

businessman and friend, Mr. Marion Strickler Adams Jr., who passed away at age 78 on July 26, 2010, after a courageous battle against lung cancer.

Ma'on, as he was known by his family and many friends, exemplified honor and leadership throughout his endless accomplishments and in everyday life.

While studying at Vanderbilt University, his future leadership skills became apparent with his role as commander of "A" Company in the Naval Reserve.

After graduating Cum Laude, he was commissioned in the United States Navy as an Ensign and served on active duty for two years. He continued as an active member of the Naval Reserve for several years following his discharge, attaining the rank of full lieutenant, along with being a member of the Mobile Council of the Navy League.

Ma'on joined his father's family owned business, Mobile Glass Company, where he served as president until his retirement.

An active member of the community, he was a Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow and a member of numerous civic and mystic societies.

As a lifelong, faithful member of Government Street Presbyterian Church, Ma'on served in numerous leadership roles on both local church levels and in Presbytery and General Assembly capacities. His faith was the foundation of his life.

His love for family and the outdoors was nurtured during countless summers at Point Clear, and later on at his beloved Mount Pleasant where he enjoyed fishing, hunting, and being surrounded by his adoring children and grandchildren.

A friend to everyone and a devoted family man, he brought great joy to his loved ones.

Ma'on was deeply loved by his wife of 50 years, Ann Greer Adams, his three children, Marion S. Adams III, Sumner Greer Adams, and Monnie Adams Caine, as well as his eight loving grandchildren, Strickler IV, Glenn, Robin, Sumner, Laura, Winston, Marion, and Elliott. He also leaves behind a sister, many nieces and nephews and 17 first cousins who continue to congregate at the Adam's home place in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee, along with countless numbers of friends all over Alabama.

On behalf of everyone who knew and loved Ma'on, I offer my deepest condolences to his family. Marion Adams lived a truly remarkable life and will always be remembered.

#### UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 28, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5874, the United States Patent and Trademark Office Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010. This bill will help reduce backlogs in processing patent

applications. I am a proud to have voted with a majority of the House to pass this important piece of legislation.

Processing patents is crucial to the U.S. economy. In order for our nation to thrive in a global economy, it is essential that patent and trademark applications are processed in a timely and efficient manner. Currently, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) can take an average of nearly three years to complete the examination of a patent application and has maintained a backlog of unexamined applications for several years. At this time, there are approximately 1.2 million patent applications in the system with more than 750,000 awaiting review by a USPTO patent examiner. The more time patent applications are waiting to be reviewed, the longer the U.S. goes without an invention that can spur economic growth.

Specifically, H.R. 5874 provides up to \$129 million, fully offset, to help prevent additional backlogs in the processing of patent applications. With this funding, the USPTO will be able to hire additional staff and afford to pay necessary overtime to prevent additional backlogs.

Patents are critical to American innovation and economic growth. An efficient patent examination system will foster innovation and job creation by ensuring that individuals and small businesses have the ability to protect their intellectual property and continue to create new products.

Again, I am a proud supporter of this supplemental appropriations bill for the USPTO. I am proud to have voted with a majority of the House yesterday to pass this vital legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, July 26, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 467 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1320), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 468 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1504), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 469 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3101).

#### HONORING VALERIE HENRY

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and express sincere gratitude to Valerie Henry, who after 13 years of work on Capitol Hill, including seven years of service to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District, is departing this institution today to become, as she puts it, full-time CEO of her household as she continues to raise her two wonderful children.

Valerie has become very well-respected in the Congress as a sharp-as-a-tack policy aide in health care, education, taxes, budget issues, and telecommunications. But don't just take my word for it. In 2005, the National Rural Health Association bestowed on her the NRHA Legislative Staff Award in recognition of her ongoing commitments to improving the health care of rural Americans.

Valerie was born and raised just across the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia. She learned the value of representative democracy from her mom (Virginia Franco) who served for 30 years as the deputy registrar of voters for the city of Alexandria and oversaw the administration of hundreds of local, State and Federal elections.

After graduating from her beloved Virginia Tech in 1997, she began her career on Capitol Hill as an intern for her home State senator and quintessential statesman, Senator John Warner. That internship eventually translated into a full-time job. She worked for Senator Warner through the historic impeachment proceedings of President Bill Clinton.

While in Senator Warner's office, she also met her future husband, Patrick Henry, who worked for Senator Warner in his committee office. Pat remains a dedicated public servant, serving now as Special Agent in the U.S. Secret Service, and is one heck of a good guy.

In 1999, Valerie joined the staff of Idaho Senator MIKE CRAPO shortly after he was sworn in as United States Senator. It was there, Madam Speaker, that Valerie says she developed her love for policy analysis and an appreciation for the impact that the Federal government has on the lives of individuals.

A brief stint downtown with a health law and lobbying firm confirmed for Valerie that Capitol Hill was where her talents could best be put to use. So in April 2003, Valerie returned to the Hill as a legislative assistant in my Washington, D.C. office, where she faithfully served the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for the next seven years.

Through those years, Madam Speaker, Valerie provided essential guidance to me on several historic legislative measures, including the Medicare Modernization Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

I and my staff celebrated when Valerie and Pat welcomed their first child in 2005—a daughter, Carlson "Carly" Jean Henry, named after Valerie, and again in 2009 when their son, Patrick "Trip" Timothy Henry III, was born. Carly and Trip are great kids, and fortunate to have such loving parents.

Madam Speaker, it is these precious legacies that have lured Valerie away from our beloved House on Capitol Hill to her home in Falls Church, Virginia.

