

founded by ten distinguished, God-fearing, high achieving, young African-American gentlemen who had the vision to foster leadership through fraternal brotherhood and Christian ideals on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. These men had the determination to defy customs in pursuit of a college education and professional careers during an oppressive time in American history for African-Americans. Kappa Alpha Psi currently yields a membership of over 150,000 college trained men on more than 360 university campuses, with alumni chapters located in 347 cities, and has representation in five foreign nations.

Since its inception, the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi have fostered relentless support to our country. Through programs such as Kappa League and National Guide Right, the fraternity has provided thousands of at-risk youth in communities throughout the Nation with role models, mentors, and scholarships for higher education, which in return encourages our youth to make positive contributions to society through leadership and service. Kappa Alpha Psi holds an annual Holiday Food Drive to provide citizens of underserved communities with food, clothing, and toys throughout the United States. The men of Kappa Alpha Psi also volunteer through hands-on partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Memphis), and many more.

On any given day you can see the notable accomplishments from the Kappa Alpha Psi brotherhood in Congress. Each day, as members, we strive to ensure that our brotherhood continues to exemplify achievement in every field of human endeavor. Kappa Alpha Psi sponsors events such as "Kappas on Capitol Hill" to increase member awareness about the political process as well as an undergraduate leadership institute to enhance the skills and abilities for the fraternity's top student leaders.

Madam speaker, in 1954, I made one of the best decisions of my life, I joined the noble clan of Kappa Alpha Psi, crossing the sands with Laurel Wreath holder Dr. W.H. Greene. Since that wondrous time, I have enjoyed 56 years of involvement with our Bond. I am awed and indebted to all of our Brothers. For us to celebrate 100 years is a crowning achievement. I am extremely proud to be a part of such a distinguished brotherhood that continuously contributes to the improvement of society. Again, I say congratulations to my brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi for 100 steadfast years of serving local communities and elevating the lives of collegiate men throughout our great Nation.

HONORING DENNIS R. FERGUSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis R. Ferguson, and to ask my colleagues who are not supporters of unemployment benefits to listen to his story and learn about the real value of this program.

Dennis Ferguson lost his job with Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles in 1964. He was 26

years old, living in a motel, and had reached a crossroads that would determine how the rest of his life would play out. He took advantage of California's unemployment benefits program for 4 months that year and used that money to go back to school and become a computer programmer. Mr. Ferguson thrived in his new field and eventually settled in South Carolina.

Last month, Dennis wrote a check for \$10,000 to the State of California to repay the state for the assistance it had given him 40 years earlier. Today, I applaud Dennis Ferguson for this act of generosity, but I also share his story to remind the members of this body about the real world impact unemployment benefits have.

Unemployment in California has been at more than 12 percent for the past 2 years. There are those in this body who have opposed extending unemployment at every turn. I have heard some say that unemployment benefits make people lazy. I have heard others say that if we just cut them off, people will go out and get a job. Such statements show a misunderstanding of what unemployment benefits are for and how they can help those—who through no fault of their own—lost their jobs and need a bridge to get back on their feet.

The most recent unemployment benefit extension ensured that 450,000 people in my home state would not lose their benefits at Christmastime. They now have the chance to get back on their feet just like Dennis Ferguson did. These men and women don't want a safety net, they want to work. They want to be the ones responsible for putting food on the table, and a roof over their family's heads.

Sometimes circumstances arise beyond our control and we need temporary assistance while getting back on our feet. That is what the unemployment program does. I think if you ask Dennis Ferguson's neighbors whether unemployment benefits have a positive impact on a community, they will answer with a resounding yes.

I hope my colleagues who are critics of the unemployment program will re-assess their thinking and stand up for their constituents the next time this body considers legislation impacting the unemployment benefits program.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERNON AND CAROL SLOAN'S FARMING IN WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate one of Ohio's longest and continuous farming operations. The year 2010 marks the 175th anniversary of Lewis Clark homesteading and clearing the land south of present day Stryker, in Williams County, Ohio. The deed for the conveyance of one hundred sixty acres of land is dated October 7, 1835 and is granted under the signature of President Andrew Jackson. Vernon and Carol Sloan have carried on the stewardship

of the land begun by Vernon's ancestor Lewis Clark and have helped to feed not only Ohioans, but Americans and people from around the world. American farmers are some of our hardest working and best producing citizens who continue to find innovative ways to produce crops and raise livestock. Today less than two percent of Americans earn their livelihood on the land while that number is even smaller in Ohio at less than one percent. These numbers are contrasted to the forty percent of Americans who were engaged in agriculture in 1900.

Vernon and Carol Sloan have ingrained their love of the land in their children and their children's children. The Sloans look forward to passing on their farming heritage and tradition to their family's future generations to till the land and harvest the bounties of the earth.

Madam Speaker, I salute Vernon and Carol Sloan on their faithfulness to the land and their family's wonderful achievement on the 175th anniversary of farming in Williams County, Ohio.

MICHAEL ROBERT KINDIG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Michael Robert Kindig for the years of service to his brothers and sisters. Michael passed away on August 9, 2010, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Michael Kindig's achievements are many, particularly his leadership. As a member of the board of the Denver local of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, as a member of the National Board of Directors and President of the Colorado Branch of the Screen Actors Guild, Organizer for the Colorado Chapter of the National Alliance for Retired Americans and Editor of the Colorado Labor Advocate for nearly twenty years, Mike worked diligently to advance the labor community in Colorado.

