

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING DR. CHARLES  
LEMAISTRE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Charles LeMaistre after he passed away this January at 92.

Charles was the president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center until 1996 when he retired. He was a charismatic physician and educator who focused much of his career on cancer prevention. Charles emphasized the dangers of smoking and served on the first U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health. He was also the national president of the American Cancer Society. Ronald DePinho, the current president of MD Anderson, described Charles as "one of the giants of cancer medicine." Charles' legacy will live on and continue to save lives. His dedication to healthcare innovation will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we mourn the loss of Dr. Charles LeMaistre. He truly was a beloved Texan. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE BATANGAS AND SOUTHERN TAGALOG ASSOCIATION OF GUAM ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and achievements of the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association (BASTA) of Guam to the Guam community for the past forty years. The small organization was established on July 16, 1977 as the Batangas Association by Eddie Espina, Rey Gonzalves, Marcy Manipol, and Ronnie Saludo. Over the past forty years, the group has worked hard to fulfill its mission as a non-profit, civic club promoting friendship and understanding among the Batanguenos community and other residents of Guam.

The organization grew steadily over the years, and in 1984 the board opened its membership to embrace Filipinos in the club from surrounding provinces and soon became the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association. BASTA membership is now open to a wider group of people from various islands in the Philippines including Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Aurora, Quezon, Palawan, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, and Romblon. Members of BASTA have chosen to make Guam their home and have positively contributed to the

growth of Guam as educators, nurses, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, engineers, and every other profession.

Over BASTA's forty years of service to Guam, the organization has contributed to many non-profit and charitable organizations. BASTA has given generously to causes such as the Guam Lytico-Bodig Association, American Red Cross, Catholic Social Services, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Alee Shelter, Guam Diabetes Association, American Cancer Society and many others. BASTA also contributes to many causes in the Philippines during times of need and natural disaster, and supporting education efforts through the building and maintenance of school facilities.

A unique feature of BASTA is the youth branch of the organization. The BASTA Youth are made up of the children and young relatives of its members and are active in carrying out the mission of the organization. The BASTA Youth have raised funds to support the club through song and dance productions, which later morphed into what is now BASTA's annual Christmas caroling fundraising. BASTA has become a very popular group during the holiday season, performing their lively carols at venues across Guam to support their mission.

I congratulate the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association of Guam on the occasion of their 40th Anniversary of serving the people of Guam. I join the people of Guam in thanking them for their contributions to our island.

ERIN TORMEY, FARMER OF THE  
YEAR AWARD

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special spirit that glides along the coast of San Mateo County throughout the year. Her name is Erin Tormey and she is being honored by the Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce as Farmer of the Year. For all the farmers who have been recognized, Erin Tormey is certainly an awardee who stands out. She is an exceptional leader, inspirational personality, and an outstanding businesswoman. She is also deeply admired by all who know her, and for good reason.

Erin is the founder of the Half Moon Bay Farmers Market and the Pacifica Farmers Market. Since 2002 in Half Moon Bay, and 2007 in Pacifica, Erin has orchestrated a nutritious public health extravaganza for coastal residents. Her market draws producers and shoppers from distant points to offer quality fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices to local residents and to visitors.

By county standards, Erin Tormey is relatively new to agriculture, starting the Irish Ridge Ranch in 1996. She raises Heritage Layer hens and operates an apple orchard that grows Rare Pioneer and Heritage Apples.

Once established, Erin branched out to establish the farmers market and became active in community improvement through her advocacy for healthy farm products.

She recognized that many families did not know about the benefits of fresh produce and vegetables. Working with the State of California, her market was selected to participate as a pilot site for MARKET WATCH, a program to encourage low income families and seniors to shop at farmers markets. The market promotes nutrition education and was a statewide leader in participating in the WIC program. Low income families of our coastal communities count on Erin and her fellow farmers to balance their diets and to help them maintain healthy eating habits.

Erin's dedication to the coastsides extends beyond farming to education and to public engagement. She was the inaugural executive director of the Cabrillo Education Foundation. Imagine rising before the sun, harvesting eggs for the day, getting your children ready for school, and then raising your hand to raise money for their education. I note that she doesn't rise with the sun. That would be too late. Erin Tormey challenges the sun to rise and to keep up with her while she powers through her day.

In addition to her other accomplishments, Erin is a founding Director of the HEAL Project, an award-winning curriculum that teaches math and science through lessons drawn from agriculture. She is also a founding member of the San Mateo Food Systems Alliance. Among its many purposes, the group encourages gardens in schools to teach students about nutrition, cooperates with our local food bank, and encourages non-farmers to educate themselves about farming and its challenges.

California's agricultural leadership has recognized Erin's talents. She was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to a Direct Marketing Ad-hoc Committee, as an alternate, to help rework legislation governing certified Farmers Markets. She was also appointed to a 3-year term on the steering committee of the California Alliance of Certified Farmers Markets.

Finally, I know Erin well because we cooperate annually in producing one of the high points of the year for 700 seniors in San Mateo county and San Francisco: My annual Seniors on the Move conference held in San Mateo includes a segment to teach attendees about fresh food preparation and eating well to enhance their health and well-being. Erin's cheerful face and enthusiastic promotion of fresh fruits and vegetables are the highlight of this day. Seniors run or walk as swiftly as possible to where the free bags of fresh fruit and vegetables are dispensed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Erin Tormey on the occasion of her selection as Farmer of the Year. Her hens know her as the careful steward of their production but we know Erin as the thoughtful steward of our health and community spirit. May both her

• 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.

flock and we, her friends, neighbors and customers, thrive in the years ahead.

HONORING MICHAEL MAYFIELD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, Michael Mayfield. Mr. Mayfield has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve the City of Vicksburg.

Mr. Mayfield is a graduate of the Vicksburg Public School System. He is also a graduate of Hinds Community College where he graduated with high honors in Basic Electronic and Electricity. He is also certified with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Michael Mayfield was elected to the North Ward Alderman position in July 2005. Prior to this election, he served 10 years on the Warren County Board of Supervisors as Supervisor of District 2. The North Ward Alderman represents the citizens of the northern district of Vicksburg.

Mr. Mayfield is a member and deacon at the Mt. Zion No. 4 Baptist Church. He is a member of the Warren County Children Shelter, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District and a member of the Steering Community for Warren Yazoo Mental Health.

Mr. Mayfield is the father of three children and has two grandchildren. He has been married to the former Bertha McCalpin for thirty-three years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alderman Michael Mayfield for his services to the City of Vicksburg and Warren County.

ASHLEY MEDINA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashley Medina for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Ashley Medina is a 6th grader at Pinnacle Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashley Medina is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ashley Medina for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING ALEXANDRIA'S 67 VIETNAM WAR FALLEN HEROES ON THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA'S WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the 67 men from Alexandria who made the ultimate sacrifice in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War for our freedoms and liberties. Those men include forty-four Soldiers, fifteen Marines, five U.S. Air Force pilots and three Sailors. Their combat duty in Southeast Asia extended over an eleven-year period from May 1962 to June 1973. Their heroism and meritorious service resulted in the award of: one Medal of Honor; one Navy Cross; five Silver Stars; five Distinguished Flying Crosses; twenty-seven Bronze Star Medals; one Prisoner of War Medal; one Soldier's Medal; fifty-one Purple Heart Medals; and forty-four Air Medals. Six families await the return of the remains of those who are still missing in action in a far-off land.

All the families mourn the loss of their loved ones. Their fellow citizens salute these men for their service and honor their sacrifices.

The names of all 67 men are on the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Alexandria, VA.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO LOIS WILLIAMS

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lois Williams, of Burbank, California, who passed away on March 21, 2017.

Lois Tuttle was born on February 25, 1921 in Kansas City, Missouri where she was raised with her brother Karl. In 1947, Lois married Bill Williams and they moved to California in 1951, settling in the Burbank area of southern California.

With a passion for social justice, Lois was an ardent advocate for the rights of workers to organize and join in the democratic political process. A staunch defender of the union movement, she assisted in writing curriculum for teaching union history in schools, worked on labor law negotiations, and was a founding member of Citizens for Utility Rate Balance. Ms. Williams was Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Council of the Engineers and Scientists Organization and an officer at the Engineers and Scientists Guild-Lockheed Section, where she helped advance many progressive programs, and was an early proponent of portable pensions, health care for all, conversion policy in the defense industry and child care in the workplace.

Affiliated with the Democratic Party since she first voted for Harry Truman, Lois was active in many democratic organizations and clubs where she held leadership positions. She served as President of the Verdugo Hills Democratic Club, President of the MidValley

Democratic Club, Regional Vice President and Chair of the Endorsements Committee of the California Democratic Council, a Steering Committee member of the Stonewall Democratic Club, Secretary and Treasurer of the 43rd Assembly District Committee, and a member of Democrats for Neighborhood Action. In addition, Lois was a long-serving member of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee and the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, and was a founding member of the 27th Congressional District Democratic Club. In 2012, Lois was honored with the Action Democrats of the San Fernando Valley's Mimi and Lou Robins Distinguished Achievement Award.

Preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Bill Williams, Lois is survived by her daughter, Lyn Shaw and son-in-law, Jim Hilfenhaus.

Lois was an irreplaceable part of the local community, and she will be greatly missed. I ask all members to join me in remembering Lois Williams.

IN HONOR OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ALBERT H. MALDONADO

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monterey County Superior Court Judge, Albert H. Maldonado for his 22 years of service in Monterey County courts.

In 1969, Judge Maldonado received his bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands. In 1974, he earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law in Berkeley. Prior to finishing law school, Judge Maldonado served the U.S. Army from 1970–1971 where he received a number of awards, including: the Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1995, Judge Maldonado was appointed to the bench in the Municipal Court at the Monterey Judicial District, becoming the second Mexican-American to be appointed since 1836. In 2000, Judge Maldonado became a Superior Court Judge for the state of California. During his twenty-two years of service, Judge Maldonado worked to solve a range of social and legal issues on behalf of Monterey County, including drug treatment, criminal and civil mental health, and criminal matters.

Judge Maldonado has been an exemplary figure for social change through the framework of public and legal service. A proud Mexican-American, Judge Maldonado is the first person of Mexican descent to be appointed to the bench by a California governor in 150 years. My congressional district is a heavily Mexican populated district, and Judge Maldonado's mark in Monterey County's legal field history will undoubtedly continue to be a seed of inspiration for generations to come.

As someone who has dedicated their career to public service, it is an honor to recognize Judge Albert Maldonado for his many years in the legal field and his unending efforts to create a positive impact for the lives in Monterey County. On behalf of California's District 20, I would like to thank Judge Maldonado for the many years of service and positive involvement in our community, and wish him a wonderful retirement. There is no doubt that Judge

Maldonado's commitment to social justice inside and outside the courtroom will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

BETSABE ABIGAIL TORRES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betsabe Abigail Torres for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Betsabe Abigail Torres is a student at Vantage Point High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Betsabe Abigail Torres is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Betsabe Abigail Torres for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GEORGE D. VERMEIRE

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George D. Vermeire for his exemplary medical care in Pennsylvania. In recognition of his dedication and involvement in the osteopathic medical profession, Dr. Vermeire was named the 106th President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Dr. Vermeire is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and later achieved his D.O. from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his postgraduate training at Zieger-Botsford Hospitals in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and he has served as a member of the board of trustees. Shortly thereafter, he was elected vice president and president-elect of the Association. He also serves as a delegate of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association.

