

the congregants of New Mount Moriah. It is with a great sense of pride I have watched as the Church has expanded its reach into our shared communities and enriched the lives of an increasing number of residents across southeast Michigan. This year I was particularly blessed to visit New Mount Moriah with the Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, JAMES CLYBURN, to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the one-year anniversary of the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of these United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing New Mount Moriah International Church's 21 years of service to Pontiac and countless other communities across southeast Michigan and wish Bishop Murphy, his wife and the Church's congregants many more years of happiness, health and service to our shared communities.

#### HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND THE SHE SERVES INITIATIVE

##### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2010*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, and the She Serves Initiative.

The mission of the VFW is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

For centuries, the VFW and its auxiliaries, including the She Serves Initiative, have been serving veterans by giving them a place to address their concerns and providing moral support. The She Serves Initiative works to empower, encourage, and appreciate all women who have served in the military.

Through outreach within the community, She Serves works to educate others about the sacrifices of female veterans who have served faithfully in conflict overseas. The She Serves Initiative acts as the connecting point for women of the VFW.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the VFW and the She Serves Initiative for their outstanding presence within the community. The support these two organizations provide to our Nation's veterans is essential and greatly appreciated.

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. CASSIDY, JR.

##### HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2010*

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has given his life's work over in service to his country. A man who has honorably served the United States, both in uniform and out, in both the public and the private sectors, and who in my mind exemplifies duty and excellence. A man who is now taking a long deferred and well deserved retirement. Madam Speaker, Thomas J.

Cassidy, Jr. has come a long way from his days growing up in the Bronx. He served in the Navy, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. During his career, he served 34 years, seeing action in the Vietnam War as the Commander of Fighter Squadron 161 aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea*. He later took command of Miramar Naval Air Station, as well as command of the Pacific Fleet Fighter and Airborne Early Warning Wing.

During all this time, Admiral Tom Cassidy developed a reputation as a thorough and fully dedicated Naval Officer, that Bronx upbringing never being too far below the surface. He pushed himself to the limit, gaining extensive experience flying a wide variety of American and foreign aircraft. In fact, he developed air-to-air improved fighter tactics that the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force fighter pilots used to dramatically improve the kill ratio over the North Vietnamese Air Force MiGs. He did this by flying the MiG 21 and 17 to exploit their weaknesses. This in turn led to a number of staff jobs from a carrier group to a stint with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With a reputation as a man with an eye for detail and a no nonsense approach to getting the job done, Admiral Cassidy was made the Chief of Naval Operations', CNO, liaison officer to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was Director of the Tactical Readiness Division of the CNO's staff.

Madam Speaker, a resume like this speaks volumes, and would lead you to believe that Admiral Tom Cassidy had more than done his bit for "king and country." No one could dispute that Tom had served the American people well and that he had earned a place in the esteem of his countrymen. And so after a long and distinguished career, Tom retired from the Navy.

However, while Admiral Cassidy may have left the Navy, in a very real sense the Navy never left him. Devotion to duty and hard work. A commitment to excellence and a "can-do" spirit. Love of family, God and country. Valor in the face of danger and hardship, and most of all, a firm and unswerving loyalty to his men. All these qualities that we so instantly and rightly attribute to the men and women of the Navy, and not just the Navy but all the Armed Forces, were deeply engrained in Admiral Cassidy.

It was that Navy spirit that Tom took with him into the private sector, where he accepted a position as CEO of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, and where he has become a pioneer in the development of some of the most important and revolutionary weapons in America's arsenal for the war on terrorism.

Madam Speaker, Admiral Tom Cassidy made the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Were it not for Tom, after September 11 the United States would not have had in its armory one of the key weapons with which we began the long hard fight to free Afghanistan, Iraq, the Swat valley and so many other parts of the Middle East and Central and South Asia.

