

cast votes on the extension of the middle class tax cuts, as well as the censure of Representative CHARLES RANGEL. However, I strongly support extending tax cuts to the middle class, and would have voted favorably. On the matter of Representative RANGEL, I would have voted “yes” on the reprimand but “no” on the censure.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN CARL KUWITZKY, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PILOTS’ ASSOCIATION (SWAPA)

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Captain Carl Kuwitzky, President of the Southwest Airlines Pilots’ Association (SWAPA). Captain Kuwitzky will retire as SWAPA President on December 31, 2010 after serving two terms leading the organization which represents Southwest Airlines’ nearly 6,000 pilots.

An Oklahoma native, Captain Kuwitzky has been a pilot at Southwest Airlines since July, 1983. Captain Kuwitzky’s distinguished service with SWAPA also includes time as the association’s vice president from 2006–2008, as a member of the Board of Directors representing the Phoenix and Houston Hobby Airports, and as Chairman of Southwest Airlines’ Scheduling and Air Safety Committees. During his distinguished career at Southwest he also served as a member of the negotiating and merger committees during the airline’s acquisition of Muse Air in 1986.

Madam Speaker, Southwest Airlines has grown to become a leader of the U.S. and global airline industry and has provided significant benefit to my home state of Florida. Captain Carl Kuwitzky’s played an integral role in this growth and the benefits it has provided to Southwest Airlines, the traveling public, the airline industry and the millions of Americans who take to the skies each year.

My colleagues, please join me in recognizing the service of Captain Kuwitzky, for we are all better and safer today because of his outstanding leadership.

HONORING MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT SCOT T. MOREFIELD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Marine, Master Gunnery Sergeant Scot T. Morefield.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Morefield enlisted in the Marine Corps on November 9, 1978 at age 17. On June 30, 2010, he retired after 30 years of honorable service to the Marine Corps, and to our country.

His military career began after graduating from recruit training and infantry training school he attended aviation structures school, finishing as the academic honor graduate.

MGySgt. Morefield was then assigned to an A-4 Skyhawk squadron where he served from 1980 to 1983. During that time he made numerous deployments to Asia. In 1983 he received an honorable discharge.

After briefly working for Lentini Aviation in Troy, Michigan, and Lockheed Martin in Marietta, GA, he started his own construction company.

In 1987, while still running his construction business, MGySgt. Morefield re-enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves as a Combat Engineer. He graduated the Combat Engineer School at Camp Lejeune in 1990 as the academic honor graduate.

In 1991, he received orders to return to Michigan where he continued his service assignment as a Marine Corps recruiter and a Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of two Lansing, Michigan substations. Notably, he served at various times as both the Recruiter Instructor and the Operations Chief for the Lansing station before his retirement this June.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Scot Morefield’s personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star.

I am proud to rise today to celebrate this Marine’s service and commitment to our country. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking MGySgt. Morefield for his devotion to our mutual cause of national defense and wish him the best in his retirement.

ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL THREAT OF AL-QAEDA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to state plainly and clearly my belief that al-Qaeda and its affiliates continue to pose a serious threat to the United States.

During a candidate forum on October 21, 2010, I was asked a question regarding U.S. policy in Afghanistan and Iraq. During my response, I stated that the United States went to war in Afghanistan—an action that I supported—to remove the Taliban from power and eliminate al-Qaeda. I also noted that top U.S. intelligence officials have stated publicly that al-Qaeda no longer poses a threat to the United States from within Afghanistan.

For example, on June 27, 2010, CIA Director Leon Panetta stated that fewer than 50 to 100 al-Qaeda operatives remain in Afghanistan, saying “there’s no question that the main location of Al Qaeda is in the tribal areas of Pakistan.” According to then-National Security Advisor Gen. James L. Jones on October 4, 2009, al-Qaeda has no bases inside Afghanistan and “no ability to launch attacks on either us or our allies.” Unfortunately, my political opponents rejected these official assessments from America’s top national security experts and chose to distort my position by taking my comments out of context. Playing politics with American national security is a reckless distraction.

