

support flight. In January 2004, he was hand-selected to serve on the 50th Space Wing's staff as deputy inspector general where he developed a detailed compliance inspection program to enhance operational warfighting readiness.

In 2005, Lieutenant Colonel Haug was requested to be the chief, GPS Operations Branch at the Pentagon. In this assignment, he was responsible for the GPS and nuclear detection system future year defense program funding, which helped define current and future space-based navigation systems requirements. In 2007, Lieutenant Colonel Haug was selected to the Air Force Legislative Fellowship program where he served in my office as an advisor on military and veteran issues.

Lieutenant Colonel Haug was tasked to the Air Force Global Strike Command, provisional staff in January 2009. As deputy director of plans & programs, he was instrumental in establishing the programmatic framework for the Air Force's first new major command in 27 years. Today, Lieutenant Colonel Haug is the chief, Space Force Programming Branch, Space Superiority and Global Integrated Intelligence, under the deputy chief of staff, Strategic Plans and Programs at the Pentagon. In this job, he evaluates, analyzes, and integrates space capability requirements, while providing resource prioritization recommendations for the Air Force space portfolio to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Brian J. Haug for his promotion in the United States Air Force. Lieutenant Colonel Haug has been an asset not only to the United States Air Force but to the people of Washington State, and it has been an honor and privileged to work with him. I wish him great success as he continues his Air Force journey.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT  
RICK SMIEDENDORF

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Rick Smiedendorf of the St. Joseph Police Department who is retiring after 31 years of outstanding service. Sergeant Smiedendorf has had a deep and lasting impact on the St. Joseph community, especially in his work with young people.

A native of Niles, Michigan, Sergeant Smiedendorf is a graduate of Western Michigan University and began his career in St. Joseph in 1979. Rick was a tireless advocate in the area of crime prevention. He started a number of programs in the department, including the Crime Prevention Unit, the Neighborhood Watch program, the Dedicated Officer Program in the elementary schools, and the Community Child Watch. Generations of children knew him as Officer Rick, or Sergeant Rick, or McGruff the Crime Dog.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Rick connected prevention and law enforcement programs to the residents of Southwest Michigan. He helped organize the local National Night Out program, and the Community Emergency Response Team. He was named Officer of

Year twice by the Benton Harbor St. Joseph Exchange Club, and was recently named Outstanding Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year by the West Michigan Crime Prevention Association.

Southwest Michigan is very fortunate Rick Smiedendorf stayed close to home. Thousands of people have been impacted by his hard work and commitment to crime prevention and keeping the public safe. I salute his efforts and thank him for his service in my hometown of St. Joseph. I wish Sergeant Rick all the best in the future.

H.R. 3590, THE SERVICE MEMBERS  
HOME OWNERSHIP TAX ACT

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on August 17, 2009, I became a cosponsor of H.R. 3590, the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act. This legislation, which passed the House of Representatives on October 8, 2009, by a vote of 416 to 0, was designed to make certain changes in the tax code to assist members of the military in becoming homeowners. Thankfully, the legal changes envisioned in H.R. 3590 were included in a different bill to extend the first-time homebuyer tax credit that received bipartisan support and was signed into law by the President.

After the military tax issue was resolved, the Senate Majority Leader used H.R. 3590 as the legislative vehicle to pass health care reform. On December 23, 2009, the Senate adopted a manager's amendment to H.R. 3590 which removed the provisions of the bill as it passed the House and replaced them with provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The amendment also changed the title of the bill.

A public search of legislation I have cosponsored in the 111th Congress shows that I am a cosponsor of the original H.R. 3590. I take this opportunity to clarify that I cosponsored and voted for the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act, not the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

HONORING VERDIA L. HAYWOOD  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of the finest public servants in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia's history for a 32-year career in which he shepherded regional efforts to provide for the basic needs of children and families throughout our community.

Verdia L. Haywood will retire Jan. 19, 2010, from his role as deputy county executive for human services, but his legacy—in terms of services, mentoring and partnerships—will endure. I had the great pleasure of working with Verdia during my 14 years of service on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including

five years as chairman. When retirement notices would come before the board, my colleagues and I often would say in good humor that someone should pass a law prohibiting such decisions because we could not bear to part with such dedicated and talented people, and that certainly is the case here.

