

Danielle's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Danielle has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Danielle can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Danielle Mullens for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF P.K. BROOKS

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. P.K. Brooks.

Mr. Brooks is 78 years old and has been in business in my community of Saks for 56 years. During that time he has been a pillar of the community and a role model for generations of young people whose lives he has touched. He remains one of the most respected leaders in the area.

He grew up in Wedowee, Alabama, and played basketball for Randolph County High School. He later joined the Navy during the Korean War.

Mr. Brooks is a man of integrity and full of compassion for the folks around him. He has been a member of Saks Baptist Church for 53 years. Over the years, he has belonged to numerous organizations including Civitan, VFW and Gideon's.

On March 28th, an appreciation function will be held in the afternoon at Saks Civitan Club.

All of us across Calhoun County are pleased to recognize such an outstanding individual. I hope we can all look to Mr. Brooks as an example of how to live and I am proud to call him my friend.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SGT BENJAMIN SHERMAN

### HON. BILL DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fallen soldier, son, husband, and, now, a father. The life of Sergeant Benjamin Sherman was tragically cut short thousands of miles from home near on his second heroic tour of duty in Afghanistan. His daughter, Skylah May-Marie Sherman, was born just yesterday on Tuesday, March 9.

Ben was a hero long before he sacrificed his life for his country. Born to Bill and Denise Sherman of New Bedford, Massachusetts, he served as an exemplary role model for his two sisters, Meredith and Jessica, through their youth and adolescence at Plymouth South High School. It was during middle school in Plymouth that Ben first met Patricia—the girl who would one day become his wife. While

many young high school students struggle to balance their daily routines with the natural torment of their teen years, Ben held himself to a standard above his peers. Always the first to stand up for a cause, he was a student of integrity and a model of resilience.

Recognizing his own passion to aid his fellow Americans, Ben enlisted in the Army in August of 2006. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the battalion mortars section of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was deployed for the first time in January of 2007, where his unit was engaged in fierce fighting throughout the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. Often in the thick of the action, Ben was instrumental in the battalion's efforts to clear the Taliban from the Helmand River Valley. His steadfast resolve served him well through the cutting edge of battle, and he was publicly lauded for his astute decision-making despite the pressures of battle and his courage in the face of determined enemy attacks.

It was during his return from that first deployment, on May 2, 2008, that he proposed to the girl who had waited for him with patience and grace through the long months of deployment. Patricia and Ben were married August 26 and hurriedly began what they prayed would be a long, healthy life together in Fayetteville, North Carolina. In July of 2009, one month before his final deployment, Ben and Patricia learned the happy news that their first child—a daughter—was on her way. With this newfound joy in his heart, Ben returned with his unit to Afghanistan in August.

Regularly exposed to the many dangers inherent in war, Ben continued his tradition of excellence during his second deployment in the Badghis Province in northwestern Afghanistan. No task was too difficult nor challenge too daunting for the expert mortar-man, Sergeant Sherman. On November 4, 2009, while conducting operations near the town of Bala Murghab, Ben fell into the Murghab River and drowned. He was 21 years old.

Ben's greatest gift to his country lies not in his heroism in battle, his legacy at Plymouth South High School, or the tragedy of his untimely death. Instead, his memory will forever endure in the starlit eyes, coy smile, and zealous ambition of Skylah May-Marie Sherman—a daughter who may never know the embrace of her father, yet will always carry in her heart the stories, photos, and memories of a man whose passion for life was fueled by his love for an unborn daughter and beloved wife.

#### BEAUMONT FIREFIGHTER AND 80 OTHER TEXANS RESPOND TO THE HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we grieve with those in Haiti over the loss of life during the devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake January 12. Many Americans rushed to help, including one particular Texan from Beaumont. Firefighter Joshua Fowler is one such hero. The city of Beaumont in the Second District of Texas is proud to honor Joshua Fowler for his service to the people of Haiti during his international rescue tour as a member of the Texas Task Force 1.

The Texas Task Force 1, an urban search and rescue group, is comprised of 210 personnel. These individuals respond to disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, widespread tornadoes, and man-made technological and terrorist events in Texas and throughout the United States. Haiti was their very first international deployment. Joshua Fowler has been a firefighter/EMT-1 for the City of Beaumont Fire/Rescue Services since 2000 and was one of 80 Texans that assisted the people of Haiti.

