takes action now, however, mass transit benefits will decrease by nearly 50 percent, to \$130, while the benefit for parking will increase to \$250. However, this bill makes federal tax benefits for mass transit and parking equal at \$250 in 2014. I support a permanent equalization of commuter benefits, but given the costs associated with a permanent extension, the focus of this bill is on a one-year extension of equal benefits.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

HONORING DONNA HOFFER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Hoffer as she retires after more than thirty years of faithful, dedicated service to Southeast Michigan. As she retires at the end of this year, I honor and recognize her dedication, passion, and hard work in service to the Southeast Michigan, and the people I have served since 1982.

In 1982 Monroe County became part of my Congressional District. I asked the community's leadership for recommendation of a fine and committed civil servant. Donna Hoffer was unanimously recommended and she joined the staff, managing the Monroe district office for 29 years. She competently and astutely served the community as my representative, in addition to handling a complex variety of casework including Social Security matters, of which she is an expert. When redistricting occurred and I lost Monroe County, Donna stayed on, serving well in our Ypsilanti office.

Donna's loyalty to the office and steadfast dedication in her service to the District has stood out through the years, and it has no bounds. Just recently, Donna played an instrumental role in having a lung transplant denial overturned, giving another chance at life to a desperate constituent. Donna has been a critical part of my staff and I am honored that she has spent her career serving the people of my Congressional District.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Donna in her retirement and hope that she enjoys the time with her husband, Mick, their two children and four grandchildren. I sincerely thank her for the loyal years she has given in service to Southeast Michigan. She is a dear friend and is the kind of public servant who brings credit on our Government with her faithful and dedicated effort on the behalf of the people we are honored to serve.

HONORING THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC RAMS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, victories on the field are much sweeter when achieved by a team, dedicated in unity to achieving its goals. This week the Central Catholic Rams won the OSAA Class 6A Championship, defeating their archrival Jesuit 38–28. It was a fitting end to a 14–0 season and showed what can be done with teamwork and effort.

In a truly dominant year, both during the regular season and playoffs, the young men of Central Catholic, their coaches, and their supporters inspired their fellow students and the community through their exemplary actions on and off the field. This is a season that can inspire great pride as the 2013 Rams join the 1952 and 1953 championship teams in the halls of glory.

Go Rams!

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MS. DOLORES DUNN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Ms. Dolores Dunn, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, upon the occasion of her retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ms. Dunn graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland in 1978. In 1981, she began her congressional staff career in the office of the late Congressman Bob Stump, where she worked for twenty-two years to serve the citizens of the 3rd Congressional District of Arizona.

In 2003, she joined the staff of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Due to her steadfast commitment to her work and her expertise in veterans' health, Ms. Dunn was named Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Health in 2007.

For Ms. Dunn—the daughter of an Army nurse who served in World War II and the sister and aunt, respectively, of female combat veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom—the Committee's work is a personal calling.

Throughout her tenure on the Committee staff, Ms. Dunn faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—CHRIS SMITH, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that her wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Ms. Dunn was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans' health legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

Her skilled leadership and accomplished service on behalf of veterans was recognized in 2012 when she was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart Exemplary Service Award and an Award of Appreciation from the National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Ms. Dunn has been a tireless advocate for the interests of American's veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to her fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Ms. Dolores Dunn.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring her for her thirty-two consecutive years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking her for her unyielding dedication to America's veterans, and wishing her and her husband, Richard, all of the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING KAREN HEYREND

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Karen Heyrend, President of the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors, who has demonstrated a personal dedication and commitment in carrying out the mission of the Association, which is to be the primary source of real estate products and services for its member brokers and agents in West Ventura County.

Under her outstanding leadership during 2013, Karen has upheld the Association's priorities of maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct, all while providing a wide array of benefits to the Association's membership of designated brokers, realtors, and affiliate members.

Karen has worked to provide quality service, not only to realtor members, but also to their clients and customers. Representing the cities of Camarillo, Oxnard, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Port Hueneme, and Ventura, she has helped to strengthen the integrity, competency, and professionalism of the Association's members.

Karen's service to the Association goes far beyond her term as President. As a member of the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors for the past thirteen years, Karen has diligently served on the Association's Board of Directors as President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Director.