The threat from al-Qaeda now emanates from within countries such as Pakistan and Yemen, and even from would-be terrorists

within the U.S. who are inspired to violence by al-Qaeda. However, due to the courage and effectiveness of America’s military men and women and America’s NATO partners, al-Qaeda’s ability to attack U.S. citizens from inside Afghanistan has been greatly diminished, if not eliminated. For this reason, I support an end to full-scale combat operations and a shift to a long-term counterterrorism mission that will prevent al-Qaeda from re-establishing safe havens from which to attack the United States.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that al-Qaeda continues to pose a significant threat to the United States and our allies. Its operatives are as determined as ever to promote their brand of extremism through fear, violence, and hate. The United States must remain vigilant and resolute in the face of this serious threat.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. SHIRLEY M. OLIVER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Shirley M. Oliver.

For decades, Ms. Oliver dedicated herself to the youth of the Brownsville-Ocean Hill community of Brooklyn, New York. She was a day care professional at the Love in Action Day Care Center, an auditory tester in the public school system and a Credentialed Prevention and Intervention Specialist with the New York City Board of Education. Her work demonstrates a clear commitment to children at all stages of development.

A proud product of the New York City Public School System, Ms. Oliver has always had a firm belief in education. Tasked with raising a young family and full-time employment, Ms. Oliver made time to pursue her educational goals; she attained a Bachelor of Arts from the College of New Rochelle and a Post-Graduate degree in Educational Psychology from Fordham University. Adding to her list of accomplishments, Ms. Oliver is a licensed Mental Health Counselor in the Brooklyn community and is a New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Trainee with credentialing in gambling.

Ms. Oliver was born, raised and still resides in the Brownsville community of Brooklyn, New York. She is the second child of Charles and Pat Green. Ms. Oliver grew up in a nurturing environment; her parents stressed the importance of education, spirituality and public service. Ms. Oliver is the proud mother of two children: Mr. Shon Oliver and Mrs. ShakiraKee. She is also the proud grandmother of four grandchildren: Kumani, Saabir, Sumaiyah, and KianaraKee.

Through her membership in service organizations, Ms. Oliver makes a conscious effort to advocate on the behalf of others. Her organizational affiliations are extensive; she is a member of the Women’s Caucus for Congressman Ed TOWNS, the N.A.A.C.P., the Community Board, the Brookdale Hospital Advisory Board and she is a Delegate for AFSCME at the annual National Convention for the AFL-CIO. In addition to all this, Ms. Oliver is the shop steward for her Local Chapter 372 and a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Ms. Oliver has a philosophy that exemplifies her devotion to social justice and education: Empower those who cannot empower themselves. Through career choices and organizational memberships, Ms. Oliver is clearly dedicated to the betterment of her community; it is this characteristic that marks her as a distinguished woman of education.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Ms. Shirley M. Oliver.

THE 50TH PROCLAMATION FOR THE CENTER FOR FAMILY RESOURCES

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of The Center for Family Resources. Founded in 1960, founders Fred Bentley, Sr., Howard Ector, and Harry Holliday envisioned a better way to combine six existing emergency assistance organizations in Cobb County under one roof.

Families repeatedly faced limited access to affordable transportation, childcare and housing, as well as a lack of education and training to secure and maintain employment. The organization determined the removal of those barriers was the real key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Cobb Family Resources has grown from a small emergency aid agency to a multi-function human services organization, serving both generations of the family to develop personal responsibility and a self-sufficient lifestyle.

Today, it serves as an average of 10,000 individuals each year. Records also indicate more than 400,000 individuals have been served by CFR since 1960.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Center for Family Resources.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BA VAN LE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Ba Van Le, a pioneer in the Vietnamese American community and a prominent entrepreneur, beloved by family and friends.

Born on December 26, 1932, Ba Van Le was raised in the An Giang Province of Southern Vietnam. In Vietnam, he was a successful businessman who owned a thriving sugar cane refinery in Saigon that earned him the nickname "The Sugar King."

Following the Vietnam War, Ba, his wife Hanh and their three oldest children fled Vietnam in search of new beginnings. Like many Vietnamese, Ba and his family settled at a refugee camp in Malaysia. Over a year later, Ba and the rest of the Le family arrived in the United States, staying briefly in Clovis, New Mexico and Monterey, California before settling in San Jose, California.