We applaud Joshua for his selfless service as well as the many others that have also put themselves in harm's way to protect and rescue Haitians who were trapped and wounded during this earthquake. We thank them for their commitment to responding to disaster-stricken areas with a selfless love for others.

#### BROOKE JACKSON

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brooke Jackson. Brooke is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Brooke's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Brooke has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment in which Brooke can take pride for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brooke Jackson for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### HONORING FORMER NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER HOWARD WEITZMAN

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard Weitzman, who served as the Comptroller of Nassau County, New York from 2001 through 2009.

When Howard first took office, Nassau County faced an unprecedented budget crisis. Together with the County Executive, Howard brought Nassau County back from the brink of bankruptcy, balanced the county's budget, and turned deficits into surpluses; a feat made more remarkable when considering he engineered Nassau County's fiscal turnaround without a tax increase for three consecutive years.

During his eight year tenure, Howard enhanced the reputation of the Comptroller's Office and helped to restore Nassau County residents' trust that their local government worked for their best interests. Under his stewardship, Nassau County recovered millions of dollars

for taxpayers by exposing waste, fraud, abuse and misspending by agencies and vendors that did business with the County. He pioneered the launch of the NassauRx Card, an innovative prescription drug discount program that, to this day, provides savings off retail prescription drug prices. To date, the NassauRx Card has saved Nassau residents more, than \$12 million.

Prior to becoming Comptroller, Howard served as the Mayor of Great Neck Estates, where he and his wife, Susan, have resided for 28 years. He is a Certified Public Account, a former national healthcare partner at KPMG, and the paragon of a true, dedicated public servant. Howard's years of selfless service to his community are exemplary and his many achievements on behalf of Nassau County residents are worthy of recognition. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Howard Weitzman and thanking him for his service.

#### REMEMBERING MANUS "JACK" FISH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to share the sad news of the passing of Manus "Jack" Fish. An engineer by profession, Jack worked for almost four decades at the National Park Service here in Washington, serving from 1973 until his retirement in 1988 as the director of the National Capital Region. Jack, one of my constituents from Ashburn, Virginia, died on February 27 at the age of 81 following a stroke.

I had the pleasure of first working with Jack Fish in the early 1970's when I served in the Interior Department under Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton and he was at the Park Service. When I came to Congress in 1981, our working relationship continued, and Jack was instrumental in the approval of a safety improvement plan I had recommended at the merge of the Spout Run Parkway and the George Washington Memorial Parkway, the first federal parkway and gateway to the nation's capital.

Jack was the epitome of a public servant. He loved his job and made it his life's work to maintain and beautify and preserve the grounds that encompass the vast national capital region—from the gardens to the memorials to the Mall to the parks—for every resident and visitor of this area to enjoy.

We express our condolences to his wife of 58 years, Rosemary Fish, their 12 children, 42 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, and we remember Jack Fish with these biblical words: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Madam Speaker, I submit an obituary for Jack Fish published in the Washington Post on March 4.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 4, 2010]

MANUS "JACK" FISH, 81, DIES; LED NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORK

(By Patricia Sullivan)

Manus "Jack" Fish, 81, the National Park Service regional director who oversaw the heavily trafficked National Mall, expanded the Civil War battlefield at Manassas and su-

pervised the planting of 150,000 trees and millions of flowers in the parks and byways of greater Washington, died after a stroke Feb. 27 at Heritage Hall nursing and rehabilitation center in Leesburg.

Mr. Fish led the Park Service's complex and diverse National Capital Region, whose holdings include historic memorials, the 185 mile-long C&O Canal, an urban sports complex, Civil War battlefields, the White House and two major highways. His office granted 1,000 permits a year for demonstrations including a one-person crusade for "husband liberation" as well as the hundreds of thousands who gather for the Fourth of July celebrations between the Capitol and Washington Monument. He was the regional director from 1973 to 1988 after working three years as the deputy.

A diplomatic and unflappable engineer, Mr. Fish worked for the Park Service for 36 years, based the entire time in Washington. He helped design playground swings and the Roosevelt Bridge and became a regular presence on Capitol Hill, either appearing at hearings or reassuring his hundreds of Congressional bosses that, yes, he was dealing with the timing of lights on Spout Run at George Washington Parkway or trying to resolve who would pay for a leaking roof at the Kennedy Center.

