

building from the GSA. Under this agreement, the Galveston Historical Foundation took responsibility for performing renovations on the U.S. Custom House. In 2008, the house was inundated with six feet of flood waters from Hurricane Ike. Fortunately, the Galveston Historical Foundation has been able to complete restoration of the first floor of the Custom House earlier this year.

Madam Speaker, by owning as opposed to leasing, the Galveston Historical Foundation will be able to improve this historical structure for future generations of Texans. It is difficult to think of a more appropriate owner for the U.S. Custom House than the Galveston Historical Foundation. Founded in 1954, the Galveston Historical Foundation is one of the Nation's largest local preservation organizations. Over the last 56 years, this foundation has expanded its mission to encompass community redevelopment, public education, historic preservation advocacy, maritime preservation and stewardship of historic properties. Today, the Galveston Historical Foundation has over 2,000 members representing individuals, families, and businesses across Texas, the U.S., and around the world.

The Galveston Historical Foundation's accomplishments include the redevelopment of The Strand; the rescue and restoration of the 1877 iron barque the ELISSA; the revitalization of historic residential neighborhoods and creation of historic districts; and the conception of signature events including Dickens on The Strand and the Galveston Historic Homes Tour.

The Galveston Historical Foundation has received numerous awards and honors. For example, they have twice received the National Trust for Historic Preservation's prestigious Honor Award. In 1991, the Galveston Historical Foundation was the first recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, and in 1995, received the National Trust's first ever award for organizational excellence. The American Institute of Architects has presented the foundation a Citation of Honor for its ongoing contribution to urban design and the quality of life in Galveston. In addition, the Association for Preservation Technology International honored the Galveston Historical Foundation with a Presidential Citation in 2004.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the Galveston Historical Foundation for acquiring the U.S. Custom House, and I extend my thanks to the Galveston Historical Foundation for all they do to preserve Galveston's rich heritage.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION  
FOR JOSEPH BLAIR

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Blair, who is celebrating 10 years of unselfish service and dedication to hundreds of youth through his Arizona Basketball Academy.

For young people in my community, these camps are unique because they are provided at no cost to participants and are conducted by a former University of Arizona Wildcat bas-

ketball player who went on to play the game professionally.

Joseph Blair started his program by traveling to various Boys & Girls Club locations, sharing basketball and life skills. The sessions evolved and have been consolidated so they now also benefit teens from Tucson Parks & Recreation and the Tucson Urban League, among others.

The growth of Mr. Blair's altruistic donations of time, influence and funding are paralleled by his athletic endeavors. His global career as an international ambassador of basketball and good will was launched at the University of Arizona, where he was the 6-foot-10-inch "big man." As a Wildcat, he led the team to appearances at Madison Square Garden, the Great Alaskan Shoot-Out and the Maui Classic as well as games in Australia and in the 1994 NCAA Final Four.

Mr. Blair was picked in the second round of the 1996 NBA draft, but opted to pursue a career in Europe, playing in France, Greece, Turkey, Russia and as a member of the famed Harlem Globetrotters. Most of his international career was in Italy where Mr. Blair played in the mountains of Biella, the seashores of Pesaro and in the city of Milan. Mr. Blair is fluently bilingual and loved the rich culture of his adopted home.

While abroad, Mr. Blair earned numerous accolades and was named the Most Valuable Player of the Euroleague in 2003.

His understanding of how basketball can have a positive influence on young people has gone far beyond his own experiences on the court. His empathy for youth started during these years when Mr. Blair conducted basketball clinics in Greece and created a basketball academy in Italy.

Mr. Blair now is retired from basketball, but his philanthropic contributions continue. In addition to teaching athletic and life skills at his basketball academy, he is deeply involved with the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson where he and his staff provide and serve dinners for patients' families during the academy's week of camp.

At the end of his camp, Mr. Blair visits young patients in the pediatric unit of University Medical Center in Tucson, bringing smiles to them through gifts and an exhibition of his basketball skills.

Mr. Blair has worked and travelled in many other countries but has remained true to his roots. He is a living testimony of how to give back to one's community, not only as a big man, but as a man with a big heart.