In 1981, Ba, along with his sons Chieu and Henry, began operating a mobile lunch truck in downtown San Jose. With newfound success, the business expanded to a permanent Vietnamese sandwich shop, becoming the very first store location of what would evolve into the family's chain restaurant, Lee's Sandwiches.

Ba was a prime example of the American entrepreneurial spirit. With the suggestion of his grandson to incorporate business ideas from American fast food chains, Ba and his family expanded their food menu and opened 30 locations in Northern and Southern California, Texas, Arizona, and Oklahoma. With hard work and perseverance, both he and his family have played a major role in popularizing the Vietnamese sandwich, bánh mì, and other Vietnamese food in mainstream American food consciousness.

Not only did Ba establish a thriving restaurant specializing in Vietnamese cuisine, he and his family's small business became the first chain restaurant to serve the needs of the Vietnamese American community.

Madam Speaker, Ba Van Le's innovative spirit and cross-cultural achievements will be remembered for years to come. It is my hope that his legacy will inspire fixture generations to find creative ways to serve the needs of the diverse Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the Le Family during this time of remembrance.

LETICIA M. DIAZ: STRENGTHENING AMERICA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring attention to an article written by Leticia M. Diaz at Barry University entitled "Strengthening America." Dr. Diaz, who holds a PhD and a JD from Rutgers University, is the Dean of the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando and a member of the advisory committee for the newly formed American Bar Association Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA

(By Leticia M. Diaz)

Like millions of others, I came to America with my immigrant parents. Seizing on the opportunities and access to superior education offered by this country allowed me to not only achieve the American dream, but to give back to this nation.

My story is far from unique. Like the immigrants before me, I came to the United States to seek the freedom and the opportunities unavailable in the country of my birth. Comprised of a vast immigrant population, the United States matured and expanded as a result of the great Irish and Chinese immigrations of the 1800s along with many newcomers from Europe over the years. These immigrants provided much of the labor force that built the infrastructure as our country grew into a world power. Over the years, my family and millions of other immigrants worked hard to make America into a strong, productive, and dynamic nation.

Today, tens of thousands of young adults stand ready to give back to the country they

call home. By opening the door to educational advancement or military service, the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act before Congress benefits those youngsters who, as children, accompanied their parents to the United States. But without passage of the DREAM Act, these young people—who have already proven themselves in our schools and communities—face a very uncertain future.

The DREAM Act would grant legal status to young adults brought to the United States as undocumented immigrant children. The rigorous requirements under the Act ensure that only contributing members of society who have already proven themselves to be law-abiding citizens and dedicated students would enjoy the benefits of the Act.

The stringent criterion prescribed by the DREAM Act ensures that the floodgates to illegal immigration will remain closed. Instead, the Act addresses the issue of young, undocumented children who have grown up in this country and excelled in school. As they seek to enlist in the military or continue their education and launch their careers, these motivated pro-American youngsters continue to run into unreasonable roadblocks. The DREAM Act prudently addresses those hurdles.

All members of society will benefit from the DREAM Act, not just a select few. Everyone wins when we educate the youth of tomorrow, encourage them to achieve their career goals, and motivate them to become productive citizens of our great country. As an educator and a person who was born in Cuba and immigrated at an early age, I am foremost an American who recognizes the importance of providing access to education to those who are truly committed to learning and personal growth.

As Americans, we have a moral obligation to address the immigration issues facing our country. The DREAM Act would be a great start to much-needed reform. As such, we urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act, blazing a trail for these young adults to become valuable, contributing members of the United States as they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to bring the DREAM Act to the floor for immediate consideration.

HONORING THE HORNELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING ITS SECOND CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND 26TH CONSECUTIVE WIN

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hornell High School football team for the great success that they achieved on the football field during the 2010 season. This year, the Red Raiders won their second consecutive New York State Class B championship. The victory in the championship game was the Red Raiders' 26th consecutive victory over the last two years. The Hornell Red Raiders are in the distinguished position of having the longest current win streak in New York State high school football. Through their hard work, great determination and incredible success on the football field, the Hornell Red Raiders have brought great honor to their team, their school, and the City of Hornell. It is with no small amount of pride that we recognize the players and cheerleaders, coaches