

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM  
KEATHLEY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Jim Keathley, the superintendent of the Missouri Highway Patrol, will be retiring on March 1, 2010. After exactly 33 years of service with the highway patrol, Mr. Keathley's impressive career will come to a close.

The people of Missouri have benefited greatly from the 3 years he has served as superintendent, a job he enjoys immensely. Among his most notable achievements is a reduction in traffic deaths to levels not seen since 1950. This impressive accomplishment is due in no small part to his vigilant focus on highway safety.

For more than three decades, Mr. Keathley has put his life on the line for the safety of my fellow Missourians. Now, his sons follow this proud tradition as state troopers themselves. Missouri is a better place due to the proud service of Mr. Keathley and his sons.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I wish the very best for Mr. Keathley as he begins a new chapter in his life. I trust that my fellow members of the House will join me in thanking him for his service to the people of Missouri.

**HONORING GARY SEVERSON**

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and legacy of Gary Severson, who for the past 11 years has admirably served as Executive Director of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG).

Mr. Severson has led the council with an openness and team spirit that has allowed for effective management, while developing partnerships among the city and county entities he served. Under his leadership, the NWCCOG has emerged as a viable cohort and has grown as a respected and valued resource in addressing regional issues. As a result, the Council's guidance has been sought by elected officials from Colorado to Washington, DC.

Under Mr. Severson, the NWCCOG has taken responsibility for many complex federal and state projects with significant impact on programs including Weatherization, All-Hazards Emergency Management and Elevator Inspection Programs. The influence of his leadership has been particularly profound in protection of federal lands within the confines of the NWCCOG region.

With more than 68 percent of the NWCCOG region being managed by federal agencies, his stewardship and insight have helped grow the Council into a recognized leader in National Forest Planning, Community Wildfire Protection Planning and mitigating the detrimental effects of bark beetle infestation. Such efforts have led to many accolades, including receipt of the prestigious USDA Rural Leadership Award.

The future is bright for the region as the NWCCOG explores ways to expand on an economic base of recreation and construction. Mr. Severson's vision includes the possibilities of a sustainable wood products industry, enhancing higher education and upgrading medical services. He has truly left a lasting legacy of accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, I proudly acknowledge the work and leadership of Gary Severson and extend to him the gratitude of the 28 member jurisdictions of NWCCOG for his 11 years as Executive Director. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

**HONORING THE DEATH OF LAHORI  
RAM**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the one year passing of Lahori Ram. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of Lahori during his lifetime.

Lahori Ram served with a strong vision and dedication to the local community and California. From the day he emigrated from India to this great nation in 1972, Lahori embraced the notion that in America, hard work and sacrifice has limitless possibilities. He lived his American Dream, and his lasting legacy of philanthropy, community leadership, and political activism will be with us for generations to come.

As a 28-year-old graduate student, Lahori Ram worked in farm fields in Fresno for 75 cents an hour to help pay for a master's degree in Foreign Affairs from Yuba College. In 1976, he started a career with the United States Postal Service, where he worked an average of 55 to 60 hours per week, including most holidays, before retiring 18 years later in 1994.

Lahori Ram's hard work allowed him to buy his first family home in San Bruno in 1979, and with uncanny investment ability he sold that home in 1984, and eventually came to own over 100 apartment units in the bay area. With his success, after retirement, Lahori dedicated himself to philanthropy and to giving back to his community.

In 1981 Lahori Ram helped establish the Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Temple in Pittsburg, generously donated to charity, assisted many causes in India, and was a well-known figure in the Sikh and Hindu religious communities. He was appointed and served on the California Technology, Trade, and Commerce Committee; the California Transportation Commission; and the California Commission for Economic Development.

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored in joining many Californians to pay tribute to my friend and dedicated public servant, Lahori Ram.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 2, "yea" on rollcall No. 3, "yea" on rollcall No. 4, and "yea" on rollcall No. 5.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, I was not present for votes 4 and 5.

Had I been present for rollcall 4, supporting the initiatives of Chicago Wilderness and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall 5, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Highway 64 Bypass in Roper, North Carolina, as the E.V. Wilkins Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

**TRIBUTE TO ERIC BOTKIN**

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Eric Botkin, a retired firefighter paramedic and valued member of the community of Riverside, California. Riverside has been blessed by dynamic and dedicated leaders, like Eric, who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work.

Eric Botkin began his career with the City of Riverside Fire Department on May 1, 1998. He held the position of firefighter paramedic until his retirement. During his career he performed as a fire investigator from February 18, 2000 through July 5, 2002. He completed Engine Certification on November 2, 2007. His last assignment was Fire Station 13 on Canyon Springs Blvd.

Prior to working for the City of Riverside Fire Department Eric was a paid/call firefighter with the Orange County Fire Authority. He also worked for Lifefleet Ambulance and Medtrans Ambulance before pursuing his fire department career.

Eric passed away at his Temecula home on December 27th surrounded by family and friends, including his wife, Hallie, and son, Hunter, 10, after battling glioblastoma multiforme, a form of brain cancer. Eric Botkin was diagnosed in October of 2007 and retired from the fire department on October 30, 2008. For the past two years Eric remained upbeat and was an inspiration to all.

On behalf of all those who knew him, it is my honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of Riverside Firefighter

Eric Botkin. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENSBORO LUNCH COUNTER SIT-IN

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit-In.