Verdia began his career in Fairfax in 1978 as Executive Assistant to the County Executive, which made him the primary liaison between the county executive's office and the Board of Supervisors. He soon began working with the county's human services agencies and in 1981 was appointed to his current position as deputy county executive. During a career spanning more than three decades, Verdia oversaw the expansion and delivery of a wide array of services to meet the diverse needs of Fairfax County's population. Verdia was responsible for every facet of the human services portfolio, which included the departments of health; community and recreation services; housing and community development; family services; juvenile and domestic relations court services; human rights; community services board, which includes behavioral and mental health; homelessness; and much more. He was the architect of a coordinated service delivery system that has become a regional and national model.

During his tenure, the county's population doubled, increasing the demands for new and basic services. Verdia was one of the first to recognize that the county alone could not meet the multitude of needs, and he led a successful effort to cultivate the network of nonprofit, faith, business, school and other local partners that now comprise the safety net of our community. Behind his soft-spoken leadership was an unwavering passion for people, which along with his infectious optimism and laughter, motivated people from all sectors of the community to want to be a part of improving the lives of others and maintaining the critical investments we made in Fairfax County.

When I was chairman of the county board, Verdia was instrumental in advancing major initiatives to address the lack of affordable housing, the needs of our growing senior population and the challenges of homelessness. In each of these cases, we hosted community summits, assembled task forces of community stakeholders and developed action plans with measurable outcomes. We preserved more than 2,000 affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income families that otherwise would have been lost to redevelopment pressures from the marketplace. We opened a new family homeless shelter, initiated a 10 year plan to prevent and end homelessness using the "housing first" model, and created a new office to oversee its implementation. We expanded the mission of our Agency on Aging with a 50+Action Plan that laid out more than 60 recommendations for improving the quality of life for our exploding senior population—including expanded health and transportation services and volunteer opportunities. Also during this time, Verdia oversaw a complete redesign of our Community Services Board model, through which we provide mental health, mental retardation, and alcohol and drug prevention and intervention services. These are just a sampling of Verdia's accomplishments that will have a profound and lasting impact on our community.

Prior to his service in Fairfax County, Verdia spent a few years working with the City of

Richmond, where he helped establish the city's Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse System. In addition to his work with the city, Verdia served as an adjunct professor at Virginia Union University, where he helped develop an Urban Studies Program. He received his bachelor's degree with honors in 1970 from Alcorn State University in his native Mississippi. While attending Alcorn State, he received a Ford Foundation grant to study economics at Tulane University. He later earned a national urban fellowship to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois, where he received his Master's in Public Administration.

His tremendous work on behalf of Fairfax County and Northern Virginia have been recognized by the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, the American Society of Public Administrators, Leadership Fairfax, the Fairfax Bar Association, the Service Source Network, New Hope Housing, the Human Services Coalition of Northern Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the many accomplishments of Verdia L. Haywood as he brings his distinguished career with Fairfax County to an end. He has set a high standard for public service, and I am proud to have worked with him during my time in Fairfax County. We will miss him terribly, but, thankfully, our community will continue to benefit from his work and innovation in the delivery of human services for many years to come.

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THANKING THE HRUBY FAMILY  
FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO  
RURAL AMERICA

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I want to take a few moments today to con-

gratulate the Hruby family—Tim, Stephanie and daughter Sophie—who recently earned the Excellence in Agriculture award.

The award is part of the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, which recognizes young farmers and ranchers who are contributing to their local communities, the agriculture industry, and our state through their involvement, leadership, and participation.

My district, like many rural areas throughout our country, faces a “brain drain” as we lose young people to more urban areas. If we are going to reverse this trend, we need more Nebraskans like the Hrubys to step up and take the lead.

Agriculture isn't an occupation. Rather, as Tim and Stephanie can tell you, it is a way of life and I thank them for their dedication to their community and our state.