As the lead representative of the Association, Karen represented its members at the National Association of Realtors mid-year meetings, where she met with Federal, State and local government officials and elected representatives.

Through her work, Karen has demonstrated a proud and enduring enthusiasm for the real estate profession that she has chosen as her life-long career. I want to congratulate Karen on her successes and for her tireless dedication to the Association, both past and present.

I am pleased to recognize Karen Heyrend on her personal and professional accomplishments and exemplary year as President of

Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors in carrying forth the organization's goals, and I extend my best wishes for all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEWAREN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sewaren Free Public Library on its 100th Anniversary. The library has been an integral part of the local community since 1913 and continues to provide residents an opportunity to learn and a place to gather.

Officially opened in December of 1913, the idea for the Sewaren Free Public Library was proposed in August of 1913 by a member of the Sewaren Civic Association, Mrs. Blanche B. Balfour. Fundraisers were held by supporters, and within a few months, committees were formed and requests were sent out for books and periodicals. Upon its opening, the library had acquired about 417 volumes.

By 1994, the Sewaren Free Public Library was one of many small branches within the Woodbridge Township Public Library system. After being closed due to funding cuts by the Woodbridge Township Public Library system, it was re-opened as an independent library. The Sewaren Free Public Library is currently run by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

Since its founding, the Sewaren Free Public Library has supported and been supported by the local community. It provides services and resources to residents, offering computer access, media services, pre-school programs, and bingo for senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Sewaren Free Public Library. Its continued service to the community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY MCKINLEY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Larry McKinley, a New Orleans radio personality and music promoter who for decades tirelessly promoted our city's cherished Jazz music. Mr. McKinley recently passed away and while today I am saddened by his passing, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. McKinley and his passion towards a beautiful and beloved art form.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. McKinley attended the Columbia College of Broadcasting before moving to New Orleans in 1954. By the end of his first decade in New Orleans, he became one of the most influential deejays in the city. During the formative years of his illustrious career, he earned national notoriety for his distinguished musical taste. Atlantic Records' executives credit Mr. McKinley for the success of Ray Charles 1959 hit "What'd

I Say" the label's best-performing song of the era.

In 1959, Mr. McKinley founded Minit Records alongside Joe Banashak, a local record-business veteran. He also promoted local concerts by such musical superstars as James Brown, Sam Cooke, and the Jackson 5. Whenever possible, he shined a spotlight on the talented New Orleans musicians broadening their exposure and helping them ascend in the music business.

For these and countless other achievements Mr. McKinley was introduced into the Black Radio Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, and awarded an OffBeat Magazine Best of the Beat Music Business Award. The passion and commitment Mr. McKinley dedicated to the national treasure that is R&B and Jazz Music inspires us all. I want to join his family, the people of New Orleans, and the music industry in celebrating the life of this exceptional citizen.

HONORING CONCEPCION MORON, A WORLD WAR II HERO

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Concepcion G. Moron and his bravery during World War II.

Private First Class Concepcion G. Moron of the 304th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army heroically distinguished himself in combat in Germany on April 1, 1945. While advancing upon the town of Steinfischbach, Private Moron's company faced enemy fire from nearby woods. Private Moron led his squad through the woods as they encountered heavy machine gun fire. Private Moron, risking his own life, fired upon the enemy gunners, killing one and forcing two additional e to surrender. This courageous act is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

For these acts of bravery and heroism, Mr. Moron was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in ground combat against an armed enemy during World War II in the European Theater of Operations.

On behalf of those whose lives he saved, I rise to recognize the exemplary service of Concepcion G. Moron.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HERBER AS PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Herber of Northwest Florida for being named "Teacher of the Year" by People Magazine. Mr. Herber was one of only six teachers throughout the United States that was bestowed this honor. For fifteen years, Mr. Herber has been an inspiration to his students, his colleagues, and his community, and I am pleased to recognize his commitment and dedication to molding the minds of our Nation's future leaders.

A native of Tomahawk, Wisconsin, Mr. Herber earned his teaching degree from the University of West Florida in Elementary Education. Ever since, his passion for education has only grown, along with the tremendous impact he has made on the Northwest Florida community. Mr. Herber has served the students and families of Escambia County, Florida at Lincoln Park, Warrington, Brentwood, and Weis Elementary Schools. For the past seven years, he has taught fifth-graders at Oakcrest Elementary School.

