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As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Kevin Carringer, a United States Military Academy Appointee. Kevin is a graduate of Plano West Senior High School where he ran cross country, and track. Kevin also participated in triathlons, winning a consistent first place amongst his age group, and also achieving fifty miler awards for BSA canoeing and kayaking. Kevin worked hard at various jobs through his summers and serves as an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He served as president of the Plano West Cycling Club and was a member of the National Honor Society. Kevin's personal ambition and motivation to protect freedom inspire him to attend a United States Military Academy. In an essay Kevin stated he aspires to become the best Ranger the Army has seen, and believes that the full four year lifestyle of military discipline and training is required as his first stepping stone to success.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 391, 408, and 409. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 391, "nay" on rollcall 408, and "yea" on rollcall 409.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD HARVEY HOOMES, JR.

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Mr. Edward Harvey Hoomes, Jr., of Brewton, Alabama, a respected public servant who passed away after an extended illness on June 9, 2011. He was 76 years old.

During his lifetime, Edward Hoomes was a much beloved member of his community, and spent many years working for the Escambia County Commission. E.H., as he was called by his friends and family, honorably served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959, reaching the rank of Specialist 3.

Mr. Speaker, E.H. will be remembered for his character, strength, love of the outdoors and his loving heart. All who knew E.H. will surely miss him.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Betty, their daughters, Beverly and Sandra, their son Robert, and their families for the loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

#### HONORING SUNG MO "STEVE" KANG

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Sung Mo "Steve" Kang, Chancellor of the University of California, Merced; and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the academic advancement of the Central Valley.

Since March 1, 2007, Steve Kang has served as Chancellor of the University of California, Merced, the first American research university of the 20 century. Kang is an experienced educator, researcher and administrator. Previously, he was Dean of the Baskin School of Engineering at UC Santa Cruz. He now serves on the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium Board, MentorNet Advisory Board, the UC President's Advisory Council on Science and Innovation, Business-Education Alliance of Merced County, and the Board of the Great Valley Center as its Chairman. He also serves on international advisory boards for institutions in Canada, Korea, Switzerland, and Taiwan.

He brings a wealth of experience from a long and distinguished career in private industry and higher education. Kang served as a department head (1995–2000) and a professor (1985–2000) in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was a visiting professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, the University of Karlsruhe and the Technical University of Munich, and a Chaired Visiting Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). He has also taught at Rutgers University.

Prior to his career in education, Kang worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he led the development of the world's first 32-bit microprocessor chips as a technical supervisor and designed satellite-based private communication networks as a member of technical staff.

His leadership in industry is evidenced by his earlier appointment to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology, a joint federal-state venture to promote California as the premier center for nanotechnology research, development, and commercialization. He served as president of the Silicon Valley Engineering Council, the alliance for engineering leaders in Silicon Valley, with more than 60,000 engineers.

Kang holds 15 U.S. patents in electrical engineering and has written or co-authored 11 books and 400 technical papers and won numerous awards and fellowships for his work and publications. His current research interests include nanoelectronics, lower-power, very large-scale integrated (VLSI) circuits; modeling and simulation of semiconductor devices and circuits.

Kang is a fellow of IEEE, ACM and AAAS, Foreign Member of National Academy of Engineering of Korea, and is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Technology, Who's Who in Engineering and Who's Who in Midwest. He received the Alexander von Humboldt U.S. Senior Scientist Award (1996), IEEE Millennium Medal (2000), Chang-Lin

Tien Education Leadership Award (2007), Korean-American Leadership Award (2008), IQ Quality Award (2008), and many other accolades. Most recently (2009), Kang was inducted into the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame.

He earned his bachelor of science degree, graduating summa cum laude, from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J.; his master of science from the State University of New York at Buffalo; and his doctorate from UC Berkeley. All his academic degrees are in electrical engineering. Kang and wife, Mia, live in the chancellor's residence in Merced. They have two grown children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Sung Mo "Steve" Kang, Chancellor of the University of California, Merced for his numerous years of selfless service to the education of our community.

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#### HONORING JENNIFER FORSETH

#### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Forseth, a teacher at Centerfield Elementary School, and her fourth grade class from Oldham County in the fourth district of Kentucky.

Ms. Forseth and her students have been recognized by the National Energy Education Development Project for their outstanding work on energy programs this year.

Ms. Forseth's class conducted a study detailing how to improve energy efficiency in their school that culminated in a presentation of their findings. Their academic initiative earned them a scholarship and recognition by the NEED Youth Awards.

It is my hope that the accomplishments of Ms. Forseth and the fourth grade students from Centerfield Elementary School serve as inspiration for others to increase their own energy efficiency. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing their accomplishments.