"I've got to study issues in detail," he told a Washington Post reporter in 1978. "And I guess I like that. If I didn't, I'd have ulcers and high blood pressure."

His nighttime studying was done in a household of a dozen children, with television, radio, stereos and phone conversations swirling around him. His wife of 58 years, Rosemary Fish, was "kind of a short-order cook," he joked, adept at managing the comings and goings of the brood.

In addition to his wife of Ashburn, survivors include 12 children, M. John Fish of Herndon, Theresa Grooms of Leesburg, Mary Ann LaRock of Gambrells, Joan Rowe of Irmo, S.C., Peter Fish of Huntsville, Ala., Christine Behrmann of Troy, N.Y., Helen Kokolakis of Falls Church, and Kathleen Key, Rosemary Burke, Brigid Powell and Bernadette Ishmael, all of Ashburn; a brother; a sister; 42 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

After leaving the Park Service in 1988, Mr. Fish worked for 10 years as vice president at the West Group, a local real estate developer, and was chairman of the Parks & History Association, which operates 25 bookstores in the national parks. He also served on numerous boards and was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Ashburn.

A native of Trenton, N.J., Manus John Fish Jr. moved to Washington as a youth and graduated from St. John's College High School. He served in the Army in Korea between World War II and the Korean War, then returned to Washington and graduated from Catholic University with a degree in engineering. He began working for the Park Service in 1952, reporting to the stone engineer's office near the Washington Monument.

In pursuit of his duties, he rode in countless parades, mastering horseback riding in two days in order to accompany a member of Congress on a tour of one of the parks, and learned to iceskate overnight when a skating rink opened on the Mall. "I was able to stay on the horse, and I kind of skated on my ankles," he told a Post reporter in 1988.

He also managed 3,000 employees and oversaw an annual operating budget of \$100 million. During his tenure, Constitution Gardens and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened on the Mall; handicapped-accessible entrances were added to many memorials, and Wolf Trap's Filene Center was rebuilt. It was his decision to close Beach Drive in

Rock Creek Park to vehicles on weekends and holidays, to close and grass over two streets on the Mall and to eliminate nine holes from a 36-hole golf course in East Potomac Park to expand an adjacent softball field, a decision that did not stand under fierce protests from golfers.

He made maintenance and preservation a priority and struggled for additional appropriations for repairs, which forced him to reduce grass cutting and put off hiring Park Police officers. He received the Interior Department's Distinguished Service Medal for guiding the expansion of the parks, especially during the 1976 Bicentennial year.

"There remains much to be done," he said upon his retirement.

So long did he hold the politically sensitive "fish-bowl" job that he, too, is memorialized. If you're at the Tidal Basin next month when the cherry blossoms bloom, take a look at the Ohio Drive bridge. You'll find some gargoyles sculpted into the stone. The fish creature is a caricature of the Park Service's Mr. Fish.

#### INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating the National Urban League on its 100th anniversary.

From humble beginnings, the National Urban League has become the famed organization that it is today. Founded by Dr. George E. Haynes and Ruth S. Baldwin in 1910, the National Urban League created its first department in the area of housing in 1913.

Today, the League has expanded its operations to include over 25 national programs in 36 states, as well as in the District of Columbia. The League does extraordinary work aiding African American communities on a range of critical issues affecting the nation. Through programs designed to empower African Americans in areas of education, civil rights, civic engagement and health, the League combats inequality while improving the lives of countless people.

I am immensely proud of my own affiliation with the Urban League, going back over 35 years. In 1974, I was one of the founding members of the National Urban League of Broward County, the 104th affiliate chapter in the United States. Our goal then was to help alleviate some of the racial tensions felt throughout the community during desegregation. I went on to serve on the original board of directors for the local chapter, where we worked to empower the community, increase educational opportunities for our children, and change lives through strong advocacy for essential public services. I am pleased to add that we enjoyed numerous successes.

Over the past century, the League has made great strides in education and youth leadership and played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement. Working closely with leaders such as A. Philip Randolph and Martin Luther King, Jr., the League assisted in planning the 1963 March on Washington, and carried on the hard work of advocating for equality and