Mr. Herber creates an enjoyable environment for learning. His classroom, adorned with science experiments, is evidence of his unique hands-on approach. His pupils' enthusiasm and passion for learning are a testament to Mr. Herber's talent and leadership. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Herber dedicates time on the football field as a school football coach. There is no question that the amount of time and energy Mr. Herber invests in the school and his students has contributed to the school's high ratings and improved student performance.

The superb quality and effectiveness of the schools in Northwest Florida can no doubt be credited to educators like Mr. Herber. He understands the invaluable role teachers serve in the lives of their students, and blessed with the support of his wife Sammi, he possesses an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize John Herber's achievements in teaching and elementary education. My wife Vicki and I wish Mr. Herber and his wife continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall No. 631 because my flight from Seattle was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING GREENBRIAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Greenbriar Elementary School in Northbrook, Illinois, in the district I represent. This outstanding educational institution has been recognized as one of only 286 Blue Ribbon schools in the entire country.

This is the first National Blue Ribbon distinction that Greenbriar has earned, one of 21 awarded in the state, one of four awarded to schools in Illinois's Tenth District and one of three in Northbrook.

Good education is the foundation of any community, and it is essential to our success in the 21st Century. At any of Northbrook's Blue Ribbon Schools, you will find some of the

nation's finest schools, filled with eager and curious students and passionate and engaging teachers. In Illinois's Tenth District, our communities are strong, in part, because of excellent educational institutions like this.

It is at schools like Greenbriar where students are engaged and encouraged to explore their interests. Here, the wide array of literature, language and math programs challenge students and help them expand their minds.

With schools like Greenbriar, Tenth District students are building foundations for success in this ever-changing, competitive 21st Century.

The education Greenbriar Elementary School students receive not only helps position them for future success, but also prepares them for a lifetime of learning.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to honor Greenbriar Elementary School here today, and I am so proud to have such excellent schools in the Tenth District. I congratulate Greenbriar once again on receiving this distinguished award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was participating in a Congressional Delegation trip to South Africa to honor the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 3521—The Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

2. H.R. 1402—VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

RECOGNIZING ROSLYN M. BROCK

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, Roslyn M. Brock is Chairman of the National Board of Directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She made history in February 2010 when she was unanimously elected as its 14th Chairman. She is the youngest person and fourth woman to hold this position.

Brock is currently employed as Vice President, Advocacy and Government Relations for Bon Secours Health System, Inc., in Marriottsville, Maryland. Prior to working at Bon Secours, Brock worked 10 years in health programs at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

She graduated magna cum laude from Virginia Union University; earned a master's degree in health services administration from George Washington University, an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. In

May 2010, she received an honorary doctorate degree from Virginia Union University.

Brock has been a servant leader with the NAACP for more than 27 years. She is a Diamond Life Member of NAACP and joined the Association as a freshman at Virginia Union University where she was elected President of the Youth and College Division from the Commonwealth of Virginia. One year later, she was elected as a Youth Board Member from Region 7 representing the District of Columbia, Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1988 as Vice Chairman of the NAACP Board Health Committee, her advocacy for quality, accessible and affordable health care for vulnerable communities resulted in the National Board's mandate of a health committee for all units in its Constitution. In 2012, she initiated and led the Board's historic policy decision to support marriage equality and to implement The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative.

An expert grant writer, Brock has secured millions in philanthropic support for the NAACP. From 1999–2010, Brock chaired the NAACP's National Convention Planning Committee. In this role, she led the Committee to institute fiscal policies that resulted in the Annual Convention becoming a profit center for the Association with average yearly net revenues of one million dollars. For nine years (2001–2010) she served as Vice Chairman of the NAACP National Board. In 2005, Brock created the NAACP Leadership 500 Summit. The Summit's goal is to recruit, train and retain a new generation of civil rights leaders to the NAACP. Since its inception, Leadership 500 has contributed more than \$1.5m to the NAACP to support its civil rights programs.

Brock is a member of the Board of Trustees of The George Washington University, Kellogg Global Advisory Board, American Public Health Association, American College of Health Services Executives, Association of Healthcare Philanthropy, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The LINKS and a former Trustee of the Catholic Health Association of the United States of America.

