

America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 69–71.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 69—"yes"—Expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7, 2008, as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens.

Rollcall No. 70—"yes"—Supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month."

Rollcall No. 71—"yes"—Honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States.

#### IN HONOR OF JOHN STEINBECK

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our most famous writers and native sons, John Steinbeck. On what would have been his 106th birthday, my community celebrates Steinbeck's world-renowned body of work and respected place in American literary history.

Born in Salinas in 1902 and raised in and around Monterey Bay, John Steinbeck established himself as one of America's most widely read writers through works including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *East of Eden*. As an author and journalist, Steinbeck became known for exploring the plight of Americans during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, garnering international recognition and admiration for his socially astute and engaging writing over several decades.

Graduating from Salinas High School before attending Stanford University, John Steinbeck began writing from an early age. From his first major success with *Tortilla Flat* in 1935, Steinbeck's writing over the coming years was deeply entwined with the Monterey Bay region. Set against the backdrops of Soledad, Monterey, and the Salinas Valley, the experi-

ences and struggles of Steinbeck's characters reflected the social and economic challenges of the times. Much of his earliest writing offered a vibrant and realistic insight into the lives of agricultural and migrant workers during some of the most formative periods of the 20th century. During World War Two, Steinbeck worked in Europe as a foreign correspondent for the *Herald Tribune* of New York.

Steinbeck's profound talent for socially perceptive and captivating writing was continually acknowledged throughout his lifetime. He was honored with numerous awards and prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize for *The Grapes of Wrath* and the 1962 Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1963 he was also named an Honorary Consultant in American Literature to the Library of Congress.

Madam Speaker, in view of this impressive record of recognition for John Steinbeck as an American literary great, today I too would like to honor him for his lasting contribution to literature and culture in this country.

#### HONORING THE POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2008 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Danny Whittenton, a history teacher at Lakeland's Kathleen High School in Florida's 12th Congressional District, for being recognized as the Polk County Public Schools 2008 "Teacher of the Year."

Danny Whittenton has devoted his career to teaching American history to three generations of Kathleen High School students. Ensuring that students have the opportunity to learn and experience the importance of history and civic responsibility, he continues to develop innovative teaching methods and is committed to making knowledge accessible to all students.

Polk County Public Schools employ over 12,300 employees, making them the largest employer in Polk County. Over 6,770 are fellow teachers. From those teachers, more than 300 applications were submitted for consideration. Danny was one of eight finalists whose nominee application was reviewed. His leadership, community and school involvement and teaching style earned him the honor of "Teacher of the Year" by a committee of community members, former teachers of the year and school-related employees of the year.

In 2006, Danny retired but it was short-lived as his will to teach was too strong and he returned to the classroom after only 1 month of retirement. Clearly his dedication is unwavering.

Thirty-eight years as an educator taught Danny Whittenton how to truly engage students. Dressing up as historical figures including Davy Crockett and George Washington helps spark his students' interest, and he utilizes game show concepts like History Jeopardy and History Trivial Pursuit as a contemporary way to teach history. His students also take part in the political process; organizing a Get-Out-The-Vote project, corresponding with candidates and even providing transportation to the polls for elderly citizens.

Danny is a leading example of how teachers raise student achievement through an exceptional approach. Principal Cecil McClellan of Kathleen High School shared that, "Danny is an excellent communicator with peers, parents and students. He possesses the ability to have students on the edge of their seats while engaging them in the learning process."

I would like to extend my congratulations to Danny Whittenton for exemplifying the core qualities of a teacher. His hard work and dedication have persevered through many years of teaching, decades of change, and thousands of students. I commend Danny for his service to three generations of Polk County students and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

#### HONORING KYLE WILLIAM DOWNS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle William Downs, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle William Downs for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008 I missed rollcall votes 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 72, 73, 74, 76 and 77, and "aye" on 75.

#### TRIBUTE TO ISAAC W. WILLIAMS, SR.

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, a dedicated staff member and a tremendous South Carolinian, Isaac W. "Ike" Williams, Sr. Ike passed away February 15, 2008, and this significant loss has been felt deeply by his family, his friends, his community and his State.

Ike was born in the Union Heights neighborhood of Charleston, the son of the late Reverend Willie Williams and Inez Williams Brown. He grew up in a large family with ten brothers and sisters, and attended Charleston County public schools.

In 1967, Ike received a bachelor's degree in professional biology from South Carolina State College. During his senior year at S.C. State, he was a leader in organizing student protests, which ultimately led to the removal and replacement of the president of the university and improved overall conditions at the school. After graduating he was commissioned through the Army ROTC in Army Air Defense in 1967, and served on active duty in the United States and Korea from 1967–1969. He was active as a youth in the N.A.A.C.P. and was president of the South Carolina Conference Youth Division from 1963–1967. Ike also served as chairman of the N.A.A.C.P. National Youth Work Committee from 1966 to 1976.