He has distinguished himself as a dedicated family physician and leader of the osteopathic profession, and I honor all of the work Dr. Vermeire accomplished in our community.

I congratulate him on his installation as the 106th President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, and wish him the best for a successful and rewarding tenure.

SYLVIE MEI LIM'S ARTWORK SELECTED FOR NASA SPACE CALENDAR

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sylvie Mei Lim of Katy, TX, for having her artwork selected by NASA's Commercial Crew Program to be featured in a calendar.

Fulfilling her dream of sending something to space, this sixth grade Katy Junior High student's artwork will have the first spot in NASA's Children's Artwork Calendar for the month of January 2017. Her piece will be featured alongside drawings from all over the world, such as Spain, Romania, India, Portugal and London. The calendar will be sent to space for astronauts to enjoy while in the International Space Station. Sylvie's artwork will be the only one from Texas. Way to go.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sylvie for having her artwork selected for NASA's Children's Artwork Calendar. We are proud to have her artwork represent TX22 in space.

HONORING REVEREND ISAC JACKSON, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Isiac Jackson, Jr., who began his formal education at Rogers High School in Canton, Mississippi, receiving his high school diploma in 1965. He attended Prentiss Junior College for two years and completed his undergraduate education at Alcorn State University where he attained a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Elementary Education in 1973.

Before becoming a Minister of the Gospel, Rev. Jackson taught in the Canton Public School System for years. Other experiences consists of: working as Supervisor I, Madison County Food Stamp Office; Instructor at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary Extension and served for one year as Justice Court Judge, in Canton, Mississippi; Drug Coordinator for Canton Public School System; Moderator in the Madison Baptist Association; Executive Secretary of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Mississippi, Inc., served as President of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary and was elected President of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc. in the July 2010 session.

Reverend Jackson is the Pastor of Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Canton, MS. He is married to Ora Jackson and they have three children: Michal, Ghika (George), and Isiac, III.

During Reverend Jackson's struggle, he stated, ". . . And He said unto them, Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (St. Mark 16:15). 'Every individual on God's earth feels that they are in charge of their destiny and that they know what is best for them. God, being as mighty as He is,

sometimes has other plans for us. Until our faith is accepted, there is often a constant struggle between God and man—with God being the victor.'" After his struggle was over, Reverend Jackson began his ministry in 1978. One of his favorite scriptures is: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (Timothy 2:15)." Reverend Jackson elected to further his knowledge in the teachings of the Almighty at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, where he received a Master of Divinity Degree. Reverend Jackson received his Doctor of Ministry degree in May, 1999. His dissertation for the degree is entitled the "Discipling of Black Men Within the Local Church".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Isiac Jackson, Jr.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTERVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BOWLING TEAM

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Westerville Central High School Boys Bowling team for winning the Division I Boys Bowling Tournament.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSAA state level competitions have represented the most dedicated and accomplished athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the long ranks of those who embody Ohio's proud history of athletic success.

The Westerville Central Boys Bowling team's victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of success is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. They have set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Westerville Central High School can be extremely proud of their performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate the boys bowling team on their state championship. I wish them continued success in both their athletic and academic endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT PATRICK O'MALLEY

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Patrick O'Malley of the Pomona Police Department for his unyielding commitment to improve the lives of residents in my district every single day.

Sgt. O'Malley may be a native of the Sunshine State, but it is our Golden State that has been the beneficiary of his strong work ethic and compassionate character since he moved here in 1971. He started his career as a police

officer with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Academy in 1991, graduating a year later in 1992. In 1993, my district received a wonderful addition when Sgt. O'Malley joined the Pomona Police Department. Since then, he has continued his life-long devotion to public service through his career in law enforcement of more than 25 years.

While Sgt. O'Malley has had a commendable career with numerous assignments including the Gang Team, Patrol Operations, Traffic Bureau, Detective Bureau, and the MAIT Investigation team, perhaps his most admirable assignment came when he met BreAunna Barnett.

"An angel with a badge," is the phrase that BreAunna's mother, Leanne, uses to refer to Sgt. O'Malley. Mr. Speaker, in what could only be described as a mother's worst fear, Leanne almost lost her daughter to the drug addiction epidemic that plagues our country today. The unequivocal love of a mother and the pure integrity of an officer brought Leanne and Sgt. O'Malley together. While many would have given up, Sgt. O'Malley committed himself to finding and helping BreAunna.

When he found BreAunna she initially rejected his attempts to help, but that did not stop Sgt. O'Malley, who refused to give up. Over time, Sgt. O'Malley gained her trust and eventually helped her receive proper treatment. Even after recovery, Sgt. O'Malley still continued to check up on BreAunna.

In the most tumultuous of times, we find hope in individuals like Sgt. O'Malley, the very same hope that BreAunna experienced. Yes, indeed, he is an angel with a badge.

Sgt. O'Malley's case is especially relevant and worth highlighting in the environment that we find ourselves today where communities' distrust in police officers has reached unprecedented levels. The positive work that our police officers perform often goes unnoticed, and instead we only see the negative. We look to stories like that of Sgt. O'Malley's to remind us that the simple act of caring goes a long way and that taking a community policing approach works.

Sgt. O'Malley did not shy away from a challenge and is a reminder that we too should not shy away from helping each other out.

For his endless contributions and commitment to my community, and because he teaches us to go above and beyond what is asked, I would like to recognize Sergeant Patrick O'Malley on the House floor today.

#### RECOGNIZING WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Margaret L. Williams Developmental Evaluation Center of the Upstate Medical Center Golisano Children's Hospital for its World Autism Awareness Day event on April 2nd.

This year marks the third year that the Center has worked with the Central New York community to light up notable Downtown Syracuse buildings in blue to highlight the beginning of April as World Autism Month.

Light it Up Blue is a unique, global campaign to increase understanding and accept-

ance of autism. Thousands of iconic landmarks, buildings, and community centers nationwide "Light it Up Blue" in support of individuals living with autism and to help promote understanding and acceptance of autism.

While there is no known cause or cure for autism, increased awareness of the multiple types of autism spectrum disorder enables families to seek early and proper treatment.

I commend the Margaret L. Williams Developmental Evaluation Center of the Upstate Medical Center Golisano Children's Hospital for its efforts to support and enhance autism awareness in Central New York.

BRANDON LUJAN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brandon Lujan for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Brandon Lujan is a 12th grader at Mapleton School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brandon Lujan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brandon Lujan for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

#### IN HONOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HEADLAND'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Baptist Church (FBC) of Headland in Headland, Alabama upon its 150th Anniversary.

In 1867, eight people in a small village formerly known as "Heads Land" gathered to establish what was then known as The Baptist Church of Christ at Bethlehem, led by Reverend Thomas Scott. The church officially took the name of "The First Baptist Church, Headland, Alabama" in December of 1969. It has been housed at three separate locations, with its current home residing on East Church Street. The church campus has expanded with the additions of a Sunday School Annex, a Children's Building, a pastorium which now serves as church offices, and a Ministry Center. From its humble beginnings, the church has now grown to a current membership of 1,068, making it the largest church in Henry County.

Over the years, FBC Headland has expanded its reach with its TV Ministry, Food

Pantry, Child Development Center, Church Counseling Ministry, and multiple Worship Services and Sunday School Classes. FBC Headland's mission statement is "Glorifying God by Knowing Christ and Making Him Known," and I commend them for their dedication to ministries that do just that.

The City of Headland is fortunate to have had the touch of FBC Headland upon its community for 150 years. FBC Headland has been an example of the faithfulness and providence of the Lord and I am excited to see what He will do through their ministry in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize First Baptist Church of Headland's 150 years of fellowship, worship, and service.

#### HOUSTON METHODIST WEST HOSPITAL EARNs FIVE STAR SERVICE AWARD

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Houston Methodist West Hospital for receiving the 2016 Exemplary Five Star Service Award by the Texas Department of State Health Services' Vital Statistics Unit.

Houston Methodist West earned this award for its birth registration achievements for the sixth year in a row. This prestigious award recognizes excellence in certification and training, customer service, timeliness, and accuracy in filing birth certificates. Houston Methodist West is one of only 10 hospitals in Texas to receive the Exemplary Five Star Service Award.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Houston Methodist West Hospital for receiving the Five Star Service Award. We all benefit from their commitment to quality healthcare and we thank them for their hard work to keep Houstonians healthy.

DANIELLE HERRERA

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Danielle Herrera for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Danielle Herrera is a student at Northglenn High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Danielle Herrera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Danielle Herrera for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING TAMERA JONES

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Tamera Jones is the daughter of Mr. Timothy and Felicia Jones of Clinton, MS. Currently, Tamera is an Honor student of Clinton High School.

Tamera is a very outgoing young lady that has served in several capacities in her school, showing great leadership skills and the qualities of a great team member. Tamera is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, HOSA, FEA, FCA and also a volunteer throughout the community. Not only is Tamera a positive influence within her school, but she is the 2016 Miss Teen of Mississippi. In November, she will be competing for Miss Teen of America, a scholarship and recognition pageant that recognizes teenagers from each state based on their scholastic record, community service and development. When she graduates from High School, Tamera will attend Tougaloo College with her Bachelor's degree in Biological Science and will go on to UMMC to receive her PhD in Pediatric Surgery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Tamera Jones for her hard work and dedication at Clinton High School and throughout the communities of Mississippi.

APPLAUDING ALEX SCHRIVER FOR HIS SERVICE TO ALABAMA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my deep appreciation to Alex Schriver for his years of service to Alabama's First Congressional District. Alex's last day serving the people of Southwest Alabama was Friday, March 31st.

Alex has served as the Chief of Staff in my Congressional office since I was sworn in on January 8, 2014. In this role, he has overseen my entire Congressional staff, served as my primary policy advisor, managed day-to-day operations of the office, and so much more. As it is often said, it is the job of the Chief of Staff to keep the train on the tracks, and Alex has done exactly that while building out a team of first-rate individuals. That is a testament to his strong leadership and steady demeanor.

Alex grew up in Tennessee and graduated from Auburn University. I first met him in 2009 during my gubernatorial campaign. It did not take long for me to realize that Alex was not your average campaign staffer. He would always go above and beyond and possessed a keen instinct that made him a valued member of the campaign team.

Alex went on to serve as the Chairman of the College Republican National Committee, where he oversaw 75 full-time staff and a record budget of \$16 million. In that role, he helped champion important conservative values and shape the national message.

When I decided to run for Congress in the 2013 special election, Alex was the obvious choice to serve as the campaign manager for my special election campaign. Special elections are particularly challenging given the dynamics surrounding them. As a testament to his aptitude and leadership, I was able to win a nine-person primary and go on to win the general election in December.

Alex has a rare blend of passion, confidence, compassion, knowledge, and toughness that has allowed him to be successful in his career. As he leaves my staff to move into the position of Senior Vice President at Targeted Victory, I have no doubt he will continue to be successful due to the same core qualities.

