

the fields of medicine and journalism, and in advocacy and human rights. Their contributions shape our society and make a difference every day.

It is unfortunate that in some areas of the world, women continue to struggle for equality and for their right to vote. It is my hope that the lives and work of American women can serve as inspiration to those who continue their struggle for basic rights around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and thanking women across the United States for their activism and commitment to keeping the democratic process alive.

HONORING CHERYL O'BRIEN, RECIPIENT OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS' 2009 REALTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cheryl O'Brien, the recipient of the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors' 2009 Realtor of the Year Award.

For 55 years, the Realtor of the Year Award has been the highest honor given to members of the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors, given in recognition of exceptional performance in the service of the local, state, and national associations of realtors. In earning this award, Ms. O'Brien demonstrated excellent professionalism as well as a commitment to the Realtors' Code of Ethics.

Having worked in real estate for over 20 years, Cheryl O'Brien's success and credibility in the industry were made possible by her honesty, professionalism, and commitment to quality service. In addition to the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors naming her 2009 Realtor of the Year, Ms. O'Brien has also received the President's Emerald & Silver Awards and the Honor Society Award for Outstanding Service. In providing superior customer service, Ms. O'Brien is guided by important ethical standards and a strong commitment to providing her best to her clients and to the Tacoma-Pierce County region.

The 9th District of Washington is proud to count Ms. O'Brien as a member of our community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cheryl O'Brien on her remarkable achievement.

COURAGE COMES SFC RICHARD G. McDOUGLE 901ST MINIMAL CARE DETACHMENT COMBAT MEDIC OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American Hero, SFC Richard McDougle from Connellsville Pennsylvania, of the 901st Minimal Care Detachment Combat Medic of the United States Army. Richard has served in the Army for over 16 years, he is a

Medic, a Angel On The Battlefield. Over in Iraq he contracted renal cell cancer, and even though it is in 4th stage, he fights on! With the aid of his wonderful wife Donna, a former Medic herself, he continues his battle each day. Who knows, what child may come from someone he has saved fields of honor. . . . who might one day save the world! His quiet courage and unrelenting faith is an inspiration to us all, and especially to his brothers in arms over at Walter Reed Medical Hospital. We can all learn something from Richard, as he never surrenders! Our prayers are with him and his family. I ask that this poem penned in honor of him and his family, by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

COURAGE COMES

Amen!
 Courage Comes. . . .
 Comes in all shapes and sizes. . . .
 All in our fine men and women in uniform,
 who death defies this. . . .
 Who go off to war, as no one denies this. . . .
 who all in the midst of hell, upon each
 other so relies this. . . .
 All for Brothers In Arms, for them will die
 this. . . . For there are all kinds of
 courage, so why this?
 How does such Strength In Honor, one find
 this? From deep inside of ones heart,
 arises!
 From Angels on The Battlefield, are so high
 this!
 Arises, such splendid splendor. . . .
 To such hearts of faith so rendered!
 As Mac, you are such splendor. . . .
 For you went so bravely off to war. . . .
 All for your Country Tis of Thee, bore. . . .
 And now that you've come home. . . .
 As a new battle, a new fight you must
 own. . . .
 All part of the cost of war. . . .
 As now Richard, your courageous fight must
 begin. . . .
 Step by Step, Day by Day. . . as your brave
 heart will not give in. . . .
 Will not give way. . . as for such fine he-
 roes we all now so pray. . . .
 All in your quiet courage, your heart so cries
 out let this war begin!
 For a heart of faith and courage, can against
 all odds so victory so win!
 With head held high, as Mac you so wiped all
 of those tears from your brilliant
 eyes. . . .
 With the kind of courage, that up in Heaven
 so makes even The Angels sing and cry!
 Fight on America's Heroic Son, as we watch
 in great awe. . . all to what heights
 your heart can run. . . .
 As you us touch with your splendid grace, as
 your heart of courage brings us to tears
 and smiles upon our face!
 For Heaven so holds a place, for such ones!
 When, Courage Comes!
 Amen!

