

receiving this designation and in encouraging its residents to continue upholding the high standards that earned them this honor. We also invite our colleagues to visit Centreville to see firsthand what makes this community special.

#### TRIBUTE TO IRIS DAVIS-WALKER

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Ms. Iris Davis-Walker, a constituent in the Congressional district I represent. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community.

Born in Howells Content, York Town, Clarendon, Ms. Davis-Walker was the only child from the union of William S. Davis and Clara Gayle. She was the youngest of four siblings. She received her early formal education in Clarendon, Jamaica W.I. where she excelled as a seamstress and hairdresser. Before coming to the United States, Ms. Davis-Walker was an active political force in her native country of Jamaica. She often organized rallies and gathered support for various candidates.

Ms. Davis-Walker migrated to Brooklyn, New York, in the late 1960s. She began her professional career in the medical field and worked in several institutions such as the American Nursing Home and Cliffside Nursing Home. While in New York, Ms. Davis-Walker was a faithful member of the Church of God of Prophecy at Barby Street. She was in the inaugural graduating class of the Bible Training Institute, which was a three-year commitment. One of her proudest moments was becoming a licensed minister.

While in South Florida, Ms. Davis-Walker was a poll worker since 2000 and took immense pleasure in being on the ground floor of many Democratic victories in Broward County. She was especially proud when she witnessed the triumph of President Barack H. Obama, who she often called "My President."

Ms. Davis-Walker was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her three children, Juleen Grant-Castillo (James), Bridgette Felix (Denfield), Raymond "Rayzor" Davis and a host of family members and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the Members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Ms. Iris Davis-Walker. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy, as well as the outstanding contributions she made to her church and the South Florida community will live on.

HONORING WILLIAM W. BACKUS  
HOSPITAL AND DAY KIMBALL  
HOSPITAL

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional patient care and service exemplified by two eastern Connecticut hospitals, William W. Backus Hospital and Day Kimball Hospital.

Located in Norwich and Putnam, these two hospitals have been providing quality health care to the residents of New London and Windham Counties for over 100 years. Founded in 1893, Backus Hospital operates the only trauma center in eastern Connecticut, and has the only facility with a hangar for LIFE STAR to transfer patients by air. This capability is extremely beneficial for the critically injured, and expedites transfers to trauma centers across the state.

Serving northeast Connecticut, Day Kimball Hospital maintains a unique partnership with UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, MA, which allows it to stabilize and transport heart attack patients hours faster than the national average. This partnership in concert with the level of excellence in cardiac care at Day Kimball Hospital are extremely advantageous for Connecticut residents. With such resources and capabilities, these two hospitals make achieving outstanding patient satisfaction a top priority.

Recent data published by the Department of Health and Human Services illustrates the hospitals' strong commitment to patient care, with data showing that both hospitals are performing better than the national average in a number of areas. In these hospitals, patients with chest pains or potential heart attacks receive electrocardiograms over thirty minutes faster than the national average, and over 98 percent of cardiac patients are given aspirin within 24 hours of arrival.

Both William W. Backus Hospital and Day Kimball Hospital strive to further improve their already excellent level of patient care and satisfaction. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the benefit these two hospitals provide to the residents of Connecticut, and the example they set for other hospitals across the country.

#### CELEBRATING THE TRANSFER OF MAJOR CA-ASIA SHIELDS

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize and pay tribute to Major Ca-Asia Shields, United States Army, on the occasion of her transfer to the Secretary of the Army's Strategy and Initiatives Group. I have had the great pleasure of working with her over the past three years that she has served with the Congress: first as my Defense Fellow and then as a Liaison Officer in the Army Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Major Shields has had a varied and distinguished Army career. She enlisted in the

United States Army in February 1987 and served as an Administrative Specialist for 8 years in both active duty and reserve units. In May 1997, she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps, a branch of the Army of which she has always been proud to be a member.

Some of her major duty assignments include Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in the 58th Military Police Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; S-3 Operations Officer, Headquarters Command Battalion, Fort Myer, Virginia; Adjutant, 759th Military Police Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado; Company Commander, 984th Military Police Company; and Military Police Captains' Assignment Officer, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, VA.

Her combat experience included Operation Iraqi Freedom II, where she served as Company Commander of the 984th Military Police Company.

In 2008, she served as a Department of Defense Congressional Fellow in my office, primarily handling national security and veterans issues; but she took the lead in calling attention to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder among returning troops; pushed for more contracting opportunities with the Department of Defense for service disabled owned businesses; and worked to form the Military Leadership Diversity Commission to promote the recruitment and development of minority officers in the Armed Forces. I was very impressed with Ca-Asia's intelligence and work ethic, qualities that were only exceeded by her dedication to our Country's service members and their families.

During her assignment to the Army House Liaison Office, Major Shields developed outstanding rapport with both members and staff in a variety of venues. She planned and escorted 11 congressional and staff delegations to locations within the continental United States and overseas. Her missions ranged from a two-day trip to Fort Lewis, Washington, with 40 staffers to a complicated two-week CODEL to China. She managed the Army-escorted trips for House members and staff to Walter Reed, personally escorting 25 delegations to visit Wounded Warriors. And, in coordination with the Congressional Black Caucus, she developed and conducted the first two Army-sponsored Black History Month events on Capitol Hill. Throughout all of these engagements, she has served as an outstanding representative for Soldiers and for Army values, and enhanced the Army's reputation with the United States Congress.

Major Shields is a graduate of Armstrong Atlantic State University with a BA in History and holds a Master's Degree in History Education from Old Dominion University.

I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Major Ca-Asia Shields in serving the United States Army and the Nation.