Mr. Speaker, Alex has been a dedicated and devoted member of my team, and he has served the people of Alabama's First Congressional District exceedingly well. I wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

IAN RODRIGUEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ian Rodriguez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Ian Rodriguez is an 8th grader at Shadow Ridge Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ian Rodriguez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ian Rodriguez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN WOODMARK CORPORATION'S NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with you and our colleagues, the establishment of a long-term relationship between a stellar national company, the American Woodmark Corporation, and Frederick County, which surrounds the City of Winchester, in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The American Woodmark Corporation, a leading manufacturer of quality kitchen and bath cabinets with over 5,000 employees nationwide, has decided to invest \$30 million to build a new national corporate headquarters in Frederick County, in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

The project will bring its corporate employees together from four leased sites in the Winchester area to a central corporate office, strengthening interpersonal connections and driving greater efficiency in the company's day-to-day operations. The consolidation will mean that all 377 positions will be retained and that 55 new positions will eventually be created.

There was strong competition for American Woodmark's investment, and I want to acknowledge the hard work of Frederick County officials Patrick Barker of the Frederick County Economic Development Authority and his staff, as well as Chairman Chuck DeHaven and members of the Board of Supervisors, in working with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to secure a \$550,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund and for providing a \$350,000 economic development grant from Frederick County.

In addition to the financial incentives and a very hospitable business environment, the extraordinary quality of life in the Northern Shenandoah Valley clearly played a role in American Woodmark's decision. Emanating from its agrarian roots, the Valley's friendly, caring culture causes charitable organizations to thrive and those less fortunate to be well cared for. The Valley's quality of life is further enhanced by great schools and libraries, a first rate regional health care system, and cultural variety that includes civil war battlefields, national parks and museums, as well as a university conservatory that is welcoming to the community. In fact, Forbes has ranked the Northern Shenandoah Valley in its top 20 "Best Small Places for Business and Careers" in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Cary Dunston, president and CEO of American Woodmark, and its Board of Directors, on choosing to establish its central corporate office in Frederick County and in wishing the corporation great success in all of its future endeavors.

SENATOR ARTHENIA L. JOYNER, TAMPA BAY'S WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a true champion of progress, Senator Arthenia L. Joyner. Today, I recognize her as my Tampa Bay's Women's History Month honoree. Her invaluable contributions to Hillsborough County and the lives of our neighbors are an inspiration to us all. Today, on behalf of my neighbors, I recognize her selfless dedication, honor her valuable unceasing work, and thank her for her love of her and my home town.

Senator Arthenia Joyner was born in Lakeland, Florida on February 3, 1943 and later relocated with her family to Tampa in the late 1940's. Growing up during the time of segregation, Senator Joyner and her family have always played an active role on issues concerning civil rights. Henry Joyner, Moses White and Kid Mason, to name a few, were at the heart of Tampa's once thriving black business community on Central Avenue. Senator

Joyner has been key in preserving and honoring the history of Central Avenue, once populated by black-owned businesses, restaurants and night clubs.

Senator Joyner earned her B.S. from Florida A&M University in 1964 and her J.D. from Florida A&M University College of Law in 1968. Facing segregation and discrimination, she has always been out front. She participated in the first civil rights demonstrations in Tampa and was arrested twice while attending Florida A&M University when participating in efforts to desegregate movie theaters. Senator Joyner again "found a way to get in the way", in the words of my colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS, when she was arrested outside the South Africa embassy in D.C. for protesting against South Africa's apartheid government.

After law school, unable to find anyone in the legal profession willing to hire an African-American woman, she opened her own practice becoming the first African-American female lawyer in Hillsborough County and has practiced law there for forty-seven years, longer than any black woman in the history of Florida. Senator Arthenia Joyner served as an attorney, public school teacher and legal assistant for former State Representative, Joe Lang Kershaw. She was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2000 where she served three terms. In 2006 Senator Joyner was then elected to represent District 19 in the Florida Senate for two terms. She was appointed by her Senate peers to serve as the Florida Senate Democratic Leader for the 2014 to 2016 term, making her the first African-American woman to hold the position.

Throughout her legislative service, Senator Joyner has been recognized as a stalwart supporter of a wide variety of issues centered on human rights, civil rights, criminal and civil justice reform, health policies, and consumer protection. Her knowledge, passion and leadership made her a trusted public servant who knew how to get things done for her state and her neighbors. Senator Joyner currently serves as the National Vice President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL/Women) and the State Director for Women in Government. Recently she was appointed to represent the Florida Senate on the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. And, most recently Senator Joyner was chosen for the important role serving on the Constitutional Revision Commission by Chief Justice Jorge Labarga.

The Tampa Bay Times has praised Senator Joyner for being "a strong supporter of civil rights, health care, and open government." In 2014, Senator Arthenia Joyner was awarded the L. Clayton Nance Award presented annually by the Florida Public Defender Association (FPDA) to those advancing the organization's mission of ensuring equal justice. The FPDA also recognized her legislative work and support of juvenile sentencing reform bill, HB 7035. Representative Laura Hall (AL), National President for NOBEL Women, stated that Senator Joyner doesn't only advocate for the state of Florida, but "she fights for the civil rights of others across this nation."

Senator Joyner has served her community and state but her service has also had global reach. It has been said that among her most prestigious awards are appointments by President Clinton to the U.S. Delegation to the Pop-

ulation Conference in Cairo, Egypt and the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of our Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor my friend Senator Arthenia Joyner as my Tampa Bay's Women's History Month honoree. As Senator Joyner would say, "your word is your bond," as she encourages our community to stand for what they believe in. Following in the footsteps of her distinguished family and leaving big footprints of her own for all of us to follow, her courage and total commitment to human rights and improving the lives of all of us have helped not only the Tampa community, but our state, nation and the world.

DULLES HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC  
DECATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dulles High School Academic Decathlon team of Sugar Land, TX, for winning the Texas State Academic Decathlon.

This was the Dulles High Academic Decathlon teams' first decathlon state championship since 1987. The theme of the competition was World War II, where students were tested in economics, literature, mathematics, music, science and social science. Three team members earned individual recognition as well: Madison Gabino receiving first place in the Scholastic Division, Ethan Tu in second, and Jared Roth in fifth place. Dulles High is the only team in the Fort Bend Independent School District to ever win a State Academic Decathlon title, let alone two.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to again congratulate the Dulles High School Academic Decathlon team for winning the Texas State Academic Decathlon. We are very proud of their success.

ELI TRUJILLO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eli Trujillo for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Eli Trujillo is an 8th grader at the International School at Thornton Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eli Trujillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eli Trujillo for winning the Adams County Mayors

and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING ORELIA GAIL SIAS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable professional lady, Ms. Orelia Gail Sias of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Orelia was born to the late Roosevelt and Pauline Sias of Mayersville, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Delta State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Ms. Sias' parents were farmers and owned over 400 acres of land. She realized at an early age that she could accomplish anything she set her heart to do, coming from a household where her parents were the prime example of that philosophy. Therefore, she embarked on her life journey by furthering her education and securing stable employment opportunities with Cleveland State Bank in August of 1986 as a switchboard operator, but knew that her desire was to move up in the financial institute. While in her 30 years with Cleveland State Bank, she moved up in the ranks to her current position as a Customer Representative in the Electronic Banking Division, where she handled customer fraud issues. In 2008, she began a part-time career with Walgreen's as a Pharmacy Technician and became a National Board Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Ms. Sias is very active with numerous community and civic organizations and has received numerous accolades and awards for her dedication to the community. She is politically involved and participated in the 2012 National Democratic Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2013, she participated in President Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony in Washington, D.C., and while there she visited the Dr. Martin Luther Museum, his statue and other sites. Although she has influence in the community and through her professional careers, Orelia considers her greatest achievement is to honor the legacy which her parents instilled in her through their teachings: "To have respect and dignity for everyone your life paths allows you to and that will be returned to you". Family is of the utmost importance to Ms. Sias and she enhances others' lives by being an example and she offers mentorship to the younger generations.

Ms. Sias lives her life in servitude to others. She opens her home to those needing a place to stay and loan her vehicle to those who may be in need of transportation. She is someone who is admired and loved by her co-workers, community leaders, and her community for her professional style, her frankness of speech and how she carries herself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Orelia Sias for being an outstanding professional lady in the Mississippi Delta.

IN HONOR OF SHERRY HABER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sherry Haber, a remarkable community leader and tireless advocate for children, who is being recognized as the Hillsborough Citizen of the Year by the Associated Parents' Group. This award honors a resident who has made a sustained and significant contribution to the community, especially to the education and well-being of our children. Sherry is truly deserving of this honor. There is no task too big or too small for Sherry to handle and if you want to get something done, you hand it to her.

Sherry served as Parent Group President for North Hillsborough School from 2009 to 2010. It was on her watch that the lower playground was installed and the hot lunch program was implemented. In her role as Art in Action Chair, she established the tradition of hosting an art show during North's annual open house, expanded Art in Action from 3rd through 5th grade to include K through 5th grade, was instrumental in launching the school's first talent show and choreographed multiple group performances. She also led efforts to renovate the library, chaired the 5th grade promotion and worked on the year book committee for eight years. For six years, she opened her home for the annual teacher appreciation lunch.

When Sherry's two children Ben and Cami moved on to Crocker Middle School, she again served as Parent Group President from 2012 to 2013 and repeated many of her contributions. She implemented a hot lunch program, established the Crocker Art Show and coordinated the Janet Chun Mural project. She also was graduation chair and organized the first Flash Mob.

From 2013 to 2015, Sherry served as communications chair of the Hillsborough Schools Foundation and hosted many successful fundraisers. For the last two years, she has served as the President of the Burlingame High School Music Boosters which means she has been supporting 150 students in band and choir. She even organized the band's first performance trip to Anaheim in over 20 years.

In addition to her deep involvement in the schools, Sherry found time to be a Den Leader for the Boy Scouts and Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts for a total of ten years. For six years, she was a volunteer for Hillsborough's Memorial Day Parade. In 2015, she served on the Israeli Art Show Committee at Peninsula Temple Shalom. Sherry Haber has an inexhaustible reservoir of energy and passion for children, our community and the arts.

Sherry is originally from Sacramento. She went to Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii and earned her BA in English at Stanford University. She and her husband of 24 years, Scott Haber, live with their two children in Hillsborough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring an exemplary citizen, a dedicated community leader and a devoted mother and wife. Sherry Haber never stops giving of herself and she does it with enjoyment of life (*j'ouie de vivre*), I join with all Hillsborough residents in

saying we are very fortunate to have her as a neighbor and friend.

RECOGNIZING DOMINIC  
BARANDICA

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dominic Barandica, who will soon be named California's Young Man of Distinction by Youth Focus, Inc.

Dominic is deserving of the highest commendation for his dedication to the advancement of safety in high school football. Using helmet sensors, Dominic has extensively researched the consequences of repetitive head impacts by high school players. Since starting, he has obtained a sensor for every football athlete in the Modesto City High School system and has been a featured speaker on the issue at the Doctors Medical Center Sports Medicine Symposium. An accomplished athlete himself, Dominic has already accepted an early decision offer to play football for Case Western Reserve University.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Dominic has proven to be an incredible leader, serving as Gregori High School's Freshman Class President and Commissioner of Community Service, the President of the Inter High School Council of ASB Presidents of Modesto City High Schools, and as student representative to the Modesto City School Board, representing over 40,000 high school students.

