

quality and reliable services that Elford provides in central Ohio. I am proud to recognize and honor Elford for a century of service to the Columbus area and for its record as a company that has positively shaped our community.

HONORING MRS. FRANKIE
DRAYTON THOMAS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community—specifically to the Broward Democratic Party.

Mrs. Thomas was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton. She attended public schools and graduated in 1946 as an honor student from Industrial High School. In order to further her education, she attended Howard University in Washington, DC and graduated in 1950. She received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida International University. Subsequent to that time, she returned to West Palm Beach and became the first black college trained social worker hired by the Department of Public Welfare. She enjoyed a fruitful and productive career as a social worker having worked both in the State of Washington and Florida. In 1995, she retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services.

In an effort to complement her professional achievements, Mrs. Thomas was involved in many political, social and family endeavors such as co-founder, national president and executive director of the Charmettes Inc., which has 19 chapters both nationally and internationally; founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Board of Directors of the Urban League; the first African-American female in the nation to be head of the Board of Directors of South East Hospice; and Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America.

Additionally, Mrs. Thomas was on the management team of the Democratic Broward County Executive Committee and served as the First Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party. She also served as Parliamentarian for the Broward County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She organized and executed many political forums and helped with many campaigns including Governor Bob Graham, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, many of the Broward County Commissioners and School Board Members, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President William J. Clinton.

Mrs. Thomas was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She is survived by her husband, James Thomas Sr. This union produced two children, James Thomas Jr. and Iola Thomas Mosley, and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Thomas for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions she made to the betterment of Broward Democratic Party will never be forgotten.

GRAND OPENING OF THE GUILD
OF AMERICAN PAPERCUTTERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening celebration of the Guild of American Papercutters National Museum which will take place on March 20, 2010 in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

The twenty-two year old guild has partnered with Laurel Arts at the home of the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, and will bring to the area the ancient art form of papercutting, which dates back to Fifth Century China. The Guild of American Papercutters (GAP) museum will feature a number of exhibits and artwork created by past and present guild members as well as the international community. Such exhibits will feature artwork from Polish, Dutch, German, Swiss, Mexican, and Israeli artists.

The Guild currently retains over four hundred members, in which every state in the United States is represented. Before the new two hundred sixteen square foot gallery was completed, the GAP held traveling exhibits in a number of locations throughout the country, beginning with its 1989 debut at the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In their new gallery, the GAP plans to hold regularly scheduled hands-on workshops and guest presentations to further introduce this artistic technique to the ninth district of Pennsylvania.

I ask my fellow colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating this achievement of the Guild of American Papercutters, and wish them the best of luck and continued success in their new National Museum. May it be a creative outlet for generations of artists to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARBLE CITY
BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention

today to pay recognition to the congregation of Marble City Baptist Church, which celebrated their 100th anniversary this year.

Marble City Baptist Church, formerly the Gantt's Quarry Baptist Church, like so many other congregations across East Alabama, has been a staple in the community since it came into existence. In 1968, the church received the new name we know today. Pastor Dr. Michael Trull plays a substantial role in helping the church lead its ministry.

On February 13, Marble City Baptist Church held a reunion from the day into that night. This gathering brought close to 300 people back to the church. The following Sunday, a congregation close to 400 people came together for the 100-year anniversary service.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this congregation at this important milestone. We congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best in their next 100 years of ministry in the Sylacauga community.

RECOGNITION OF THE COLUMBUS
COMPACT CORPORATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its service to the city of Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Compact Corporation, or the Compact, is a nonprofit community development organization that works to improve the quality of life in the central city neighborhoods of Columbus. On March 10, 2010, Columbus Compact Corporation will celebrate its 15th anniversary of serving central Ohio residents and businesses.

The Compact's mission is to act as both a catalyst for positive change and agent for the growth and development of central city Columbus. Since 1999, the Compact has led the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-designated "Columbus Empowerment Zone." This program implements community redevelopment strategies and directs resources to rebuild the city's most distressed urban neighborhoods, making Columbus a happier, healthier, and more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Compact also lends money to new and existing businesses to create jobs and bring vital goods and services to Columbus. Over the last 15 years, the Compact has focused on developing real estate in concentrated areas and on a scale that allows for larger redevelopment in the neighborhoods of Columbus while enhancing the variety and quality of the housing stock.

The Columbus Compact Corporation strives to improve the city of Columbus by strengthening neighborhoods and encouraging people to reach their full potential. The Compact is continually working towards creating a healthy, thriving central city that is filled with successful and economically secure individuals, families, and businesses. I am proud to recognize and honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its 15 years of dedication to improving the quality of life in the city of Columbus.

STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA,
MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER AT THE
MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY AND
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valuable resource available to Minnesota veterans; the Student Veterans of America Chapter at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC).