Brock's leadership skills have been recognized by several national publications and organizations. In 2012, she was the convocation speaker at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and featured as the February 6, 2012 NBC Universal iVillage Woman of the Week. Brock was awarded the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award by The George Washington University; the September 2010 issue of Essence magazine listed her among the "40 Fierce and Fabulous Women Who Are Changing the World"; Black Entertainment Television's (BET) 2010 "Black Girls Rock," honored her in its inaugural broadcast and she received the 2010 National Urban League's Women of Power Award.

Brock participated in the 2008 U.S. Department of Defense's 75th Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) reserved for American leaders interested in expanding their knowledge of the military and national defense. She was a guest lecturer on "Alleviating Global Poverty" in Rome, Italy at the 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr. Conflict Resolution Conference. From 2003–2005, Brock was a Young Leaders Fellow with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations to build cross-cultural understanding and professional networks with young Chinese leaders.

Brock's goal in life is embodied in an African proverb, "Care more than others think is wise, Risk more than others think is safe, Dream more than others think is practical, and Expect more than others think is possible."

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reducing Long-Term Unemployment Act, to address one of the lingering workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our long-term unemployed—and to spur economic growth. While millions of Americans are unemployed, my bill targets those particularly hard hit by unemployment. In November 2013, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was 4.1 million, which accounted for 37.3 percent of the total unemployed population.

To make matters even worse, the unemployed now face employment discrimination and employers are reluctant to hire the long-term unemployed because of the length of their unemployment. Therefore, my bill provides a necessary incentive—a \$5,000 tax credit for employers against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. The tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase hiring and wages, which would inject demand into the economy. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer—government, non-profit and for-profit—pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly rather than annual basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would "increase both output and employment," through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address today's unusually stubborn unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed. This group deserves better. The long-term unemployed are also at risk for losing their unemployment benefits without an extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program before December 28, 2013. I ask the House of Representatives to support this bill because it targets this too-often neglected group of Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of December 2nd 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Monday December 2, 2013: rollcall No. 612: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3547, "yea"; rollcall No. 613: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3588, "yea"; rollcall No. 614: On Approving the Journal, "aye."

Tuesday December 3, 2013: rollcall No. 615: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 255, "yea"; rollcall No. 616: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2719, "yea"; rollcall No. 617: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1204, "yea."

Wednesday December 4, 2013: rollcall No. 618: On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 429, "nay"; rollcall No. 619: On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 429, "nay"; rollcall No. 620: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 1105, "yea"; rollcall No. 621: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1105, "aye"; rollcall No. 622: On Passage, H.R. 1105, "aye."

Thursday December 5, 2013: rollcall No. 623: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 624: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 625: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "No"; rollcall No. 626: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 627: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 628: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "No"; rollcall No. 629: On Passage, H.R. 3309, "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRAVINGS BAKERY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cravings Bakery of Allenhurst, New Jersey on its 25th Anniversary. Cravings Bakery continues to provide quality products and outstanding customer service to the local community.

Wanting to share her passion for cookies with others, Jan Walker opened Cravings Bakery in the fall of 1988. She met her husband, Stu Kramer, while working at the bakery through his aunt, a customer. Less than a year later they were married, and they've been working in the bakery together ever since.

The bakery offers a variety of homemade baked goods, including cookies, muffins, scones, danish, brownies, cakes and pies. It also offers coffee, cappuccino and lattes, which are enjoyed by a group of regular customers known as the "Coffee Clatch."

Its exceptional desserts and service make Cravings Bakery a premier establishment for

the Allenhurst and surrounding communities to enjoy. For 10 years in a row, Cravings Bakery was voted "Best Desserts" in Monmouth and Ocean Counties by the readers of the Asbury Park Press.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Cravings Bakery on its 25th Anniversary. Jan and Stu's hard work and commitment to quality are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

REFORMING OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the time to reform our broken immigration system is long overdue. Our system does not meet the needs of families or businesses. I have met with people throughout our district to understand what our uneven, unfair, and unjust immigration system costs our businesses, our families, and our society at large—a cost to our national ideals, as well as a cost in dollars and cents. I have joined the group of dedicated activists who have for nearly a month been fasting on the National Mall, in the shadows of the Capitol, to call attention to the plight of the 11 million individuals who are Americans but for a piece of paper. The time is now to bring them out of the shadows.