He's shown his dedication to academics as an active member of the Mock Trial and Science Bowl Teams, and has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction for his continued scholastic achievements. Finally, Dominic has embodied an unwavering commitment to community service as an Eagle Scout, a recipient of the President's Volunteers Service Gold Award and the American Red Cross Youth Hero Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dominic Barandica for his recognition from the Youth Focus Group as California's Young Man of Distinction. His outstanding achievements and dedication to our community deserve to be commended.

JAZZLYN WILSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jazzlyn Wilson for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jazzlyn Wilson is a 7th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jazzlyn Wilson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their edu-

cation and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jazzlyn Wilson for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

JESSICA WICKERSHEIM

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Wickersheim for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jessica Wickersheim is a student at Adams City High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Wickersheim is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Wickersheim for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. STEPHEN  
OSTROFF

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, together with Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, we rise today to thank Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Stephen M. Ostroff, and his team for their efforts to assist Congress and the Administration in improving patient enrollment, retention, minority participation and equitable access in cancer clinical trials, especially among underserved and underrepresented populations.

Patient participation is the single most critical ingredient to successful cancer trials being completed on time and on budget as well as bringing life-saving cancer drugs to market.

Unfortunately, most cancer clinical trials only provide for the cost of the trial drug and require the patient to cover all other costs affiliated with participation including but not limited to travel, lodging, and ancillary medical costs.

The result of this has been abysmally low cancer participation rates. Overall, only 6 percent of eligible cancer patients participate in clinical trials and a mere 5 percent of those participants represent the Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and Pacific Islander populations combined. According to Tufts Research, 38 percent of all clinical trials fail to finish on time or within budget due to lack of enrollment, and an astonishing 11 percent of trials fail to ever enroll a single patient, primarily due to the financial burden on patients to participate.

Joined by over a dozen of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle, we sent a letter to the FDA regarding possible misperceptions surrounding the regulatory meaning of inducement and coercion and asked for its assistance in providing clarity.

The FDA's letter in response we include in the RECORD today, helps provide this needed clarity, explaining that reimbursement is neither inducement, coercion, nor even a so-called "benefit" but rather fair compensation creating parity and equality in cancer trial access. The letter also states the FDA's commitment to further addressing our concerns when it finalizes guidance on this issue.

Accordingly, we, along with our colleagues, will continue our dialogue with national stakeholders, patient advocacy organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and the Administration to continue to improve patient enrollment, retention, minority participation and equitable access in cancer clinical trials, especially among underserved and underrepresented patients.

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
*Silver Spring, MD, March 22, 2017.*

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,  
*House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SESSIONS: Thank you for the discussion on September 21, 2016, with Dr. Robert Califf, the former Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) and Dr. Richard Pazdur, regarding the improvement of patient participation, enrollment, retention, and equitable access to oncology clinical trials. In a follow-up letter dated October 6, 2016, you asked the Agency to confirm that it views reimbursement for travel expenses to and from clinical trial sites, including reimbursement for travel costs such as parking and lodging, as permissible and suggested that such reimbursement should not be construed as coercion or inducement.

As discussed with you on September 21, 2016, FDA generally would not consider reimbursement for such expenses to be undue influence or coercion intended to induce participation in a clinical trial. FDA has stated in the past that it is not uncommon for subjects to be paid for their participation in research, and has provided guidance on how those payments should be addressed during Institutional Review Board (IRB) review of a proposed clinical trial. When appropriate, the informed consent would identify any additional costs to the participant that may result from participation in the research and whether such expenses would be reimbursed.

In July 2014, FDA issued a draft guidance entitled, "Informed Consent Information Sheet Guidance for IRBs, Clinical Investigators, and Sponsors," which provides recommendations on informed consent content and the informed consent process. In this draft guidance, the issue of additional cost and payment to research participants is briefly addressed. For example, we recommend that, beyond the costs directly related to participation in the research, it may be appropriate to identify additional costs that the subject may incur. Additional costs may include the loss of income when the subject takes time off from work to participate in the clinical investigation and transportation costs. The consent form would also make clear whether and, if so, how funds for reimbursement will be made available to subjects, or the form would provide direction to subjects regarding how to obtain further information. The draft guidance also states that FDA considers payment to subjects for participation in clinical investigations to be

compensation for expenses and inconveniences, not a benefit of participation in research and that if payments are provided, the consent process should not identify them as benefits. Further guidance on when payments to research participants may be considered coercive or an exercise of undue influence is available on FDA's webpage "Payment to Research Subjects—Information Sheet."

As we finalize the draft guidance, we will look for ways to address your concerns about reimbursement of these types of expenses so that the final guidance will be more useful to patients and our stakeholders. We will also take advantage of our educational outreach activities to clarify this issue with the research community.

Thank you again for bringing this important issue to our attention. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. OSTROFF, M.D.,  
*Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs.*

## RECOGNIZING ARNOLD SMEENK

### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arnold Smeenk on his retirement and recognize his distinguished career in the field of mortgage banking.

Mr. Smeenk joined First Maryland Mortgage Corp. in December 1993. He built an impressive portfolio of clients and projects, which directly contributed to the company's successful merger with M&T Realty Capital Corp. In recognition of his excellent work, Mr. Smeenk earned the prestigious President's Council Award in three consecutive years. In 2007, he was promoted to National Production Manager and Group Vice President. In these positions, Mr. Smeenk was responsible for managing the company's origination platform and supervising employees in nine states. Under his leadership, the sales team originated almost \$16 billion in deals. Mr. Smeenk will retire on April 3, after more than 23 years of service to M&T Realty Capital Corp.

Even more impressive than Mr. Smeenk's professional resumé is his commitment to serving his community. Arnold and his wife, Anne, have opened their home and their hearts to those in need. From taking in foster children and providing assistance to troubled youths, to repairing inner-city homes and building a school for deaf children in Mexico, Arnold and Anne have worked tirelessly to help people overcome difficult circumstances. Through the Smeenk Family Foundation, they have financially supported countless Christian ministries and charitable organizations, including the Charles Finney School and the new Pregnancy Resource Center in Corning, New York.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Arnold Smeenk on an impressive career and wishing him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

## KENDALL WILLS EARNS BOY SCOUT EAGLE RANK AWARD

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kendall Camilo Wills of Sugar Land, TX, for earning his Boy Scout Eagle Rank Award.

Eagle Rank is the highest achievement a Boy Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Kendall had to achieve the Life Scout rank, earn a total of 21 merit badges, and develop and provide leadership to others in a service project. The Boy Scouts of America will also award Kendall with the Catholic religious award, Ad Altare Dei. Kendall is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts national honor society.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kendall Camilo Wills for earning his Boy Scout Eagle Rank Award. We are confident he will have continued success in his future endeavors. We are very proud.

## HONORING JUANITA WINSTON SMITH-OWENS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a dedicated servant, Mrs. Juanita Winston Smith-Owens.

Mrs. Smith-Owens, who was the seventh child of sixteen children, was born to the late Johnnie and Ruby Winston on December 6, 1917 in Pickens, MS. After aging and a short period of illness, Juanita completed her earthly journey while at Westminster Terrace Healthcare Center on August 4, 2016. It was a peaceful passing when she took her Savior's hand and transcended into eternity.

Mrs. Smith-Owens received her early childhood education from the Little Red Schoolhouse formerly known as Richland High School in Pickens, MS.

Mrs. Smith-Owens was married to the late Fred Smith, and this union was blessed with eight children. After the death of her husband, she later married Jerry Lee Owens and to this union no children were born, but she gave her wisdom and love to three stepchildren.

Mrs. Smith-Owens confessed a hope in Christ at an early age and was baptized at Crossroad Missionary Baptist Church, currently known as Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Pickens, MS under the pastorate of Reverend Don Sutton. In later years, she joined and united with Newport Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend J.L. Cross where she served in several capacities: Mother's Board, Church Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, President of the Usher Board, and a member of the Choir. She also served for many years as the Treasurer of the Lebanon District Association and Vice President of the District Rose Hill Convention. Mrs. Smith-Owens served faithfully. She later moved to Jackson, MS with her children and



united as a watch-care member from Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend Jeffery Stegall. Again, she relocated to Louisville, KY where she united with Community Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend William T. Shoemaker.

Mrs. Smith-Owens lived a long industrious, hard working life. For many years, she labored as an agriculturalist and a cook at Double Quick Store No. 19 in Lexington, MS for 16 years and she gave true light to the phrase "Be the job large or small do it well or not at all." She retired from public work in 1989 and enjoyed traveling throughout the United States with her children.

Mrs. Smith-Owens was preceded in death by: her beloved mother, Ruby Walker; father, Johnny Winston; spouses: Fred Smith and Jerry L. Owens; two daughters: Mildred Smith, and Patsie Williams; two sons: Andrew Smith and John Smith; two granddaughters: Jacqueline Campbell-Jones and Racine Smith; one step-son, Lathan Jefferson; three brothers: Louis Stuart, Jesse Castel and Melvin; seven sisters: Ora, Eliza, Ida, Vivian, Lottie, Lela Mae, and Cora; and two son-in-laws: Charles Smith and Roy Williams.

Mrs. Smith-Owens leaves to rejoice her legacy and cherish her memories: four children: Richard (Burnette) Smith, Myron Smith, Dorothy Williams of Jackson, MS and Regina Commodore of Louisville, KY; two step-daughters: Geraldine Owens and Debbie Horton of Chicago, IL; three sisters: Julie (Jack) Greer of Lexington, MS, Thelma (Samuel) Greene, and Gertrude (Charles) Green of Chicago, IL; twenty six (26) grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a multitude of cousins and a legion of friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the legacy of Mrs. Juanita Winston Smith-Owens for her life and works to be remembered.

MAJOR GENERAL H. MICHAEL  
EDWARDS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General H. Michael Edwards, The Adjutant General of the State of Colorado, for his combined service of more than 44 years in the United States Air Force and the Colorado National Guard.

Major General Edwards' remarkable service to our state and our nation is much appreciated. His leadership skills were evident even as a cadet attending the United States Air Force Academy; transitioning to Student pilot while attending Undergraduate Pilot Training. He continued to hone his flying skills, serving a distinguished career flying various aircraft from the T-38 to the F-4s. Major General Edwards' command expertise was showcased as he rose through the ranks, becoming commander of the 140th Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, and as the Director of the Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, State of Qatar. His honorable military career is significant, culminating in the selection and service as The Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard.

Major General Edwards has also advised my office on military and National Guard matters and assisted in a number of medal and service recognition ceremonies. His congenial manner, yet focused approach to his command has led to admiration and respect by all Coloradans.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Major General H. Michael Edwards for his dedication, commitment and service to our community, state and nation.

QUESTIONING THE RUSSIAN  
CONNECTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank Congresswoman JAYAPAL and Congressman RASKIN for their tireless work to protect our democracy.

I also want to thank the fearless leaders of the CPC, Congressman KEITH ELLISON and Congressman RAUL GRIJALVA for organizing this Special Order Hour and for leading the fight for the integrity of our republic.