As a student leader, Ike led efforts in Charleston, Orangeburg and statewide to open public accommodations to African Americans. He actively participated in sit-ins, kneel-ins, walk-ins, and pray-ins, and was subsequently jailed over 17 times. He also organized communities all over South Carolina during voter registration efforts prior to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

In 1969, Ike was hired as Field Director of the South Carolina N.A.A.C.P., a position he held until 1983. He is noted for accomplishing several landmark achievements during this period. He filed reapportionment lawsuits to eliminate multi-member districts in the South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate, organized the first efforts to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a legal holiday in South Carolina, and he drew public attention to inadequate, low-income housing in South Carolina. Ike also facilitated investigations to end police use of excessive force, as well as mobilized citizens in Bowman and St. Matthews to improve their local educational systems and gain election to their local school boards.

In addition, Ike expanded the fundraising ability of the South Carolina Conference of Branches N.A.A.C.P. by creating the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner, a vehicle that raises several hundred thousand dollars annually. During this time, he also became one of the founders and organizers of the South Carolina United Citizens Party. Ike always credited his civil rights involvement to his sister, Mildred, his father, Mrs. Mary Lee Davis and Reverend I. DeQuincy Newman.

From 1983–1992, Mr. Williams worked as a consultant to many businesses and corporations in South Carolina, and served as an Associate Publisher for the South Carolinian, a monthly news magazine. He also worked as an advertising consultant for the South Carolina Black Media group.

In 1992, Ike and William DeLoach spearheaded my successful campaign to become the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina since post-Reconstruction. He joined my Congressional staff after the campaign and served as District Aide for 15 years.

For his lifetime of service, Ike received numerous awards from the N.A.A.C.P., many social and civic organizations, and was named to

Who's Who in America. He was dedicated to community service and served on the I. DeQuincy Newman Foundation at the University of South Carolina. He was Chairman of the E.A.R. Montgomery Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Richland Primary Healthcare Association, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Trio Program at the University of South Carolina.

Ike was a member of First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a Prince Hall Free and Accepted Mason and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Ike leaves a host of friends and relatives to mourn his memory, including his wife the former Evelyn Tobin of Columbia, and three children: Dechancela Evette, Isaac, Jr. and Shelley Nicole.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Ike Williams. He was a man of deep faith, who always lived by the admonition in the Book of James that it is not enough to tell those in need to go in faith. Ike was a man that black, white, young, old, weak and strong sought out in their time of need, and he tried to never leave anyone wanting. Although his presence will be sorely missed, his legacy lives on the countless people he touched over the years, and I am thankful to be counted in that number.

#### HONORING MATTHEW ALBERT GANDY

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Albert Gandy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Albert Gandy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 72: "nay"; rollcall 73: "nay"; rollcall 74: "nay"; rollcall 75: "yea"; rollcall 76: "yea"; rollcall 77: "nay."

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM (BILL) DENNISON

#### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to express my warm thanks, congratulations, and best wishes to William (Bill) Dennison. Mr. Dennison is being recognized by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and will be the recipient of its highest honor, the Francis H. Raymond Award for his 30 years of service and commitment to the California forest industry.

After being raised in rural northern California, Mr. Dennison earned a bachelor of science degree in forestry from the University of California, Berkeley in 1959. Bill's passion for the forest began while working for the Diamond Match Lumber Company in Stirling City, and within a few short years, he became a registered professional forester.

Mr. Dennison's knowledge and leadership in the forest industry set him apart from others and quickly qualified him to take the reins as the vice president and later president of the California Forestry Association (CFA). During his 14 year tenure, Bill represented the industry both in Sacramento and Washington, DC, and was able to navigate CFA through some of the most difficult forest management issues it ever faced.

Throughout his career, Mr. Dennison has distinguished himself as a visionary leader with the ability to educate the public on the value that California forest products provide. Bill was a critical member of the Quincy Library Group, helped organize the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition and later served as the Executive Director of the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference.

Although Mr. Dennison's accomplishments in the forest industry are legendary, his greatest legacy may be his commitment to advancing forestry education programs and creating a network of forest community organizations known as the Alliance for Environment and Resources that are today the model throughout the country.

Most recently, Mr. Dennison served as the Third District Supervisor for Plumas County. He quickly became a national leader on resource conservation, water quality and rural management issues while serving as Chairman of the Public Lands Steering Committee for the National Association of Counties.

Bill has served on numerous boards and commissions and has received dozens of community and national awards including: the Plaque of Commendation by the National Forest Products Association; Award of Appreciation for Services by the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition; and my favorite, selected twice with his wife Pat, as the Grand Marshall for the Chester Rotary Club Fourth of July Parade.

It is with deep respect and personal gratitude that I thank Bill Dennison for his service to the forest industry and to the citizens of Northern California.