My colleagues may have noticed, as have various advocacy groups, that I have not signed on as cosponsor of H.R. 15, the legislation that has recently taken shape as the leading immigration reform bill. The fact of the matter is that we can, and we should, do better. I do support strongly the legislation authored by my friend and colleague from Arizona, Representative RAÚL GRIJALVA. It is a strong, progressive approach to reforming our broken system.

In fact, the Grijalva bill is superior to H.R. 15. It targets and prioritizes border enforcement in an intelligent way to where and how it is needed most—to protect us from serious criminals and terrorist threats. It improves conditions for immigrant detainees and protects family unity by prohibiting separation of families with children. It protects workers' rights and keeps immigration enforcement in the hands of the appropriate authorities—the federal government, not local police.

Whatever legislative vehicle immigration reform takes, it must contain a legal, controlled pathway to citizenship for the undocumented immigrants who keep our economy moving and to repair a tear in our social fabric. It must promote family reunification by reducing two decade-long family backlogs and reuniting spouses, parents, and children to together pursue the American Dream. It must build on the success of President Obama's Deferred Action program and incorporate DREAMers—those who were brought to the U.S. at a young age through no wrongdoing of their own—into the mainstream of American society so they can continue to make beneficial contributions not only to our economy, but to our diverse society. It must satisfy the needs of American employers. And it must ensure

smart, targeted, and reasonable immigration enforcement that protects American society from serious criminals and real threats.

H.R. 15 is not the bill I would have written—nor do I believe it is the bill that will ultimately become law—do not want to appear to be delaying reform. I call upon Speaker BOEHNER and the Republican leadership to immediately bring to the floor for our consideration legislation to reform our immigration laws.

When it comes to something as important as fixing our broken immigration system, we should not settle for less than the American people deserve.

CONGRATULATING KATHY LONG

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, a long-standing community leader whose commitment to Ventura County has been immeasurable over the years.

Currently serving her fifth term as Supervisor to Ventura County's 3rd District, Kathy's dedication to the residents of Ventura County is reflected in her extensive work as a public servant. Since first being elected to the position in 1996, Kathy has made it her mission to strengthen our economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and create a safe community for all families. Her lengthy career in public service shows her unwavering passion for representing Ventura County and its residents, as well as always advocating for the region's best interests.

Kathy's lifelong work has always embodied the true definition of dedication, public service and community. She currently serves as the Board of Supervisor's representative on the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County where her efforts focus on the economic development of Ventura County through the attraction, preservation and expansion of local businesses. Kathy was most recently elected as their Board of Directors Chair for 2013.

Over her career of more than 16 years as Supervisor, Kathy has taken on many leadership positions and has effectively represented our community's needs and prosperity. She served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 2000, 2005, and 2010.

To honor all that she has done for Ventura County including her extensive work and advocacy for a strong and vital economy, the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chambers of Commerce Alliance has recognized Kathy with the Lawmaker of the Year Award. This is a fitting and well-deserved accolade that represents the caliber of work that Kathy performs on a daily basis. Kathy's pledge to the economic vitality of Ventura County and the strengthening of our workforce makes her a fitting recipient of this honorable recognition.

I have personally known Kathy for many years and I am pleased to join the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chambers of Commerce Alliance in honoring my friend and colleague, Supervisor Kathy Long.

THE PASSING OF ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT LONDON LEO
HENSCHIED

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated soldier and young patriot who survived his war injuries, but died tragically after a protracted battle with cancer. Army Staff Sergeant Landon Leo Henscheid of Alpine, Utah, was initially paralyzed from injuries he received while serving as a field medic in Afghanistan. Subsequent surgery for those injuries relieved his paralysis, but revealed cancer in his spine. For 18 months, the 24-year-old soldier fought valiantly, but ultimately lost his battle with cancer on Pearl Harbor Day.

Staff Sgt. Henscheid loved serving as a field medic and caring for those with whom he served. He had a tremendous capacity to love other people. He developed strong bonds with the men and women in his unit—bonds which lasted long after their deployments ended. Upon their return from deployment, friends knew they were welcome at the Henscheid home, where at one point a few of them lived in an RV in the driveway that Henscheid's father called, "The Barracks."