Bucking the convention of segregation, on February 1, 1960, Ezell Blair, Jr. (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond sat at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, refusing to leave without service. These four courageous young students at the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina, now the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, became known as the A&T Four. Their actions on February 1st inspired a wave of sit-in demonstrations across the nation that played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement.

After the first sit-in on February 1st more than twenty other A&T students joined the A&T Four for the second day of the sit-in. By the end of the first week, hundreds of students from colleges throughout the area came to the downtown Greensboro area to participate in the Woolworth sit-in and rally in the streets in support. The following week, student sit-ins were launched across the state of North Carolina, and soon thereafter, across the country. After months of commitment by young civil rights activists, the first African-American was served at the Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter on July 25, 1960. The lunch counter was officially desegregated the following day.

As a Representative from the great state of North Carolina, it brings me great pride to recognize the outstanding efforts of this group whose actions were instrumental in securing equal treatment for African-Americans throughout North Carolina and the United States. The story of the A&T Four exemplifies the sacrifices made by countless courageous individuals to end inequality. The culmination of their efforts resulted in the end of an era of racial segregation and structured discrimination.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and appreciation that I recognize the bravery shown by the young men who launched the Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit-In, and all those who followed in their footsteps, making the state of North Carolina and the nation a better place for all Americans.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF LENN GRANT OF THE BARRINGTON ILLINOIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Assistant Chief Lenn Grant of the Bar-

rington Fire Department. I would like to thank Assistant Chief Grant for his 37 years of service to the Barrington community and congratulate him on his recent retirement. Assistant Chief Grant has made a valuable contribution to his community, and to the district I represent.

During the course of Assistant Chief Grant's career, the Barrington Fire Department has grown along with the needs of the community, evolving from a small on-call team to a modernized full-time squad with advanced emergency capabilities. Assistant Chief Grant's rise from a part-time firefighter to assistant chief reflects the dedication and professionalism that have earned him the respect of his colleagues and community. Throughout Assistant Chief Grant's time with the department, he has continually reached beyond the call of duty, serving on numerous public safety committees and developing innovative training programs for fellow firefighters.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Barrington will greatly miss Assistant Chief Grant's hard work and initiative within the fire department, but I know he will continue to apply the same talents and values to the benefit of the Barrington community for years to come. I thank Assistant Chief Grant for his service and wish him continued success in the future.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHANIE R. DAWKINS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mrs. MAHONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Stephanie R. Dawkins, a respected business leader both here and abroad. The founder and CEO of Stephanie Dawkins International, Inc., and a former Senior Vice President of AB Volvo, Stephanie Dawkins is widely respected in the world of business for her expertise and acumen, which she now shares as a renowned consultant, strategic advisor, and professional public speaker on business management.

Stephanie is a leader and innovator in her field, where she has amassed more than two decades of operations and human resources experience. As the former Senior Vice President of AB Volvo, Stephanie Dawkins was responsible for labor and employee relations, safety and the environment, health and well being, performance management, organizational effectiveness, exit management and global policy harmonization at an international corporation with tens of thousands of employees. She was the first African-American to be promoted to the ranks of Volvo's senior executives.

Stephanie Dawkins' achievements have been recognized by a wide range of respected organizations. She serves as a Trustee of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation and as a member of the European-American Women's Council, the National Speakers Association, the Executive Leadership Council, the Society for Human Resources Management, the Associated Society for Training and Development, the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources, and the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce.

The hallmarks of Stephanie Dawkins' success in her professional and civic engagement have been her optimism, her work ethic, and her persistence. As she herself so eloquently stated in the June 2006 edition of the North Carolina Journal for Women, "... I understand the importance of always being at your personal best. You never know under what circumstance another person's path will meet with your own. You never know who is watching, who is seeing you as a role model, or who will make the decision to emulate you."

Stephanie R. Dawkins has worked tirelessly in her professional life and leadership roles to support the accomplishments of women both in the United States and abroad. Through her involvement in and leadership of such vital and vibrant organizations as the European-American Women's Council (EAWC) and the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, she strives to forge ties and improve communications between professional women around the globe. She has dedicated her efforts to expanding and improving training for future leaders of EAWC and has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the mission of the EAWC in helping women in the workforce achieve their business and professional goals.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Stephanie R. Dawkins and her vital contributions to our nation's civic and business endeavors.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM GREINER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 15, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of Buffalo and Western New York and a dear friend who will be profoundly missed, William Greiner. Bill Greiner, the 13th president of the University at Buffalo, died due to complications from heart surgery at the age of 75. This is a devastating loss to his family and friends, and to our community.

William R. Greiner, who spent 42 years at UB as president, provost, and longtime Law School faculty member, joined the law faculty in 1967. He rose through the faculty and administrative ranks, culminating with his appointment as the University at Buffalo's 13th president in 1991. He served until 2003 and was named president emeritus on November 17, 2009 by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Greiner's administrative leadership resulted in a period of unprecedented growth at the University at Buffalo. His extensive list of major accomplishments includes the expansion of the university's research enterprise, including the creation of major research institutes and recruitment of world-class faculty, solidifying UB's place as a top-flight research university. He established the university as a leading international educational institution, and under his leadership UB became the first American university to establish a branch in China when it opened a center in Beijing.

Bill was deeply loved by his family, friends, and the community. He will be remembered as much for his engaging, hands-on administrative style, and tireless advocacy on behalf of