MS. KAZIAH HANCOCK AND PROJECT COMPASSION

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and to honor Ms. Kaziah Flanck, a true American patriot serving her country in a very unique and special way.

America's heroes come from all walks of life. Many of them, perhaps most, remain unsung heroes as they go quietly about, offering

their service out of love for their country and countrymen with little or no fanfare or recognition.

One such hero is Ms. Hancock. From the bedroom studio of her little goat ranch at the base of Utah's mountains she expresses, through her love of painting, her love and respect for the men and women who have given their lives while serving in uniform. She refers to this effort as Project Compassion.

"It is our view that every fallen hero deserves to be honored and remembered and we will make every effort to that end," Ms. Hancock says on Project Compassion's Web site, herpaintings.com. She and her volunteer team of artists have sent over 1,750 painted portraits of fallen service members to grieving parents and families who live in nearly every state. They're currently seeking to complete at least 3,000 more.

Ms. Hancock asks no price for this touching gift, and won't accept payments offered. She considers her time, time which might have been spent on other paintings she could sell for thousands of dollars, a small sacrifice compared to the sacrifice made by these service members and their families. For those who have already paid the ultimate price, she feels it is the least she can offer. "There is nothing that I'll ever paint, that will be more appreciated than that," she says.

The American Legion Auxiliary, the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world with over 900,000 members, noted in awarding Project Compassion its 2007 Public Service Award: "Project Compassion struck a chord with us: healing through art."

Ms. Kaziah Hancock has struck a chord with me as well. I am honored to have her as a constituent in Utah's Third District, and grateful to join with her in expressing our love and support for the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

HONORING FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Florida Southern College for celebrating its 125th anniversary. Florida Southern is rapidly rising among the Nation's best private colleges under the leadership of its 17th president, Dr. Anne Kerr.

The Lakeland College enrolls 1832 full-time residential undergraduate students from 44 states and 31 countries. To further its focus on engaged learning, it guarantees every student an internship and study abroad experience. The college also has distinguished graduate programs in business, nursing, and education. Ninety-four percent of students report landing a job in their respective field or furthering their studies at another institution within 3 months of graduation.

The Princeton Review has given Florida Southern its "Best Southeastern College" and "Best Value College" awards in addition to including it on its "Best 366 Colleges" list.

Rounding out its pedigree, the Florida Southern Moccasins have brought home 26 NCAA Division II championships, including 11 in men's golf, 4 in women's golf, and 9 in

baseball. The golf program has been successfully turned several players into members of the PGA Tour, including Rocco Mediate, Lee Janzen, and Jeff Klauk.

Florida Southern has overcome many a hardship to keep its educational dream alive. Since its inception in 1852 when it was founded by the Methodist Conference at the Florida Seminary in Micanopy, Florida Southern has moved four more times before settling into its present location in Lakeland, Florida.

Florida Southern won its charter after moving to Leesburg and awarding its first college degree. At the time, the university went under the name of the Florida Conference College and moved from Leesburg to Sutherland to Clearwater and finally to Lakeland due to devastating freezes hurricanes, a fire and a flu epidemic.

The campus itself is an international treasure, having been designated as a National Historic District due to having the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture in the world. Wright's relationship with the college began when Florida Southern's 1938 president Dr. Ludd Spivey invited the internationally-renowned architect to design "a great education temple in Florida." Wright designed 18 structures for the campus, 12 coming into fruition.

In his over 500 completed works, Wright promoted a style he called organic architecture—which aimed to harmonize the building with the natural world around it. In first tour of the Lakeland area, he reportedly envisioned buildings rising "out of the ground, into the light and into the sun." These beautiful and unique buildings have helped make Florida Southern College a top destination for education.

On behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District, I wish to congratulate President Kerr and the Board of Trustees for leading Florida Southern to such tremendous success. Florida Southern College is well on its way to another stellar 125 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 488, 489, and 490. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" for these measures: H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Boehner Amendment; H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Latham Amendment; and H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Culberson Amendment.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010. I want to commend Rep-

resentative DELAHUNT for his leadership on this legislation and dedication to our nation's criminal justice system.