The Minneapolis group operates as a chapter of the national non-profit organization. The Student Veterans of America have three primary missions: 1) Develop student veterans groups on college campuses and coordinate by region between existing groups; 2) connect student groups with resources; and 3) advocate on behalf of student veterans at the state and national level. Since their establishment, the Minneapolis chapter has consistently achieved these goals. Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe are welcomed by the staff at the Minneapolis chapter. Veterans are able to discuss issues, receive assistance, and share common bonds with fellow veterans who are experiencing the stress of integrating into an academic environment. Whether they ultimately transfer to another college or begin their professional careers, veterans who attend the Minneapolis Community and Technical College have a high graduation rate.

As a Nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans, who have served, and continue to serve, our country and I am proud to announce that veterans are receiving the respect and assistance they need from the Minnesota Chapter of the Student Veterans of America. MCTC is hosting an event to honor student veterans on March 10 as one of the many ways we express our appreciation for student veterans. I encourage my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to find ways to honor student veterans in their communities.

The post-9/11 G.I. Bill passed by Congress has allowed more veterans an opportunity to achieve their academic goals. Organizations such as the Student Veterans of America, and the additional benefits available through the G.I. Bill, help to ensure that our veterans achieve their goals. I want all student veterans to know that I am grateful for their service and proud of their achievements. I wish them nothing but success and prosperity in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. WALLY HUCKNO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Wally Huckno. Mr. Huckno served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 10.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but

only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Huckno served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Huckno is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MILITARY SERVICE OF TIBOR RUBIN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tibor "Ted" Rubin, a prominent U.S. Army Veteran and POW during the Korean War whose selfless and heroic actions earned him the Medal of Honor. Madame Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Rubin and share his story which serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Having been born in Hungary in 1929, at age 15 Mr. Rubin was sent to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria where he survived the next 14 brutal months of captivity. Tragically, his father perished in Buchenwald while his mother and sisters faced the gas chambers at Auschwitz. When Mauthausen was liberated by the U.S. Army in 1945, Mr. Rubin immigrated to the United States with a vow to show his appreciation to the country that gave him his freedom, and saved his life.

Mr. Rubin joined the army in 1950 and served as a rifleman with I Company, Eighth Regiment, First Cavalry Division, fighting in the Republic of Korea. Once there, Mr. Rubin hit the ground running and it wasn't long before he was recognized for his bravery and readiness to accept the most dangerous of missions. In one such mission, Rubin secured a route of retreat for his company by single-handedly defending a hill for 24 hours against waves of North Korean soldiers.

In November of 1950, after sustaining shrapnel wounds from a grenade, Mr. Rubin and others in his company were captured by the Chinese, who were fighting with the Korean Communist government. Despite the extreme conditions of low temperatures, shortages of food and medicine, all in the face of capture, this is where Rubin's selfless heroism truly shined. Mr. Rubin continually risked his life as he snuck out nightly to forage food for his fellow prisoners, especially the sick and dying. His fellow prisoners credit him with saving 35 to 40 lives by this brave and daring endeavor.

Mr. Rubin spent a total of two and a half years in the North Korean prisoner of war camp. Yet in the face of these unthinkable circumstances, Mr. Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism time and again. His harrowing acts of bravery and extraordinary devotion to his brothers in arms resulted in numerous recommendations from his Commanders for the Medal of Honor, among other prestigious awards. Regrettably, Mr. Rubin's deserved recognition was met with unwarranted obstruction due to his religious beliefs.

After more than 50 years of waiting, Mr. Rubin was finally given the acknowledgment he rightfully deserved. On September 23, 2005, President Bush awarded Mr. Rubin with the Medal of Honor—the highest military decoration awarded by the United States Government—for his many acts of valor throughout the Korean War.

Even to this day, at the age of 81, Mr. Rubin continues to inspire fellow veterans and service members as an active keynote speaker for military and Jewish communities across the United States. Most recently he has spoken to troops at Fort Hood, First Calvary, the California state military reserve, as well as to the 100 new soldiers enlisting in the five branches of the military service in Century City, California. In May of this year he will be speaking to the Army National Guard in Mississippi.

There is no question that Mr. Rubin has an unshakeable love for his adopted homeland of America. We are truly grateful for his demonstrated courage, compassion, and selfless military service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all those brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the valiant service of Mr. Tibor Rubin.

HONORING SPECIALIST ALAN N. DIKCIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor a true American hero—U.S. Army Specialist Alan N. Dikcis, a native of Wheatfield, New York.

Sadly, this past Friday, March 5, while serving his second tour of duty, Specialist Dikcis lost his life when he was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Specialist Dikcis enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Niagara-Wheatfield High School in 2006, and had hoped to spend his career in the service.

He enjoyed spending his time outside, whether it was going for a hike or riding his motorcycle or four-wheeler, and he enjoyed spending time with those he loved—his family and friends.

As Specialist Dikcis's stepmother recently said, "Alan loved being in the Army. He was proud of his work. He made us proud, he made his daughter proud."

I ask that the house join me in thanking Specialist Dikcis for his honorable service to our great nation, and extend our condolences to his family and friends, who had Alan taken from them far too soon.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF MR. FONTAINE BANKS

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to