I am proud to recognize Joseph Blair on the 10th anniversary of his Arizona Basketball Academy and I join with a grateful community to commend him for his valuable contributions to the young people of Tucson and Southern Arizona. Thank you Joseph for being such a great role model and for all that you do to help our youth develop their athletic and leadership skills.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION FOR  
THE DISPLAY OF STATE AND  
TERRITORY FLAGS AT THE  
WASHINGTON MONUMENT

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that the flags of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of the United States encircle the Washington Monument.

Standing at 555 feet and 5½ inches tall, the Washington Monument is the most prominent structure in the nation's capital and is the world's tallest stone structure and the world's tallest obelisk. Completed in 1884, it memorializes the first President of the United States, President George Washington, who led our country to independence and helped shaped the role of the presidency and the course of our democracy in its early days. It was most fitting then that Congress in 1833 established the Washington National Monument Society to create a monument in honor of the Father of our Country.

Today, the Washington Monument serves as a reminder of the greatness of this Nation, as an object of pride to the American people and of admiration to all who see it.

The legislation I am proposing directs the U.S. National Park Service through the Secretary of Interior, to ensure that the flags of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of the United States encircle the Washington Monument. As an object of pride to the American people, I think it is most fitting that the flags of all States, DC and U.S. Territories are flown at the Washington Monument.

Yesterday, we celebrated our national Flag Day by commemorating the adoption of the national flag of the United States as proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson on June 14, 1916. As such, a public display of State and Territory flags at the Washington Monument will be an opportunity for each State and Territory to share its own uniqueness through its icons and figures representing the traditions, values, and local histories that collectively have made the United States.

Flags have always been a part of our history and traditions. This legislation will ensure that every American will be part of one of our great national treasures.

WORLD OCEAN DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1330, recognizing June 8 as World Ocean Day. This is only the second year that World Ocean Day has been officially recognized. Unfortunately, now is a tragically appropriate time for all of us to recognize and honor our nation's oceans.

The ongoing British Petroleum oil spill makes all of us realize how much our lives and the fate of our planet are intertwined with

the well-being of our oceans. It should not have taken millions of gallons of oil destroying the Gulf to have served as a wakeup call that our ocean waters are treasures that must be preserved and protected. The workers who risk their lives every day on oil rigs to provide for America's energy needs knew how vital these oceans were. So did those of us who enjoy the bounty of shrimp and oysters harvested from the sea. The dolphins, sea turtles and pelicans and thousands of species dependent on the health of our waters were already aware about the precarious state of our oceans.

Oil-soaked beaches in the Gulf now threaten the livelihoods of thousands of small business owners and fishermen as well as wildlife on and below the water's surface. British Petroleum was drilling in waters owned by the American people. The ocean belongs to all of us collectively, and none of us as individuals—or corporations. Even before this disaster, they were in a crisis, thanks to coastal development and sprawl, pollution, overfishing and an absence of government leadership.

I am pleased to support this resolution to highlight the many benefits the ocean provides. The oceans are an economic, ecological and cultural resource that we in Congress and the international community must exercise the proper stewardship over for our future generations. I urge my colleagues to take up this responsibility that has been entrusted to us and honor our oceans by supporting H. Res. 1330.

#### COMMENDING THE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

#### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of a distinguished group of veterans and volunteers who continue to serve the men and women of our military and their families. The Patriot Guard riders can be seen at nearly every event celebrating our long tradition of military service to the Nation in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District.

It is difficult to miss the Patriot Guard riders, with their motorcycles emitting a low rumble en route to a Memorial Day ceremony, a welcome home celebration, a Veterans Day event or a military funeral. Their presence is always a respectful tribute to those who serve in uniform, and they are frequently a comfort to the families who have lost loved ones in the course of duty.

The members of the Patriot Guard do every day something that too few Americans take time for: they are always, always available to our troops, our veterans and our military families. They mark the service of Americans who have left their homes and risked their lives to defend our freedoms.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, I think it is important and fitting to single out such examples of service to our country. With honor and with dignity, the Patriot Guard riders are a source of constant support to our servicemembers, past, present and future. They are also a source of inspiration to young Americans considering a future in the service

of our Nation, and I am very proud to thank them for all their efforts.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF LYNRYD SKYNYRD

#### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, in the music world, it is challenging enough for a band to record one hit song, much less become a voice for an entire region and a true icon. That is why Congressman CONNIE MACK and I are pleased to jointly recognize the accomplishments and patriotic spirit of the legendary Lynryd Skynyrd.