Always a fan of a good adrenalin rush, Staff Sgt. Henscheid did not fear danger. According to his mother, he loved driving fast—whether he was on his motorcycle, his 4-wheeler or a boat. He loved jumping out of airplanes. Just before deploying, he even bungee jumped from the Las Vegas Stratosphere. His plans for the future included serving in Special Operations.

Staff Sgt. Henscheid is fortunate to come from a remarkable family whose sacrifices on his behalf—and on behalf of the United States of America—deserve our heartfelt gratitude. The Henscheid family cared for three Wounded Warrior sons—two of their own sons and a son-in-law. They also welcomed into their home other young men who served beside their own sons, providing both physical and emotional support as these brave young men acclimated to post-war life and dealt with their invisible injuries. All of Staff Sgt. Henscheid's immediate family went to great lengths to be with him during his battle with cancer. His mother relocated to Maryland from Utah to assist him. His oldest brother, Cody, a recipient of the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal w/V device and Purple Heart due to his 2006 injuries in Afghanistan, visited along with his wife Teera. They lived in North Dakota at the time. His sister Rheanna, whose husband Jacob Henry also sustained injuries while serving in Army Civil Affairs in Afghanistan, made the trip from Elko, Nevada. And his youngest brother Hayden and wife Lexi took multiple trips to Maryland from their home in

North Dakota to help provide support and care.

In addition, Staff Sgt. Henscheid enjoyed the love and support of the men who had lived with his family upon their return home from deployments and became like brothers. In particular, Benjamin Judd, who served in Iraq with Cody; Brian Jones, who also served in Iraq with Cody and again in Afghanistan with Landon; and Jacob Henry, who served on Landon Henscheid's first tour and eventually married his sister.

We honor the tremendous personal sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Henscheid's family. He leaves behind his parents, Don and Janet Henscheid, two brothers and a sister. In addition, he leaves behind many of his military brothers who were like family to him.

The contributions of this great American family reflect the tremendous spirit of service and sacrifice that have for so long preserved our freedom. I wish to honor the Henscheid family's example of selfless service and commitment to family.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Staff Sgt. Landon Henscheid, as well as the sacrifices of his and other families across this great nation. We can never repay them the debt we owe for their efforts to protect our freedom.

RECOGNIZING CLARENCE TODD TAYLOR

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Clarence Todd Taylor of Urbana, Illinois. Mr. Taylor has been a cornerstone of the Champaign-Urbana community for decades.

He was born on September 21st, 1961 and found his life's passion only a few short years later. That passion, was music.

Clarence was an avid celloist, pianist, organist, and accompanist.

He shared his passion and skill with aspiring musicians and singers, always desiring to be a strong role model and mentor.

Clarence was the Minister of Music at Salem Baptist Church and Music Director at The Church Of The Living God. He was also involved with the Urbana school district and countless other musical groups throughout his lifetime.

He saw music as a way to share and express his love for his savior, Jesus Christ.

Mr. Taylor loved only two things more than music, God and his family. He leaves behind a wife and ten wonderful children as well as countless other family members and friends.

In Clarence's obituary it said that Heaven must have needed an accompanist. Well, they

got a great one. But, Heaven also got a warm, humble, and loving man who always put others before himself.

Clarence will be missed dearly. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and community. May God eternally enjoy his music.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall No. 630 because my flight from Seattle was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE PICAYUNE HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a group of young men from Picayune, Mississippi who have fought tirelessly at reaching their goal of becoming Mississippi's 5A State Champions. I'm referring to Picayune Panthers High School football team.

The leadership of a dedicated coaching staff paired with the commitment from tremendous student athletes, the Panthers overtook their opponents with a final score of 42–35, earning them the state title and ending their winning season with a record of 12–2.

This team calls themselves "The Maroon Tide" and for good reason. These student athletes face hardships, physically and mentally, in balancing their school work, attending countless practices, and spending time with their families. As a student athlete, I remember how exhausting it was to come home late from a long day of practice, but only the best memories come to mind when the hard work paid off, as it has for this team.

All tides rise and fall, all leaders face hardships. But no matter how far a tide strays from shore, it always rises to the occasion, just as this team has done.

It is a privilege to represent these young men in the House of Representatives and my pleasure to congratulate them on their outstanding accomplishment of bringing home the state title. The Picayune High School Varsity Football team is the epitome of a successful team.