Mr. Speaker, we're here today to shine a light on the deceit and corruption taking place at the White House. For months, we've known that Russia meddled in our election to benefit Donald Trump's campaign.

In fact, even before the election, 17 intelligence agencies all concluded that the influence came from the highest levels of the Kremlin. The reality of this unprecedented interference is outrageous and appalling.

But even more disturbing than the fact of foreign actors meddling, has been the response of our Commander-in-Chief. President Trump stacked his campaign, and then his Administration, with officials who benefited both financially and personally from Russian ties.

Now, instead of calling for a bipartisan independent investigation into Russia's influence, President Trump has heaped praise on Vladimir Putin and undermined the ongoing investigations.

Amid all of the evidence pointing to Russian interference to benefit President Trump, one question remains.

Why has the President not taken this national security issue seriously? Over the past 60 days we have learned the answer to that question. A steady stream of revelations has shown what we've suspected all along. President Trump's cozy relationship with Russia warrants a bipartisan independent investigation. Nearly every week, the ties and lies that exist between President Trump and the Russians have led the news cycle.

Former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort stepped down during the campaign after reports of his murky financial dealings with Russia became public. Michael Flynn was forced to resign after news reports confirmed he lied about contacts with the Russians during and after the campaign.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions lied under oath to conceal meetings he had with Russian officials while on the campaign. And, just this week, we learned that President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner had questionable financial links to Russia that warrant a Senate investigation.

The web of ties and lies gets murkier by the day. As these improprieties come to light, President Trump peddles increasingly desperate conspiracy theories in an attempt to distract from the truth.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. The American people are demanding that the truth about this Administration be exposed.

They deserve to know every last detail concerning Putin's involvement in our election; ties that exist between Trump allies and Putin officials; and exactly what knowledge President Trump had of Russian actions during the campaign.

Clearly, Republicans have proved that they are incapable of leading such an investigation. Just this week, we've watched the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee be caught up in this cloud of corruption. Congressman DEVIN NUNES, a former executive board member on Trump's transition team, is too compromised by the Trump Administration to lead this investigation. Congressman NUNES' conflicts of interest clearly demonstrate he cannot be trusted to conduct the investigation.

Mr. Speaker, the list is endless. He has withheld information from Members of the Intel Committee; shared critical information with the President, the subject of the investigation, without alerting his counterparts on the committee, including the Ranking Member, ADAM SCHIFF. Mislead the American people with scant details of his sources. Not to mention, he helped develop President Trump's national security plan on the campaign.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman DEVIN NUNES has lost the confidence of the American people. He needs to step down immediately from Chair of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the corruption shrouding this Administration undermines our national security and makes us less safe. So the only solution here is an independent investigation to reveal the extent of President Trump's personal, political and financial ties to Russia.

I urge my colleagues to support this commission. This has gone far beyond partisan politics. This is about the character of our nation and the independence of our democracy. The American people deserve to know the truth about the troubling links that exist between President Trump and Putin's Russia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRESNO  
COUNTY FARM BUREAU

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno County Farm Bureau in celebration of its 100 year anniversary of advocating for agriculture on behalf of the Central Valley.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has been dedicated to bringing farmers and ranchers together to promote agriculture in the Central Valley since 1917. The organization was started by George Feaver, J.A. Poytress, Sam Heisinger, H.W. Wrightson, Charles Parlier, and Leroy Smith. Leroy Smith was the first Extension Service farm advisor assigned to Fresno County, which spurred his desire to initiate the Fresno County Branch.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau is one of fifty-three county Farm Bureaus, and represents over four thousand members. The

members include farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers who put food on Americans' dinner table every night. As a voice for agriculture, the organization has a goal of preserving California's fresh, local, and diverse agrarian culture for generations to come. It also leads the industry in addressing issues that result in long-term viability for agriculture through political action, community outreach, and public education. The Farm Bureau achieves their goal of advocating for the Central Valley by promoting economic vitality of the region through the work of its members.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has been known to encourage all citizens to be supportive and appreciative of the incredible contribution farmers, ranchers, and farm workers make daily to the Central Valley community and economy.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno County Farm Bureau on 100 years of contributions to our country and our Valley's agriculture industry. We commemorate the service of all the members of this organization who have worked collectively to improve, protect, and promote agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley, which has now become one of the breadbaskets of our nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible contribution our farmers and ranchers make to the Central Valley community and our nation's economy.

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#### HONORING NATIONAL PET DAY

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Pet Day, which takes place every year on April 11th. While loving our pets is something we do every day, National Pet Day encourages us to give special care to pets who may not get that extra attention. This day was founded in 2006 by Pet and Family Lifestyle Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige, to help raise public awareness about the plight of many different kinds of animals. This is a common sentiment among animal rights activists, and I want to give recognition to all the organizations we have worked with personally in the mission to protect our beloved pets. The Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, and Social Compassion in Legislation have worked extensively to better the lives of our four-legged friends. Together, we introduced H.R. 1406, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017, which prohibits the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

On January 6, 2017, I reintroduced H. Res. 30—Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China to end the dog meat trade. This horrific festival dates back to 2009 through 2010, when it was launched by dog meat traders as a commercial enterprise to boost flagging sales of dog meat. More than 10,000 dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this Dog Meat festival, with more than 10 million dogs killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. Animal welfare groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets

taken from their homes, still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouse. Many dogs die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones. These dogs suffer mentally from watching other dogs being disemboweled and blow-torched in front of them.

Yulin's dog slaughter takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. The capture, transport, and butchering of dogs and the consumption of dog meat poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government. Although the Yulin city government withdrew as a sponsor of the Dog Meat Festival, it has taken no meaningful action to enforce China's existing laws and regulations on animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, or youth protection, all of which are breached by the dog meat trade.

Activists from across the globe have continued the fight against this barbaric practice. I have been honored to work with Humane Society International, the Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Vanderpump Dog Foundation, Duo Duo, the Animal Welfare Institute, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Citizens Lobbyists for H. Res. 30, as well as countless other organizations to bring awareness and hopefully change to this inhumane practice and torture of dogs.

Next month, I will be introducing a resolution denouncing the global dog meat trade, by urging all countries that allow this cruel and barbaric practice to end it once and for all. Furthermore, in the lead up to the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and after the introduction of my global dog meat trade resolution, I do plan on holding another Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill to provide an opportunity for animal rights activists to speak on behalf of the voiceless.

I also want to recognize and thank the animal welfare organizations in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, whose tireless efforts each and every single day are to be commended. In Palm Beach, the Animal Rescue Force South Florida; Peggy Adams; Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control; Justin Bartlett; Second Chance; Big Dog Ranch Rescue; Gaisha, Tundra & Spirit's Place Husky Rescue; Adopt a Cat Foundation; Tri-County Animal Rescue; South Florida Rabbit Rescue, and the Everglades Golden Retriever Rescue. In Broward County, the Florida Humane Society, Humane Society of Broward County; Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center, Animal Aid, Inc.; and Abandoned Pet Rescue.

The work that all of these organizations do for animals is truly heartwarming and the lengths that they go to ensure their welfare is inspiring. National Pet Day reminds us to do all that we can to make certain animals are taken care of everywhere. Whether it is taking supplies to animal shelters, volunteering, helping a friend with his or her pets who is recovering from an illness, or adopting a pet.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Pet Day, I once again want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to those who have dedicated their

lives to help, protect, and save animals not only here in the United States, but also across the globe.

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#### MITCHELL MONTALVO INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mitchell Montalvo of Katy, TX, for being invited to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

Mitchell is studying computer engineering at the University of Houston, where he accepted a full scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. Membership to NSCS is by invitation only and based on a student's class standing and grade-point average. NSCS is part of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the only interdisciplinary honors organization for first and second year college students in the country. After graduating, Mitchell plans to enter the Air Force as a second lieutenant, specializing in cyber warfare.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mitchell Montalvo for his invitation to join NSCS. We are very proud of him and look forward to his future service to our country.

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#### HONORING WILLIE WHITE

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie White, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Willie is a native of Canton, MS, where he and his older brother, Booker T. Jones, grew up and were raised by their grandparents. He is the second oldest child of Earl Jones and Lonnie B. White Bratton. In the late forties, both parents relocated to different Northern states, married and other siblings were born. The 68 year old, credits his stern grandparents for him becoming the man he is today.

After receiving his Elementary and High School education from the Madison County Public School District, he entered Alcorn State University in the fall of 1967 on a track scholarship. To avoid being drafted by the Army or the Marine Corp after receiving draft notices from both, he joined the Navy in 1970, where he served for twenty-one years on active duty and ten years reserved duty. During this time he served three tours in the Vietnam War. Because of his brave and heroic acts, he was inducted into the San Diego Aerospace Museum Hall of Champions in Balboa Park in San Diego, CA in 1989, along with receiving numerous other medals and awards.

Willie retired from the military in 1990 and began working as a Logistic Management Specialist for Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command (NATEC), which is a department of the defense supporting the war fighters. During this time, he graduated from Defense Acquisition University, San Diego, CA.

His tenure as an athlete, a high school, college and military track coach combined for more than forty years. He received all conference honors in football and track for the U.S. Navy, qualified in Track & Field for the U.S. Olympic team in 1972, but due to military obligations was unable to attend; California High School Coach of the year five times, and received the KGTV Channel 10 San Diego award in 1999 for outstanding citizenship in the community. He also served as chaplain and spiritual leader for the Mill Park Home Boys organization in San Diego, California.

In 1963 and 1966, Willie marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Canton, MS. In 2000 he was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. award in Canton, for his participation in these marches trying to ensure equal and civil rights for all mankind.

Since moving to Grenada, MS in 2011, where he now calls home, Willie has been very active in the community. He is continuing to use his knowledge and skills volunteering in various clubs, groups and civic organizations. He serves as president of the Male choir, an usher and on the Board of Trustees at Greater Pleasant Grove M.B. Church, Gore Springs, MS. He has membership in the following organizations: Grenada 100 Black Men of America, Inc., The American Legion and V.F.W. Post, Grenada Baptist District Association Men Division, Grenada Chamber of Commerce Smile Team, Montgomery-Carroll-Grenada County Alcorn State University Alumni Chapter, Alcorn State University National Alumni Association, Community Relations Council member for Finch-Henry Job Corps Center, and a board member of Central Mississippi Incorporated. Willie also volunteers at Grenada High School by giving assistance to the track coach and the ROTC program.

He is the father of four children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Willie is currently married to his college sweetheart Mildrette Netter White, a 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist. When he is not busy giving back to the community, he enjoys singing, listening to music, gardening, traveling and spending time with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Willie White, an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American Community.

**VARTEGA CARBON FIBER  
RECYCLING**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vartega Carbon Fiber Recycling for winning the 2016 Innovative Technology Award from the Jeffco EDC.

The award recognizes a company that is on the forefront of new and advanced technologies and show leadership in the industries of aerospace, aviation, bioscience, energy, photonics, nontechnology or the like.