At a time when there were grave doubts in the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense about the efficacy and necessity of UAVs like the Predator, Admiral Cassidy took a gamble. Operating by what Aviation Week magazine has rightly referred to as the "build it and they will come" strategy—Tom Cassidy pushed the development and building of Predators ahead of orders from the United States Government.

Consequently, Madam Speaker, when on that terrible day in September of 2001, Americans came face to face with the unrelenting hatred and resourcefulness of our radical Islamist opponents, we can thank Admiral Tom Cassidy that the United States was able to have at the ready one of the critical weapons systems with which we have been able to bring the war to our enemies and to drive them out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is a weapon that, Madam Speaker, continues to serve us well today. The Predator has gone through no less than three developmental iterations thanks to the hard work of Tom Cassidy. Each new evolution in the Predator has radically improved our ability to strike against the shadowy adversary that we now face.

The Predator, Madam Speaker, will soon have attained over a million cumulative flight hours. How many of the enemy has it taken out? How many lives of our service men and women have been saved by the use of the Predator? How many terrorist attacks against the United States and our allies have been averted thanks to the unique surveillance and offensive weapons capabilities of the Predator? How many people have a chance at freedom because the Predator was able to strike against those who preach a savage perversion of a religion?

There is probably no real way to count it accurately. Still, we know that lives have been saved and terrorist attacks have been averted and people who were once enslaved are now free because Predator was in America's arsenal. For that, Madam Speaker, this Congress and this country and people the world over owe Admiral Tom Cassidy a debt of gratitude of which they are scarcely aware. That is why I am privileged to be able to say these few words of thanks.

So Madam Speaker, Tom Cassidy will retire now. He will end the long days of hard work and get to spend time with the wife and family that he loves, secure in the knowledge that he has done all that could reasonably be asked of one man to protect his country from those who threaten it.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that nothing would please Tom Cassidy more than to know that his work has helped our nation face many of the most challenging threats to our security. I am convinced that the strength of character, dedication to duty and love of family and of country that are the hallmarks of Admiral Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr.'s life will long endure. I congratulate him on a job well done that has spanned both careers, the U.S. Navy and his tenure as the head of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems. On behalf of the American people I thank him, and I wish him many happy years ahead.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FRED E. ALLEN

##### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2010*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a man who has dedicated his life to service and a greater cause, Fred E. Allen of Mt. Pleasant, TX.

Mr. Allen has been an outstanding citizen and patriot throughout his life. Much of his energy has been directed through the noble organization of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which has played an important role in the history of this nation since its founding. Many influential Americans have been members of the Masons, including Presidents, Members of Congress, Justices, and Governors, and their ranks have included scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, entertainers, clergy, entrepreneurs, businessmen, and pioneers—basically all walks of life.

In October of 2009 Mr. Allen was honored with The Grand Cross by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. This is the highest individual honor that The Supreme Council bestows. It is a rare honorary degree that is bestowed on Thirty-third Degree Masons, and is awarded only for the most exceptional and extraordinary services. Mr. Allen is one of those exceptional Masons, a man who, in the words of the philosopher Jeremy Benson, sought "the greatest good for the greatest number."

It is a privilege to pay tribute to such an honorable and devoted citizen in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of this great American, Fred Allen.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,639,779,478,641.89.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,001,353,732,348.09 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### SERGEANT CANDICE BRIESE

#### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Sergeant Candice Briese on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and to recognize her contributions to the community for over three decades.

Sergeant Briese is a native of Galt, Missouri, but a lifelong resident of southern California. She has been a committed public servant with a professional career worthy of mention. Her extensive achievements and experience in law enforcement and security established her as a leader in community safety. Sergeant Briese served as a Deputy Sheriff in the Sybil Brand Institute, Lakewood Sheriff's Station, and Employee Support Services. As a Deputy Sheriff, she devoted her time and ef-

fort to ensuring safety in prisons, enforcing the law, and helping her department members through counseling and peer support.

Sergeant Briese has been a model public servant who always rises to meet challenges and never allows an obstacle to stop her in her efforts to improve the community. She served as a sergeant in the Men's Central Jail and in the notorious Twin Towers Correctional Facility. She has served with great dedication in various courts in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Inglewood, and Van Nuys.