Michael was an alternate delegate to the National Democratic Convention held in Chicago in 1968, and spent the rest of his life dedicated to his political beliefs. He served in the U. S. Marine Reserves for six years. Mike Kindig was a patriotic American.

Michael's father was declared missing in action in Papua New Guinea in 1944, when Michael was three years old. He met his future wife Patricia Gaffney when a search she had initiated for her father, also declared missing in action in Papua New Guinea, yielded the remains of both men. After 55 and 56 years respectively, Major Earl R. Kindig and 2LT George P. Gaffney, Jr., were buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC.

Michael Kindig had a very large group of friends from many walks of life which is a testament to the values he possessed. He will be remembered as a dedicated husband, father and friend committed to making his community a better place for all of us.

RETIREMENT OF GENEVA YOUNG
FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an accomplished woman and a longtime leader in the Social Security Administration, Geneva Young. Ms. Young is retiring as the Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Manager for the Social Security Administration in the New York Region, after being employed with Social Security for nearly 40 years.

Over the years, Geneva has proven herself as a dedicated and committed employee to the Social Security Administration and to the American people. Starting her career with the Social Security Administration as a Claims Representative in the Charlotte, North Carolina field office, Geneva moved up the ranks of the Social Security Administration. After only 3 months on the job, Geneva moved to New York to work for the Social Security Administration in the New Rochelle Field Office. By 1980, Geneva became an Operations Analyst for the Social Security Administration and only 6 months later was promoted to Operations Supervisor. Geneva remained in the New Rochelle Field Office until January 1995, when she began working in the Office of the Regional Commissioner as an Equal Employment Specialist. By 2007, she was promoted to the position of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Manager for the Social Security Administration in the New York Region. It is in this role that she is retiring today from the Social Security Administration.

As Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Manager for the New York Region, Geneva managed the equal opportunity program for the region. As the regional authority on equal opportunity, she has developed, administered and evaluated all Equal Employment Opportunity programs. She also has participated in the agency's policy-development process to create national policies and guidelines for Social Security on Equal Employment Opportunity matters and served as advisor to regional management on the development and interpretation of policies and guidelines.

Throughout her years of serving the people of the New York Region, Geneva has touched many lives with her commitment to public service. She and her staff have worked tirelessly to recommend strategies to resolve controversial issues and plans. She also has organized, directed, staffed, carried out, and reviewed a positive management-oriented Equal Employment Opportunity program. Her services will be greatly missed by her colleagues and friends.

I know what great change and improvement Geneva has provided. I wish her good luck in her retirement, something she deserves after her years of work and service to the Bronx community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 17, 2010. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

H. Res. 1377, Honoring the accomplishments of Norman Yoshio Mineta—rollcall #648: "yea."

Senate Amdt to H.R. 1107, To enact certain laws relating to public contracts as title 41, United States Code, "Public Contracts"—rollcall #649: "yea."

H.R. 6523, Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011—rollcall #650: "yea."

Senate Amdt to H.R. 628, To establish a pilot program in certain U.S. district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges—rollcall #651: "yea."

H. Con. Res. 336, Providing for the sine die adjournment of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress—rollcall #652: "yea."

H. Res. 1776, Providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 105) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011 and for other purposes—rollcall #653: "yea."

H.R. 2142, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010—rollcall #654: "yea."

H.R. 5510, Aiding Those Facing Foreclosure Act of 2010—rollcall #655: "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Friday, December 17, 2010, I was not present for votes as I was attending the White House signing ceremony for H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 652, H. Con. Res. 336—Sine Die Adjournment, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 653, H. Res. 1776—Rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 105—Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 654, H.R. 2142—Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act of 2009, I would have voted "aye."

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
THE LIFE OF ANDREW BARYLSKI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Barylski Sr., who

passed away on December 8, 2010. Barylski fought for his country and survived the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. I am honored to stand in tribute to him.

Barylski Sr., a Putnam, Connecticut native, was born in 1916 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1938. He was stationed in an observation tower high on Oahu at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941 when a surprise Japanese attack left 2,402 Americans dead and 1,202 wounded.

After the attack, Barylski Sr. stayed in Hawaii and helped rebuild the island until he was honorably discharged in 1945. Barylski often spoke of his experiences in the war, but always remained modest about his accomplishments. He was a lifelong member of the Putnam American Legion Post 13 and Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 1523.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Barylski family. Andrew Barylski Sr. served his country and led a remarkable life. I hope that is a small comfort for his son Andrew Barylski Jr., his daughters Linda March and Gloria Ghirarduzzi and six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren as they cope with the loss of their father and grandfather.

True American heroes deserve recognition for their accomplishments. Andrew Barylski witnessed a turning point in American history and helped rebuild a devastated island in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack. I ask my colleagues to rise with me so that we may honor Andrew Barylski Sr. and celebrate the life of a true American hero.

NICHOL WOOD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Nichol Wood for her outstanding service to our community.

Nichol has always set the bar high for herself. While working full time, raising two young sons, earning a college degree and doing it with Cum Laude Honors many would find that impossible.

Nichol excels not only in her personal goals, but in her professional life as well. As the Branch manager of the Bank of the West she exceeded all of her goals in a regional competition among branches earning first place in customer service and loan production.

In addition to focusing on her children and achieving at work, Nichol takes time to give back to the community. She is involved in numerous charitable events, including the March of Dimes Walk for Babies, Kids Against Hunger Food Drive, Operation Hope, Junior Achievement and Habitat for Humanity to name a few.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Nichol Wood for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.