Founded in 2014, Vartega is a technology development company specializing in the carbon fiber-reinforced plastic recycling process. Repurposing scrap materials, their innovative technology and processes enables them to

provide low-cost carbon fiber for mass-market applications while maximizing the environmental benefit of carbon fiber. Using low-cost recycled carbon fiber, the Vartega process helps to reduce fuel consumption and waste, and it diverts thousands of tons of waste from landfills each year.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Vartega Carbon Fiber Recycling for this well-deserved recognition from the Jeffco EDC.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WHITE  
HOUSE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR  
LANGUAGE DIVERSITY ACT**

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, in January, I wrote to President Trump requesting information about why the Spanish language option on the White House website was deleted. Although the White House did state that a Spanish option was under development, in the almost two months since I wrote the letter, I have not received a response nor has an official White House Spanish website been published.

As I stated in my letter to President Trump, there are many taxpayers whose first language is not English. Spanish along with Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese are the most commonly spoken languages in the U.S. Constituents benefit tremendously from having language options to access their government and receive information that may impact their lives. This is why it is imperative that the White House and federal agencies continue to be accessible to all taxpayers.

It is vital for my constituents and all Americans to be able to follow issues that affect their lives. I will continue to work to ensure that more taxpayers have access to information in the language they choose to utilize at home and in their communities.

Therefore, today, I am introducing the White House Accountability for Language Diversity Act. This legislation will require the White House and federal agencies to establish Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese language options for their official websites. This will ensure that millions of taxpayers have the option of accessing up-to-date information in their preferred language.

**CONGRATULATING NYC HEALTH +  
HOSPITALS WOODHULL**

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate NYC Health + Hospitals Woodhull on their recognition from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for an outstanding commitment to LGBTQ healthcare equality.

In the HRC's Healthcare Equality Index, Woodhull earned the distinction of being a Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality. When compared with other hospitals, Woodhull exemplifies fair practices and policies towards the LGBTQ community.

This honor reflects Woodhull's deep and unwavering commitment to serving underrepresented communities with the utmost professionalism and care. To ensure cultural competence, staff at Woodhull have undergone comprehensive training to meet the needs of the LGBTQ community.

Woodhull has a proud history of serving the residents of North Brooklyn, regardless of their ability to pay. Many of these residents are my constituents and one of my top priorities is making sure that our diverse community is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

When it comes to receiving healthcare, no individual should fear discrimination based on sexual orientation. It is crucial that all Americans receive high quality care and I applaud Woodhull for their inclusivity and dedication to serving the LGBTQ community.

**HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM  
QUALIFIES FOR ROBOTICS  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cinco Ranch High School Robotics Team 624, CRYptonite, of Katy, TX, for qualifying for the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition World Championship.

To qualify for the FIRST World Championship, CRYptonite had to win the Chairman's Award, which goes to the team that best emulates the goals of FIRST. FIRST's mission is to inspire students to be tomorrow's science and technology leaders through engaging and innovative programs and competitions. To earn the Chairman's Award, CRYptonite had to demonstrate excellence over several years, by doing robot demos in schools, businesses and public venues. CRYptonite also played a big part in the building of the Robert Shaw Center for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), which has raised awareness and interest in robotics competitions in the Katy Independent School District. CRYptonite will compete in the FIRST World Championship in Houston this April 19 through 22.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to CRYptonite for qualifying for the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship. We wish them good luck and look forward to seeing their future success.

**HONORING HENRY "LIL SONNY"  
NICKSON, JR.**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tunica County Board Supervisor Henry "Lil Sonny" Nickson, Jr.

Supervisor Nickson was born to Mary and Henry Nickson, Sr. He has one sister, Sharla Brown-Nickson and was raised in Tunica, MS. Mr. Nickson is 40 years old. He is an 8th

grade Social Studies teacher at Tunica Middle School in the Tunica County School District. He previously served two terms on the Board of Alderman for the Town of Tunica. Mr. Nickson was the First African American elected to this position in Tunica County's history. He currently is in his second term as Tunica County Supervisor/District No. 4.

Supervisor Nickson is recognized amongst his family, his community, and his colleagues as a man of integrity and for the service, compassion, and outstanding spirit he has. He regularly attends and serves as a member of Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church in Tunica, Mississippi.

Supervisor Nickson attended and graduated from public high school in Tunica County. After earning his high school diploma from Rosa Fort High School (1994), he attended Jackson State University in Jackson, MS (Spr '99) as a Business Management Major. He became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Beta Chapter. He is a member of Keystone No. 20, Masonic Lodge. For a few years after graduating from Jackson State University, Mr. Nickson enrolled in graduate school at Jackson State University (MAT Alternative Route Teaching Program). Also, he worked as a substitute teacher at Murrah High School and Mazzio's Pizza in Jackson, MS. After 2 years in Jackson, he returned to Tunica to be closer to his children and family.

On his return back to his hometown, Henry started jobs as a teacher's aide in the Tunica County School District and Jailor at the Tunica County Sheriff's Department. Also, Henry began the journey to become a licensed teacher. After a year as a substitute teacher, in 2001 Henry was hired as a GED/ESL/BASIC skills instructor for Coahoma Community College (Adult Basic Education Program). During the next several years, Henry would get promoted at the Tunica County Sheriff's Department as: Jail Supervisor (Corporal), County Team Leader (Coahoma Community College/Adult Basic Education Program), served as Planning Commissioner (Tunica County District No. 4), served as Tunica County Coordinator for Congressman THOMPSON, and returned back to the Tunica County School District as an In-School Suspension Coordinator and GED instructor. In 2009, Henry obtained his teacher's license and was hired at Tunica Middle School as a Social Studies Teacher/Coach and in 2010 obtained his Masters of Art Degree in Teaching from Belhaven University. Henry is currently working on completing his EDS in Educational Leadership and Administration Program at Delta State University.

Although he excelled in his employment, Supervisor Nickson's political career has been rewarding. In 2005, He became the 1st African American to qualify and win a political seat in the Town as Alderman/Ward No. 5. After an unsuccessful bid for state representative/District No. 9 in 2007, he regrouped and in 2012 was elected to the Tunica County Board of Supervisors (after an unsuccessful bid in 2003) and is currently in his 2nd term as Vice-president of the Tunica County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Nickson is married to Lashunna Owens-Nickson (Jackson State University '04) of Heidelberg, MS. They have eight children: Henri, Chasidy, Anthony, James, Chasidy (Jackson State University), Khalid (Jackson State University), Khalil (Jackson State Univer-

sity) and Nikesha (Concorde Nursing Program).

Supervisor Henry "Lil Sonny" Nickson, Jr.'s leadership, passion, dedication, dependability, and service has made him synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best, elected official and community leader in the state of Mississippi. At the end of the day, Henry "Lil Sonny" Nickson, Jr. is recognized for his service to God, his family, his country, his community, and the people that seek his help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Henry "Lil Sonny" Nickson, Jr. for his dedication to serving this great state and country.

IN HONOR OF CAROL GUTIERREZ

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carol Gutierrez, a teacher in the Hillsborough City School District for 27 years, who is being honored with the Community Care Award from the Associated Parents' Group. This award is given to a non-resident employee of the school district who has made sustained, significant and lasting contributions that have touched the lives of our children and benefited the community as a whole.

Carol has taught at West and North Hillsborough Elementary schools and was also a writing enrichment teacher at South for one year. Her love of children and drive to prepare them for the real world and successful lives has earned her the admiration and adoration of her students, their parents and her colleagues alike. The school district is extraordinarily fortunate to have such a top-notch and dedicated teacher.

Carol's secret to success is that she teaches students to trust their own instincts and to follow their own passions. The students also learn to share those passions with fellow students in their own classes and in other classes, which creates a wonderful learning environment that nurtures individualism and community at the same time.

In her current position as a 2nd grade teacher at North, Carol incorporates art, technology, cooperative learning and exploration time to engage her students. Examples of such activities include Business Day, Design Thinking Challenges and Recycled Art. Her classroom is vibrant, comfortable, welcoming and open. It is with good reason that one of her recent students said, "School can't get better than this. I love Ms. Gutierrez."

As a 5th grade teacher at West, Carol and two of her colleagues developed and refined a community service jobs program and a trip to our Nation's Capital. They also differentiated instruction with theme projects, led a math peer tutor program at lunch and promoted interest in world culture by hosting an annual geography bee. Carol also served as a new teacher mentor for the district.

Carol was born in East Chicago, Indiana and earned her BA from U.C. Berkeley. She and her husband Michael Gutierrez have three children, Nikolas, Katie and Joseph. In her spare time, Carol enjoys spending time with her family, drawing, cooking and exercising.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in recog-

nizing an exemplary and beloved teacher in the Hillsborough City School District. Carol Gutierrez brings out the best in every single one of her students and sets them on a path to success and life-long learning.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GUAM CNMI VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation to authorize and establish an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, and direct revenue from the established system to fund CBP operations and staffing needs for ports of entry in Guam and the CNMI.

The regional Guam-CNMI VWP recognizes Guam's unique location in Asia, and the need to be more competitive for tourists from other Asian nations. With Guam's primary source of economic revenue being tourism from Asia, my legislation would address several issues that have hampered our visitor industry and that continue to cost CBP millions of dollars annually in processing costs. The majority of foreign arrivals at Guam International Airport are those traveling under the Guam-CNMI VWP, and long immigration lines are a recurring issue due to limited staffing capacity when arrivals peak at Guam International Airport. At their peak, sometimes 1,200 passengers arrive when multiple flights arrive nearly simultaneously the wait times at immigration can be as long as two and a half hours.

I recognize that there are complaints about long wait lines at other international ports of entry. However, the long wait-times have caused harm to Guam's reputation in our primary visitor markets of Japan and South Korea. In fact, Japan television shows and radio programs have mocked the long lines and wait times at Guam International Airport, which has negatively impacted Guam's standing as a family-friendly destination for our Asian allies. The flight from Japan or South Korea is a little over three hours and, sadly, some of these visitors have waited about as long, or at times longer, in line than it takes to travel from their home country to Guam. That is unacceptable and runs counter to the previous Administration's goal of improving the arrivals process for international travelers arriving in the United States, as outlined in a memorandum to heads of executive departments and agencies on May 22, 2014. My legislation would work to address the problems that are occurring with long wait times at our respective ports of entry. Tourism is critical to the economies of the region, and we cannot let an antiquated visitor entry system and inadequate staffing harm our economy.

Establishing an ESTA specific to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program would help to address several issues faced by visitors arriving at Guam International Airport. First, the current process relies on a paper-based system which is cumbersome and only adds to the delays when arriving. The bill would allow CBP to

automate that process and, as a result, save an estimated \$4 million annually that is used by CBP to process and file the paper forms. This is a commonsense reform that will save the federal government money and improve the customer experience at Guam International Airport and ports of entry in the CNMI.

Admittedly, CBP has the authority to create an ESTA system for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. However, they do not have the authority to direct revenues collected from this automated process towards staffing at ports of entry in Guam and CNMI. As such, it is the consensus of tourism industry leaders and other stakeholders that there is an ultimate need for this legislation. I am informed that staffing has not increased in Guam since after the 9/11 attacks. The CBP staffing pattern was sufficient, but as the number of tourists grows on Guam the lines have also grown and the staffing has not kept up with demand. Making the visitor entry process into ports of entry in Guam and CNMI electronic is part of the solution, but additional staffing is still required especially since nearly 50 percent of our visitors are first-time visitors and cannot avail themselves of Automated Passport Control (APC) systems.