I speak for all of Oregon's Second District, and this historic institution, when I say "thank you" to Valerie Henry for her selfless and valuable service over these years.

Madam Speaker, I will greatly miss Valerie's highly informed counsel and wonderfully infectious personality. And I know the staff will miss the camaraderie that Valerie brought to the office every single day. While we might prefer not to lose her invaluable professional contributions, we are comforted knowing that our friend will never be that far away.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL LEROY COLLINS, JR.

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rear Admiral Leroy Collins, Jr., who was taken from this world after a tragic accident in South Tampa.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Admiral Collins continued to serve our country first on active duty and then in the Naval Reserves for 34 years. He continued his dedication to country as an advocate for veterans' health and economic well being in his role as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

At 75, Admiral Collins was still an active member of the community. In addition to maintaining a rigorous athletic schedule, he served on the boards of Tampa General Hospital, Collins Center for Public Policy, S.S. *American Victory*, and the Armed Forces Financial Network.

I know that his wife, children, and grandchildren played an enormous role in his life and brought him great joy. It is with great sympathy that I extend my condolences to his family. I am honored to have known Admiral Collins. He has truly served our community, State, and country well and will be missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REV. HAROLD BLACKBURN

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay homage to the memory of a much beloved servant of the Lord—and good friend to many in South Alabama—who recently passed away at the age of 93.

For some, a career of nearly two decades working for the phone company would be the foundation of their life, yet for Harold Blackburn, a native of Citronelle, Alabama, it was just a warm-up. He was destined for a higher calling.

After 19 years at South Central Bell, Mr. Blackburn traded his business clothes for the cloth, becoming a minister of the Lord.

For the next 36 years, Reverend Blackburn—or Brother Harold as he was affectionately known—embarked upon a grand journey that took him from the pulpit to the field, first serving as pastor for a number of Southern Baptist churches all across Alabama.

From the church sanctuary, Reverend Blackburn turned his message to outreach, becoming Director of Missions, serving churches in Clarke and Chambers counties for 23 years, and then leading Baldwin County church missions programs for another 13 years.

Reverend Blackburn loved nature and was also an avid hunter. In his retirement years in Silverhill, Alabama, he was well known for his interest in taxidermy.

Without question, this man of incredible faith lived a long and remarkable life with a legacy of dear friends that literally stretches from one end of the state to the other.

In this time of deep personal loss, I offer my condolences to his wife and childhood sweetheart, Miriam, their two daughters, Carol Ann and Deborah Kay, their six grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren.

Make no mistake: he loved his family, his friends, his country and his God, and not necessarily in that order.

Rev. Blackburn's life was an inspiration to everyone he met and his memory will long linger in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

HONORING SOJOURN TO THE PAST ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1058, which honors and praises the Sojourn to the Past organization on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This resolution recognizes an important educational program that helps students understand the invaluable role of the Civil Rights Movement in our Nation's moral and social development.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership in bringing this measure to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this resolution, Congressman Louis, whose role in the Civil Rights Movement and work as a public servant has made the United States a more tolerant and democratic country.

Madam Speaker, the Civil Rights Movement was a transformative experience for the United States. It helped our Nation grow out of a culture of bigotry, segregation, and oppression, and extend the democratic freedoms promised by our Nation's founders to people that had, for more than two centuries, been deemed second-class citizens. It elevated our moral standing in the world and brought our Nation closer to meeting the ideals set forth in our founding documents.

It is absolutely essential that every high school student in the United States understands the moral gravity and massive historical significance of the Civil Rights Movement. The Sojourn to the Past project helps us achieve this goal. Established in 1999, the Sojourn to the Past project takes high school students on a 10-day excursion along the path of the Civil Rights Movement in the southern United States, engaging them with historical sites and talks with prominent veteran leaders of the movement. The longest running civil rights education program in the United States, the program has conducted 55 sojourns and introduced over 5,000 high school juniors and seniors to the lessons, locations, and leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.

Madam Speaker, the Civil Rights Movement is not only a vital part of our past, but its lessons are instructive in the ongoing efforts to end violence, discrimination, hatred, and inequality in the United States and across the world. The work of the Sojourn to the Past program is extremely commendable. It instills in our future leaders the knowledge and understanding needed to bring continued moral and social progress to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. BRAVERMAN'S EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stephen J. Braverman, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to senior citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to commend him for eighteen years of service to Hebrew SeniorLife and the Institute for Aging Research.

During his tenure, Steve provided rigorous medical research of new models and standards by which to enhance long-term care for the aging community. Steve has worked to maximize the strength, vigor, and physical well-being, and preserve the cognitive and functional capabilities of senior citizens as they age.

I would also like to acknowledge his continued commitment to developing and managing two of the largest capital campaigns for senior care, housing, and research throughout the country, which enhance the resources for age-related disease and disability. In addition, he has actively sought and secured endowed chairs for research in Quality and Health Care Standards and Aging Brain Research.

Most importantly, Steve has been a consistent leader in his community, and a strong mentor and friend to his colleagues.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with his family, friends and contemporaries to thank Steve for his remarkable service to the Institute for Aging Research and the people of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stephen J. Braverman's efforts and dedicated service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 26, 2010, I was unable to cast my vote in support of the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act.

I am in support of this legislation and its passage.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FRED AND BETTY WILLIAMS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the marriage of Fred and Betty Williams. Fred and Betty embody all that marriage should be: fidelity, loyalty, and a strong bond formed by love. They, and all that they have done to help