While Sergeant Briese was serving at the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, she received a commendation from Sheriff Sherman Block for her heroic actions that saved the lives of five infants. She is known not only for her professionalism on the job, but also for her generous and compassionate nature. She was the leading force behind efforts to teach inmates how to read in the Biscailuz Recovery Center.

In addition to being a hardworking law enforcement officer, Sergeant Briese is also a wife and the mother of three successful children. I know that her husband, Glenn Jorritsma, and her children, Beu Alan Briese, Cara Bethanie Briese, and Ted Dustin Briese, are proud of her service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sergeant Candice Briese, for her distinguished service and outstanding commitment to our society.

#### CHARLIE WILSON

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize a former Member of Congress who represented the 2nd Congressional District of Texas which I represent. While the 2nd Congressional District has changed in shape over the years, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a unique Texan who served his constituents and country well during his 24 years in the House of Representatives.

Charlie Wilson served 12 terms (1973–1997) in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was well known for his personality as big as Texas and is perhaps best known for his work to covertly direct billions of U.S. dollars in arms to Afghan rebels who were fighting the Soviets through his position on the House Appropriations Committee.

One of my favorite stories about Charlie Wilson is the story when as a young boy of 13 and living in Trinity, Texas, his dog Teddy got into the neighbor's yard. The neighbor, city official Charles Hazard, retaliated by mixing crushed glass into the dog's food. The dog died from internal bleeding. In response, Charlie decided to run for office against him in the next election. Charlie won by driving 96 voters from poor neighborhoods to the polls. Before they left the car, Charlie told them what Mr. Hazard had done to his dog Teddy. Charlie Wilson won that race by a margin of only 16 votes. This election started his political career.

Perhaps this event explains why he always fought for the underdog later in life. His efforts of aiding Afghans rebels with appropriate weaponry and machinery and in advocating for humanitarian aid were successful in help-

ing to defeat the Soviet Union and in bringing the Cold War to a close. He was also a tireless advocate for Texas in Washington, DC and helped bring business and industry to his district and State.

Charlie Wilson passed on February 10, 2010 in Lufkin, Texas, from a cardiopulmonary arrest. We are grateful for his service in the second congressional district of Texas and for his tireless efforts to advance freedom in Afghanistan and throughout the world. His death is a loss to Texas, and to our Nation.

#### HONORING MR. DAVID HOPKINS

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. David Hopkins, recipient of the Harford County Agricultural Pioneer Award. Hopkins owns and operates a local produce stand, providing Harford Countians with fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Hopkins, a third generation farmer, was introduced to the direct-to-consumer produce business in the 1970s, when he and his brother worked for a local produce stand. In the 1980s when that stand closed, the Hopkins family began to sell produce from their farm. With the determination of Hopkins, his family produce stand flourished and the Hopkins family was able to build a pavilion to house the stand. In 2004, the produce stand was so successful they were able to sell the dairy cows.

In 2009, Hopkins assisted with Harford County's "Buy Local" campaign by allowing the Division of Agriculture to have its logo and slogan painted on the side of his barn. Hopkins continues to operate his stand with the help of his family, including his brother Daniel and son Aaron, who is continuing the family's farming legacy by studying Agriculture at the University of Delaware.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. David Hopkins, Harford County's Agricultural Pioneer of the year. The achievements of Mr. Hopkins produce stand should be a model to local businesses within Harford County.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. A.J. O'NEILL'S COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S BIG 3 AUTOMAKERS, THEIR EMPLOYEES, AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY SUPPORT

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. A.J. O'Neill, a Berkley native and Royal Oak resident, for his community activism dedicated to highlighting the importance of our domestic automotive manufacturing industry to our economy and communities. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Mr. O'Neill, today as he prepares to hold the 2nd Annual "Assembly Line Concert" at his café to support our