I am proud of the innovative programming that brings people from all over the world to Guam. For example last year, Guam hosted the Festival of the Pacific Arts (FestPac) a quadrennial cultural event for island nations in the Pacific, which is the largest gathering for Pacific peoples to unite and strengthen our cultural ties. Over 12,000 visitors, cultural performers, and native artists came to Guam to participate in FestPac, and I appreciated the commitment of former Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske to ensure there was adequate staffing at Guam International Airport. But that additional staffing was accomplished by approving extra overtime for employees which is a costly endeavor. Events like FestPac show the maturation and growth of Guam's tourism industry. Improving the processes and capabilities of our ports of entry to ensure a pleasant experience for our visitors is a top priority, and the solutions must be long-standing and sustainable. We cannot simply rely on overtime of employees to meet the current and emerging demands at our main international port of entry.

An ESTA for the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program is an innovative, sustainable, common-sense, and cost-saving technological solution that would save the federal government millions, improve the visitor experience for our tourists, and increase resources to improve CBP capabilities by freeing up important personnel capacity to effectively monitor real threats to our national security. An electronic system for travel authorization would ultimately modernize and improve a Visa Waiver Program that continues to benefit the people of Guam and CNMI. My bill would help ensure that federal policy enhances economic opportunities and development in our region instead of being an impediment.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the American Health Care Act—TrumpCare—and to express my relief that it was removed from consideration before a vote. This proposal would have been a disaster for Oregonians and Americans. People would pay more and get less, and if they couldn't afford to pay more, they'd be out of luck.

Many would face a future without health insurance, or with inadequate coverage. The bill was especially bad for seniors, whose rates would have increased significantly.

Without coverage, working families are a cancer diagnosis or a heart attack away from economic ruin. When I worked at Legal Aid, many clients were struggling to repay medical debt after getting sick with no insurance or insurance that didn't cover their needs. We can't go back to the days when medical debt forced people into bankruptcy.

At my recent town hall meeting in McMinnville, Oregon a woman told me that her father-in-law suffered a massive stroke. Without coverage under the ACA, their family wouldn't have been able to afford the helicopter transport to Portland or his care at a rehabilitation facility.

Astoundingly, the TrumpCare bill also eliminated essential health benefits; several important consumer protections the Affordable Care Act added to insurance. By removing these benefits, TrumpCare would not cover many critical services, like mental health care, emergency room services, and maternity care. This change in the bill, added late at night in a desperate but unsuccessful attempt to gain more support from conservatives, would mean that people would once again buy insurance policies that would not cover their needs.

Additionally, TrumpCare made meaningless the ACA guarantee that people with pre-existing conditions cannot be discriminated against or denied coverage. With TrumpCare, people with pre-existing conditions would face insurmountable bills if unexpected illness or injuries occur.

Finally, women would stand to lose significantly under TrumpCare. Women who get life-saving cancer screenings and care at Planned Parenthood would have to find a new provider. Without insurance plans covering maternity care, women would struggle to get prenatal care—or simply go without. New mothers without insurance could face \$50,000 in bills after a cesarean section.

I was strongly opposed to TrumpCare because it was terrible policy for Oregonians and Americans. I will continue to do everything in my power to protect Oregonians from the pay more, get less policies that are currently under consideration by the leadership of the House of Representatives.

Americans need the stability of knowing they will have affordable health care coverage. I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues on policies that improve access to affordable health care for everyone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 2017, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber due to a family medical emergency. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote on two legislative measures on the floor.

I want to express my strong support for H. Res. 92, a resolution condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles. I am a cosponsor of this measure. Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 209, I would have voted "aye."

Likewise, I support H.R. 479, the North Korea State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act of 2017. This bill expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of North Korea likely meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism and, if so, should be so designated. The bill also requires the State Department to provide a report to Congress on actions the Government of North Korea has taken to support terrorism. Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 210, I would have voted "aye."

**NORTH KOREA STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM DESIGNATION ACT (H.R. 479) AND CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BALLISTIC MISSILES (H. RES. 92)**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, North Korea is an existential threat to its neighbors and a global menace that requires constant vigilance and close cooperation between the U.S. and its regional allies. Ignoring North Korea's dangerous actions has been a bipartisan problem of the last three Administrations—and it is one that continues to need bipartisan solutions from the Congress.

Secretary Tillerson announced recently that the U.S. will no longer be guided by the policy of "strategic patience." The U.S. cannot sit on the sidelines while Kim Jong-un proliferates nuclear and missile technology, sponsors terrorism and human trafficking efforts, and continues to abuse the North Korean people.

We trust that the threat posed by North Korea will be high on the agenda of President Trump and President Xi meeting this week. As we all know, the Chinese government's actions have not always been helpful.

Though the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on North Korea recommended the U.N. impose targeted sanctions on the North Korean leaders responsible for massive crimes against humanity, China blocked effective U.N. actions.

China's February announcement that it would cut off coal exports to North Korea is a needed and important step. But senior Chinese officials, such as Foreign Minister Wang Yi, continue to describe the China-North Korea relationship as being one of "like lips to teeth." In other words, there is little daylight between Beijing and Pyongyang.

Such statements are not helpful when North Korea's nuclear proliferation and its development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles threaten to destabilize the world. The U.S. Intelligence Community's 2016 Worldwide Threat Assessment concluded that North Korea is "committed to developing a long-range, nuclear-armed missile that is capable of posing a direct threat to the United States.

Despite China's objections, there is need for deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and to conduct joint military exercises to strengthen coordination and cooperation posed by the threat of the North Korean military.

The threat to the U.S. and its allies is not only in East Asia, but in the Middle East as well. We are certain that Iran, to whom the past Administration released billions of dollars, is one of North Korea's nuclear partners. As witnesses testified at a joint hearing last July held jointly by three Foreign Affairs subcommittees, there is ample evidence that Iran has a longstanding nuclear collaboration with North Korea.

We should be very concerned that the Iranians will at some point acquire fissile material beyond what they are allowed to produce for themselves and threaten U.S. regional allies, including Israel.

We must continue to uncover both Pyongyang's enablers and those it enables. We should target with sanctions those individuals responsible for gross human rights violations inside the so-called "hermit kingdom" and stop money and materials from reaching terrorists and nuclear proliferators globally.

There is growing evidence that sanctions are having some effect. We know that high-level diplomats, military leaders, and the families of high-ranking officials are defecting—they are recognizing that they will be held accountable if they continue to support Kim Jong-Un's barbaric regime.

I urge support for the legislation offered today and commend my colleagues for bringing this important legislation before the House.

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOSE: THE  
SUPREME COURT

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the United States Senate will consider the nomination of Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court. Since President Trump first nominated Judge Gorsuch in January of this year, there has been fierce debate regarding his credentials, political leanings, and the circumstances surrounding his nomination.

The circumstances surrounding Judge Gorsuch's nomination are alarming. It is only due to Republican obstructionism during President Obama's Administration that Congress is even considering Judge Gorsuch's nomination. After the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016, Republicans in the Senate made an unprecedented move to stall the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland—President Obama's nominee—for a record 293 days. It was the source of tremendous tension during President Obama's final year in the

White House, and undermined the integrity of the highest court in our lands and our delicate system of checks and balances. Under Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL's leadership, Senate Republicans refused to hold a single hearing, vote, or take a single action to advance Judge Garland's nomination.

Freshly uncovered ties between President Trump and his close allies and advisors to the Kremlin have also raised numerous concerns about his nominees and the individuals who President Trump is selecting to fill the most trusted positions within our government. With the resignation of retired Gen. Michael Flynn, former National Security Advisor, former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, and foreign policy advisor Carter Page, there is a clear pattern emerging in President Trump's Administration. Members of Congress and others have begun asking questions, and the American people deserve answers before we allow President Trump's nominations to move forward.

Judge Gorsuch's record on the issues also deserves additional scrutiny. While Judge Gorsuch's conservative views are not an outright cause for concern, his record on issues impacting minority groups, women, and workers, and his positions favoring police immunity and corporate interests are cause for concern.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to come together to carefully evaluate Judge Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court. Given President Trump's alleged ties to the Russian Government, I believe it is wise to suspend any of President Trump's nominations until Congress can satisfy any concerns surrounding these ties. It is also hypocritical for Republicans in Congress to cry foul of Democrats for trying to delay Judge Gorsuch's nomination when just a few months prior, Republicans had unjustly delayed President Obama's nominee for a record-setting 293 days. We must act in the best interests of our own country, and I believe that entails delaying the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch.

OPPOSING NOMINATION OF JUDGE  
NEIL M. GORSUCH TO BE ASSO-  
CIATE JUSTICE OF THE SU-  
PREME COURT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and member of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, I rise today to express my views regarding the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and the final arbiter of our Constitution and laws, and its rulings can impact the lives and rights of all Americans as shown in the cases of *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*; *Miranda v. Arizona*; *Gideon v. Wainwright*; *New York Times v. Sullivan*; *Obergefell v. Hodges*; and *Shelby County v. Holder*, to name but a few.

Judge Gorsuch is a judge with an agenda, as demonstrated by his record on the federal

bench, as well as his writings, speeches, and activities throughout his career.

Judge Gorsuch's frequent dissents and concurrences show he is out of the mainstream of legal thought and unwilling to accept the constructs of binding precedent and stare decisis when they dictate results he disfavors.

Judge Gorsuch's appointment to the Court would tip the balance in a direction that would undermine many of the core rights and legal protections Americans cherish.

For the reasons I will discuss in detail, the Senate should reject his nomination and not consent to his confirmation as the next Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Election Night the President-Elect pledged to the nation that he would be a president to all Americans.

That pledge will ring hollow to tens of millions of Americans in light of his nomination of Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Perhaps nothing would do more to reassure the American people that the President is committed to unifying the nation than the nomination and appointment of a person to be Associate Justice who has a record of championing and protecting, rather than opposing and undermining, the precious right to vote; the constitutionally guaranteed right of privacy; criminal justice reform, and support for reform of the nation's immigration system so that it is fair and humane.

That is not to be found in the record or character of Judge Gorsuch.

It should not be forgotten that the vacancy at issue was created in February 2016 by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia and should have been filled by the confirmation of the eminently qualified Judge Merrick Garland, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

In fact, the only reason Judge Garland is not now on the Court is because Republican Senators disregarded a century of precedent and their constitutional oaths and refused to consider the nomination because it was made by President Obama.

Judge Gorsuch's conservative ideology and professed judicial philosophy of "original intent," which more accurately should be called the doctrine of predetermined result, has been at the core of his prior legal decisions.

He is not an unbiased judge; at best, he is a younger, more charming version of Judge Robert Bork, who was rejected 58–42 by the Senate in 1987.

Unlike his predecessors, Presidents Obama, Clinton, Reagan, Eisenhower among them, the current President did not consult in advance with the bipartisan leadership of the Senate and its Judiciary Committee.

Instead, the President selected Judge Gorsuch from the list of names provided him by the right-wing legal group, the Federalists Society.

Judge Gorsuch's adherence to originalism is alarming and should raise concerns for all Americans because on a narrowly divided Court, his could be the deciding vote to dismantle many of the constitutional safeguards and protections upheld by the Court that have moved the country forward and made it better.