#### REMEMBERING REGINALD SMART

### HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Reginald Smart from Truckee, California.

Reg was born in Winnipeg, Canada in 1916. After immigrating to the United States and earning his U.S. citizenship, Reg enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country during WWII working for Pan American Airlines facilitating the movement of U.S. troops and officials. He moved to Truckee in 1947 with his wife, and opened his own business, the Good Fellows Grotto. Over the next 63 years, Reg was a prominent member of the Truckee community: opening a second business, serving on the school board and in numerous community organizations, including being the oldest living Mason in Truckee Lodge No. 200.

Reg Smart's life was a true American story of an immigrant who loved and served his adopted country and was devoted to his family and community. Through his hard work and tireless dedication, he achieved a better life for himself, and undoubtedly improved the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 384. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 384; "yes," Supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

#### TRIBUTE TO DWIGHT D. THOMAS

#### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dwight D. Thomas, who retired from the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs on June 30, 2010. A gentleman from my home County of Winston who truly embodies the American principles of hard work, patriotism, dedication to one's family and service to one's community.

For the past twenty-two years and nine months, the veterans in Winston County, Alabama have had no better friend than Dwight Thomas. During that time he unselfishly served Winston County and the State of Alabama with great dedication and distinction. He worked tirelessly to ensure our veterans and their families received the benefits they had earned. His one driving goal was simply to help people.

Dwight was born in my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama in 1944. He is the son of the late C. D. and Vera Thomas. He is married to the former Trudy Gravit and has two sons, Craig and Chad. He and his wife are active members of the Haleyville First United Methodist Church.

Dwight graduated from Haleyville High School in 1962 and continued his education at Walker College, receiving his Associate of Science degree in 1965. After school, he entered the United States Army and served from 1966 to 1968, serving in Vietnam from January 1967 to July 1968. He was honorably dis-

charged in 1968 having reached the rank of Sergeant. While in the Army, he received the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Medal with "V" device, National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Dwight has also been active with the local Boy Scout Troop 97, serving as Scoutmaster from 1969 to 1981 and is currently the institutional representative. He has served on the Haleyville City Council for two terms from 1980 to 1988. During that period he served as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Haleyville Fire Department and was instrumental in the construction of a new fire station. Currently, Dwight is the Commander of VFW Post 4543 and has held every office in the VFW at the local and district level.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to honor Dwight D. Thomas for his many years of dedicated service to our nation's veterans. He has had an enduring impact on his country, community, friends and family. He is a man of great dignity and character who takes pride in the accomplishments of those he has helped over the years. It is clear that he has been a friend and advocate to the veterans of Winston County. Madam Speaker, no doubt Dwight will be greatly missed in his position with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dwight is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends, family and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROBINSON WESTBROOKS FAMILY'S 100TH REUNION

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Robinson Westbrooks family who will be celebrating their 100th family reunion on August 12–15, 2010.

The Robinson Westbrook family is the oldest ongoing registered family reunion in the United States. It all started with Mr. John Bolin Robinson, Mrs. Dora Anne Westbrooks Robinson and their youngest child, Leonard Wilbert Robinson, who all share a birthday of August 16. The coinciding birthdays led to a tradition of getting the family together every third Sunday in August. The first official Robinson Westbrooks Family Reunion was held in August 1910, making this year the 100th celebration.

The Robinson Westbrooks family makes the most out of their annual family gatherings. They are registered at the United States Library of Congress and are a non-profit foundation that raises money for the Robinson Westbrooks' Educational Scholarship Funds.

All of us east Alabamans are deeply proud of the family's legacy and hope the tradition continues for another 100 years and beyond.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5729, THE STOP THE DROP HOUSES ACT OF 2010

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier today with my colleague Rep. BRIAN BILBRAY of California: the Stop the Drop Houses Act.

Border States continue to pay a heavy price for the Federal Government's failure to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system. Arizona has been especially hard hit. More than half the illegal crossings across the U.S.-Mexico border happen in our State.

But this isn't just a crisis for communities along the border. This is a crisis in the interior—in places like Phoenix, where smugglers and Mexican cartels have set up vast networks of drop houses, which operate as way stations for criminal smuggling enterprises.

It has been estimated that there may be as many as 1,000 such drop houses in the Phoenix metropolitan area alone.

The crime associated with these drop houses is brutal and alarming. Phoenix now experiences upwards of 300 kidnappings a year.

I had the opportunity to visit a drop house in Phoenix yesterday, and I saw where smugglers had kept victims behind barred doors and windows while they extorted money for their release. I also visited another home in the same neighborhood, the site of a drug-cartel kidnapping, where smugglers had begun digging a grave for one of their captives, right there inside the house.

These violent thugs put innocent, law-abiding citizens at risk as well, when fights between rival cartels over smuggled cargo devolve into gunfire.

And these drop houses are everywhere. Living in an upscale neighborhood doesn't immunize you from their threat.

If there is anything more disturbing than these drop houses, it is the fact that we still have a loophole in Federal law that stops Federal authorities from using civil forfeiture to seize homes that are used as drop houses.

Under current law, civil forfeiture can be used to seize all kinds of other property used to facilitate smuggling crimes, such as vehicles or even airplanes. However, civil forfeiture cannot be used against the actual drop house, itself.

This just doesn't make sense.

That is why Rep. BILBRAY and I have introduced bipartisan legislation to fix this. Our bill would close this loophole, and allow Federal prosecutors to use civil forfeiture to seize homes used as drop houses.

This is, of course, no substitute for the kind of comprehensive fix we need for border security and our broken immigration system. But this is one obvious, and vitally important step that Congress can take, right now, to make our communities safer.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the Stop the Drop Houses Act.