From humble beginnings, Lynryd Skynyrd has become one of the most revered and accomplished bands in the history of music, having sold nearly 30 million records worldwide in the last four decades. Through their live performances and the music and songs still played on radio stations around the world every day, the members of Lynryd Skynyrd have established themselves as timeless artists who transcend any one musical era or generation.

As validated by their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006, Lynryd Skynyrd has had a seminal impact on the development of rock and country music and a profound influence on the career development of many artists who followed in their creative footsteps.

Through their collective voices, the band has become a beacon for regional identity and pride in the American South. This is perhaps best epitomized by the song "Sweet Home Alabama," an anthem so universally identified with the State of Alabama that it is the official motto displayed on license plates.

Since their start in Jacksonville, Florida, in the late 1960s, Lynryd Skynyrd has been a spokesman for the everyday working man and woman, the friends and neighbors of their formative years. Their ability to capture a unique part of the American spirit has given their music emotional meaning to many fans and built a legacy that continues to grow year after year.

Amid triumph and loss, these sons of the South have evolved from band to close-knit family. A tragic airplane crash in 1977 claimed original members Steve Gaines, Cassie Gaines, and lead singer Ronnie Van Zant, but Ronnie's brother Johnny carried on the tradition as the new vocalist. Devoted fans also remember and cherish the contributions of Allen Collins, Leon Wilkerson, Billy Powell, and Ean Evans. Today, led by core members Johnny Van Zant, Gary Rossington, Rickey Medlock, and Michael Cartellone, Lynryd Skynyrd continues to share an unbreakable bond with the fans they count as family as well.

Lynryd Skynyrd has been a generous supporter of our men and women in the Armed Forces for many years. The band has long understood that our military personnel bravely and unselfishly stand guard over our everyday security and freedom. They have enthusiastically raised money for military families and played countless shows for our service members in uniform. Their song "Red, White, and

Blue" was written as a tribute to the men and women who serve in the defense of freedom.

As representatives of timeless American values and champions of working class heroes, Lynryd Skynyrd continues to entertain and inspire millions of fans across the world. Along with Congressman MACK, I find it highly appropriate that the people's House takes time to recognize this classic band for lasting contributions not just to the world of music, but to American popular culture as a whole.

#### CHANCELLOR BERGLAND RETIREMENT

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Bruce Bergland and to him well upon his retirement from his position as Chancellor of Indiana University Northwest. Dr. Bergland's many years of service in the field of education have had a tremendous positive impact on numerous students and educators within the community of Northwest Indiana and across the nation. In honor of Chancellor Bruce Bergland, a retirement reception was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at the Savannah Center located on the campus of Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Indiana.

Dr. Bruce Bergland's professional career began with his passion for education. His truly impressive resume reflects his many years of service in numerous capacities within the collegiate education field across the United States. Following his graduation in 1966 from Iowa University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in psychology, Bruce went on to pursue his doctoral degree in counseling at Stanford University. After graduating in 1970, Dr. Bergland took a position at Northwestern University and became the Assistant Professor of Education and Psychology. Bruce's career then led him to the University of Colorado at Denver, where he served in numerous capacities from 1972–1995. His many positions during his tenure included: Executive Vice Chancellor, Interim Dean, Vice Chancellor for Planning, and Associate Professor of Education. In 1995, Dr. Bergland decided to move on and became the Executive Vice Chancellor and Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii, West Oahu. Next, in 1997, Bruce's career led him to Trinity College in Vermont, where he served as the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Professor of Basic and Applied Social Sciences, and Academic Dean.

Chancellor Bergland started his tenure as Chief Executive Officer at Indiana University Northwest (IUN) on July 1, 1999. Dr. Bergland's main goal from day one was to develop a "shared vision" for the university by reaching out to faculty and students, as well as community and business leaders, in order to develop a strong sense of the economic and cultural needs of IUN. Chancellor Bergland has successfully maintained this steering committee which provides a continuous effort for the future growth and development of the university. Among his many accomplishments at IUN, Bruce has also initiated the Diversity Programming Group, established