H.R. 5143 establishes the National Criminal Justice Commission and directs that commission to review all areas of the criminal justice system, including costs, practices, and policies. It also directs the commission to make findings upon their review and recommendations for changes to prevent, deter, and reduce crime and violence, reduce recidivism, improve cost-effectiveness, and ensure interests of justice at every step of the criminal justice system.

As an attorney and former judge, I can say with confidence that I believe our criminal justice system is flawed. It is an expensive system that is in many ways ineffective. It is important that this commission be established and put to work immediately. We can no longer be satisfied with allowing crime to fester and spread throughout the nation, especially among our youth. Real solutions to deter crime are possible if we only take the time to invest in them. It's time we identify the problems in our criminal justice system and make tangible efforts to ameliorate the system.

In our efforts to create "a more perfect union", we have to take a closer look at our nation and work to make our nation better for our children and the generations to follow. H.R. 5143 gives us an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN OAK LAWN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn, as its staff and volunteers celebrate the first-year anniversary of the Museum's expansion to a new building.

Since it was first established in 2003, the Museum has become a well-known and much-loved institution in my District. Drawing 10,000 visitors when it first opened its doors, the Museum attracted over 85,000 visitors from over 36 states in the first year at its new location. The Museum gives children and their families an important place for fun and relaxation, while also actively immersing children in the joyful world of learning. The Museum's staff has taken care to align the exhibits with the Illinois Learning Standards required of schools. As a result, over 150 schools have reached out to the Museum to enrich their curricula and take their students on field trips. At a time when evidence increasingly demonstrates that learning environments and enrichment activities in early childhood profoundly affect later life outcomes, the importance of the Museum's work becomes increasingly clear.

From the Museum's beginnings in a small space of 900 square feet, it has grown into an institution that stands as a pillar of Oak Lawn, Illinois' 3rd District, and beyond. I look forward to continuing to work with the Museum's staff, volunteers, and supporters to strengthen the Museum for many years to come. I ask you to join me in congratulating the Children's Mu-

seum in Oak Lawn on its work and the first-year anniversary of its new facilities, as well as to wish it many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKING HOME AFFORDABLE ACTS OF 2010

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Making Home Affordable Improvements Act of 2010. For the last eighteen months, the Obama Administration has tried very hard to make mortgage modifications available to struggling homeowners but the program has largely failed to have the impact we had hoped.

Average homeowners around the country are paying the price for an inflated housing market and a bursting real estate bubble—this is being felt acutely throughout Central Maryland. For every borrower who defaults, there are many others on the brink of default who are looking for a way forward.

And this isn't a problem that will go away quickly—an estimated 10 to 15 million Americans own homes that are worth less than they owe on their mortgages. These are homeowners with a strong financial incentive to default on their mortgages, irrespective of their ability to pay.

In a market in which the values of homes have fallen out of step with mortgage debt, I strongly believe that the best solution for homeowners is a structured bankruptcy process, including a judicial mortgage modification or "cramdown." This is the process by which a bankruptcy judge reduces the value of a mortgage attached to a home, thereby reducing the monthly payment owed by the homeowner and allowing families to stay in their homes.

This would be only available to homeowners who elect to file bankruptcy, a lengthy and costly process with long-term consequences for individuals and their families—an avenue of last resort for struggling homeowners, not a new means for speculators to "game the system." The House of Representatives passed legislation to provide bankruptcy judges with this authority, only to watch it die in the Senate. The political reality today is such that judicial mortgage modification may never become an available option for struggling homeowners, leading policy makers to search for an alternative.

Absent judicial modification, I believe that voluntary mortgage modification holds the promise of a better way forward for homeowners, but, as it stands today, it has failed to offer real relief to the millions of homeowners who are in desperate need of assistance. This can be attributed to a widespread unwillingness by banks to do right by their borrowers—the same borrowers who are acting against their financial self-interest by continuing to pay their mortgages each month.

The effort is also hampered, in part, by a bureaucratic and unwieldy modification process—one that is often overwhelming and unmanageable for the average homeowner. But working within the voluntary mortgage modification structure created by the White House as part of the Making Home Affordable Initiative, there are thousands of experts across the