Judge Gorsuch has a history of ruling against people who have used the legal system to hold government officials accountable.

He has also used the bench to rule in favor of large corporations routinely and against the rights of workers.

He has been lenient on those that have used excessive force and police brutality.

His record demonstrates hostility towards equal opportunity, worker's rights, women's access to reproductive healthcare services, and protections for persons with disabilities.

For example, in *TransAm Trucking, Inc. v. Administrative Review Board*, the majority held that a trucking company unlawfully fired an employee in violation of federal whistleblower protections.

The employee, Alphonse Maddin, was a truck driver whose brakes broke down in the middle of a freezing January night in Illinois.

The truck heater didn't work either, and he got so cold that he couldn't feel his feet or torso, and he had trouble breathing.

Nonetheless, his boss ordered him to wait in the truck until a repairperson arrived.

After waiting for three hours, Mr. Maddin finally drove off in the truck and left the trailer behind, in search of assistance.

His employer fired him a week later for violating company policy by abandoning his load while under dispatch.

The panel majority said the firing was unlawful, but Judge Gorsuch dissented and said the employee should have followed orders even at the risk of serious injury.

In *NLRB v. Community Health Services, Inc.*, Judge Gorsuch again dissented from a majority opinion that found in favor of employees, where a hospital was required to award back pay to 13 employees whose hours had been reduced in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

Judge Gorsuch's frequent and recurring dissents in workers' rights cases suggest a refusal to follow binding case law when it leads to results that favor workers rather than businesses and employers.

In *Strickland v. UPS*, Gorsuch dissented from a ruling giving a 1 female UPS driver a chance to prove sex discrimination, arguing that the plaintiff had not provided evidence that she was treated less favorably than her male colleagues even though her coworkers testified and gave written testimony detailing the level of mistreatment they witnessed her receiving while employed by UPS.

*Hwang v. Kansas State University* involved a professor employed by Kansas State University who was diagnosed with cancer, and after treatments requested an extension for her disability due to a flu outbreak on the campus, which could potentially compromise her health.

Judge Gorsuch ruled that "showing up" for work is an essential job function and that the Rehabilitation Act should not be used as a safety net for employees who cannot work.

In *Planned Parenthood Association of Utah v. Herbert*, Judge Gorsuch dissented against the court's majority decision to decline a full court review of the case, in which, Governor Herbert of Utah stripped federal funding away from Planned Parenthood.

Neither party requested a full court review, however, Judge Gorsuch desired to deviate from court practices and norms to signal his favor for Governor Herbert's decision.

This particular case amplifies Judge Gorsuch's inability to remain impartial when deciding cases that may conflict with his personal beliefs.

Throughout his tenure as a Judge, Judge Gorsuch's record indicates his hostility toward women's rights and his willingness to overlook institutions that discriminate against women.

Women will likely be disproportionately impacted by Judge Gorsuch's appointment to the United States Supreme Court and any decisions related to health, labor, and reproductive justice.

Judge Gorsuch's record shows that he believes police officers always should be granted qualified immunity, allowing police officers and other government officials to avoid being held accountable for the excessive use of force.

His record on police immunity aligns with President Trump's belief in police impunity.

In cases where victims of excessive force did not pose an imminent threat to police safety, Judge Gorsuch has a tendency to side with police.

Judge Gorsuch's judicial record on police accountability minimizes the Fourth Amendment protections against warrantless search and seizure.

In three separate cases, Judge Gorsuch ruled in favor of police searches of vehicles without a warrant.

As an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Judge Gorsuch would be one of the nine individuals tasked with one of the most critical systems of American democracy.

Because of the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States, women have been granted reproductive rights, de jure segregation and discrimination against African-Americans has been abolished and their right to vote protected, workers have been granted security from exploitative labor practices; and marriage equality is the law of the land.

If confirmed to a evenly divided United States Supreme Court, it is unlikely that Judge Gorsuch would have a balanced, unbiased view of important issues.

Judge Gorsuch's extreme judicial philosophy of original intent would likely lead him to cast decisive, out-of-the-mainstream votes that reverse significant gains in the areas of police accountability, civil rights and liberties, women's reproductive rights, and workers' rights.

Judge Gorsuch's record in each of these areas should raise concerns for all Americans.

Opposing Judge Gorsuch is not a difficult decision; for members of the communities represented by CBC members, it is a matter of survival, of life and death.

An Associate Justice would be expected to be an independent jurist capable of rendering judicial decisions that prevent executive overreach.

No senator should vote to confirm the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch as Associate Justice if he or she has the slightest doubt that he possesses the character, qualities, integrity, and commitment to justice and equality needed for this position.

[From the National Law Journal, Mar. 22, 2017]

#### LAWYERS IN GORSUCH 'FROZEN TRUCKER' CASE SURPRISED AT ATTENTION

(By Marcia Coyle)

The case of the frozen trucker sounds like a Conan Doyle mystery but it has become a focal point in Judge Neil Gorsuch's confirmation hearings, to the surprise of the lawyers who faced off before the judge—and to the frustration of one of them.

"Would I have anticipated this last year? Of course not," said Robert Fetter of Detroit's Miller Cohen, who represented the truck driver in a suit over the lawfulness of his termination. "It's just a strange set of circumstances that gets this case on the national radar."

Attorney Brad Thoenen of Kansas City, Missouri's Seigfried Bingham, who represented the trucking company in the case, said: "From a professional perspective, I'm very intrigued how this little case that I got to work on now comes up in something as important as this." He added: "It's kind of cool."

The case is *Transam Trucking v. Administrative Review Board*, which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit—Gorsuch's home for the past decade—ruled on last year. The 2-1 panel, with Gorsuch in dissent, ruled for truck driver Alphonse Maddin.

Gorsuch's dissent has loomed large in U.S. Senate Democrats' portrayal of the nominee as a judge who more often than not sides with the companies against the "little guy." Democrats have challenged Gorsuch often about the dissent during his Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, which continued Wednesday.

The backstory, in brief: [Alphonse] Maddin, driving through Illinois, had waited more than three hours in freezing temperatures in an unheated truck for assistance. The brakes had frozen on his trailer. He was fired after disconnecting the trailer and driving off because his feet and legs were going numb. His employer had instructed him to stay with the truck until a repair team arrived or to drive the truck while pulling the trailer with the failed brakes.

In his dissent, Gorsuch said the law only forbids firing an employee who refuses to operate a vehicle out of safety concerns. "The trucker in this case wasn't fired for refusing to operate his vehicle," Gorsuch wrote. "The trucker was fired only after he declined the statutorily protected option (refuse to operate) and chose instead to operate his vehicle in a manner he thought wise but his employer did not."

#### RELUCTANT PARTICIPANT

Maddin and two others who were negatively affected by Gorsuch opinions recently appeared at a press conference sponsored by several Senate Democrats. A Detroit resident, Maddin has been unable to find work as a driver since his firing seven years ago and is "somewhat homeless," said Fetter, who has stayed in touch.

"He's a reluctant participant in these things," Fetter said in an interview this week. "He is just a regular guy and kind of shocked his case is getting this attention."

The case began more than seven years ago when Maddin, on his own, filed a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The agency undertook an investigation. Maddin had been unable to find a lawyer to represent him until he reached Fetter. That happened around the time the OSHA ruled against him.

"I saw there was an issue and wanted to represent him," Fetter recalled. "I had a lot of empathy for what he went through."

Through administrative proceedings, Maddin ultimately won. The company then turned to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

"I'm a Detroit lawyer," Fetter said. "I practice in circuit courts pretty regularly, either the Sixth or D.C. circuits. We have maybe one case in the history of the firm that gets to the Tenth Circuit; it has pretty egregious facts and we happen to get to Judge Gorsuch on the panel. He writes a dissent with this textualist argument that keys it up for interest in a Supreme Court confirmation hearing. That set of circumstances is pretty astounding."

At oral argument in the case, Fetter said, Gorsuch was "incredibly" hostile in tone towards him and the Labor Department attorney who shared his argument time.

"It was not pleasant," Fetter said of the experience.

Fetter said he has been watching some of Gorsuch's hearing and would normally pay attention to a U.S. Supreme Court confirmation hearing. "Whether I would watch as much as I did [Tuesday], probably not," he added. "I've looked at this one with particular interest. I'm watching Judge Gorsuch being grilled by [Sen. Al] Franken over my case and I'm feeling some sympathy for him, but then I remember my case, and I have no sympathy."

The Gorsuch hearing is the first that Thoenen, the lawyer for Transam, has watched.

"We were certainly interested in seeing how [the Transam case] would come up," he said. "We were aware of it when he was nominated and as the nomination process has gone on, we've been watching to see how it gets portrayed."

#### MUCH MORE TO THE STORY

The portrayal of the case, he said, has been a source of frustration to the firm, which has represented Transam for a number of years.

"The narrative is: Frozen trucker and frozen trucker gets fired from job," Thoenen said. "There's much, much more to the story that doesn't come out."

Thoenen continued: "As soon as he made his original complaint, OSHA came into Transam and had a couple of days investigation, talked to all of the people involved and found no violation, no retaliation by Transam. [Maddin] lost that round. That never gets mentioned in the narrative right now, only that seven judges ruled for him and Gorsuch is [the] only one to rule against him."

The facts, as found by an administrative law judge, were "vigorously disputed," including a nonworking heater and auxiliary power, Thoenen said.

Thoenen's firm, Seigfreid Bingham, is "kind of a unique little player in the market," he said. "We view ourselves as outside general counsel for a lot of clients," he said. "Primarily we represent clients in and around Kansas City."

Thoenen came into the case after the administrative law judge's opinion.

As surprising as is the trucker case's notoriety, more surprising perhaps is how long it took to end the case itself, Thoenen said.

"This event occurred in January 2009," he recalled. "We got the appellate opinion in 2016. Four years before that was the ALJ decision and another two to two-and-half years for the Administrative Review Board to affirm."

During the Gorsuch hearings, senators and the nominee talked about access to justice and the length of litigation, Thoenen said. "It is unbelievable that this case would go on for seven-and-a-half years."

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine improving border security and public safety.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine protecting our midshipmen, focusing on preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

SD-192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider proposed legislation entitled, "Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver (WILD) Act", S. 518, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works, S. 692, to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance, and S. 675, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the decline of economic opportunity in the United States, focusing on causes and consequences.

LHOB-1100

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of Defense  
To hold closed hearings to examine intelligence programs and threat assessment.

SVC-217

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations  
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine a progress report on conflict minerals.

SD-419

3 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Subcommittee on Economic Policy  
To hold hearings to examine the current state of retirement security in the United States.

SD-538

##### APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine United States Southern Command and United States Northern Command.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security  
To hold hearings to examine FAA reauthorization, focusing on perspectives on rural air service and the general aviation community.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the 2017 tax filing season, focusing on Internal Revenue Service operations and the taxpayer experience.

SD-215

Joint Committee on the Library

Organizational business to consider committee rules for the 115th Congress.

SC-4

10:10 a.m.

Joint Committee on Printing  
Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules for the 115th Congress.

SC-4

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219