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#### VALENTINA ROSENDO CANTÚ

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2002, 17-year-old Valentina Rosendo Cantú was almost finished doing her washing in a stream when eight soldiers suddenly appeared. They beat her until she passed out. When Valentina came to, she was raped, not once, but twice, as the rest of the soldiers stood by, watching and mocking her.

She was finally able to escape, returning home to her husband and three-month-old daughter, but she hasn't been able to escape from the memories of what happened to her.

For the last 9 years, Valentina has been begging for these bad guys to be punished. Despite her tireless pursuit of justice, the Mexican government refuses to allow her case to be tried under civilian jurisdiction while the military courts have completely dropped the

case. Valentina is not only a victim of a heinous violent crime, she is also a victim of the negligence of members of the Mexican government, and it's time for these outlaws to be brought to justice.

And that's just the way it is.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
STUDENTS—EMMA DRIDGE

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Emma Dridge, a United States Air Force Academy appointee. Emma is a graduate of Allen High School where she was considered an all-around overachiever in everything she did. She played high school and club volleyball where she earned numerous awards. Emma was active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, and the Chamber Orchestra. One of Emma's teachers said Emma demonstrates confidence, inspiration and perseverance while always giving 100 percent at all times and has the ability to motivate others to do the same. Emma chose to apply to a United States Service Academy so that she may experience a unique and extraordinary education, while also being offered a chance to contribute athletically at the highest collegiate level. Emma knows that an Air Force Academy education will provide a solid foundation for her professional and academic pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 417 for H.R. 2055, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 418 for H.R. 2055, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 419 for H. Res. 300, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO FIFTY-FOURTH NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Fifty-Fourth National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 12th, 2011, in New York City. A radiant and star-studded event, this parade proudly recognizes the heritage of Puerto Rican people here in the United States, and year upon year has proven to be one of our nation's largest outdoor festivities.

The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is the successor to the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade, which held its inaugural celebration on Sunday, April 12th, 1958, in "El Barrio," Manhattan. The impact of the first Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York was immediate and resounding. Thousands of New York Puerto Ricans flooded the streets in a very public, very proud demonstration of their emergence in the City as an important and growing ethnic group. For the next 38 years, the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade became a staple of New York's cultural life. In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size and transform it into the national and international affair that it is today.

On June 12th delegates representing over thirty states, including Alaska and Hawaii, will join the roughly 3 million parade goers every year who turn New York's Fifth Avenue into a sea of traditional red, white, and blue flags. It's a picture unlike anything you will see anywhere else in the country. Not only because New York is the most international city in the world, but also because of the relationship that exists between New York and the Puerto Rican community. It's an historic relationship essentially born of mutual benefit and respect. Puerto Ricans have helped transform New York into a dynamic, bilingual city that continues to welcome newcomers from all over the globe, and the City of New York, believed by many to be a place of opportunity, has enabled Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, culturally and politically.

The success that the parade enjoys each year is brought about in large measure by the continued efforts of a choice few individuals—women and men of able leadership who believe, as I do, in the unbound potential of people of Puerto Rican descent. The Parade's march up Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration, is hardly the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. Each year more than 10,000 people attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events that strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York.

Mr. Speaker, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade is an experience unlike any other. It signals to all who witness it that the Puerto Rican community, both in New York and nationally, represents an exquisite tapestry of individuals. Its power can be seen on the faces and heard in the streets, as millions come together to joyously proclaim their heritage. And

so, Mr. Speaker, as a Puerto Rican and a New Yorker, and as someone who participates in this parade annually, I stand before you and my colleagues in Congress with a full and proud heart to pay tribute to the sights and sounds and wonder that is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade.

MARK SMITH GUEST CHAPLAIN

**HON. STEVE AUSTRIA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about today's guest chaplain and my dear friend and fellow Ohioan, Dr. Mark A. Smith. Dr. Smith is a leader in faith-based education throughout Ohio and also an important leader in Pickaway County.

Since coming to Ohio Christian University in 2005, he has expanded the University's enrollment from 380 to more than 1,750 students. He has helped fund and build over \$10.5 million of projects and led the development of many off campus sites.

Dr. Smith was also appointed by former U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and served on the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education Board, which managed more than 400 million dollars of projects.

Dr. Smith has experience in nearly every level of education, and he has taught several undergraduate and graduate classes in education, business, leadership, and religion. Prior to coming to Ohio Christian University, he was Vice President for Adult and Graduate Studies at Indiana Wesleyan University for five years. Under his leadership, his division grew from an enrollment of 2,500 students to nearly 10,100 students.

Though he has been anxiously engaged in education his entire life, Dr. Smith has also made community service a priority. In fact, he currently serves on my Economic Advisory Team, and I rely on him for advice to improve our economy and higher education in Ohio. He has lead many community projects and assisted in building education programs for the African-American community. He also served as treasurer of the Pickaway County Community Foundation.

Though he has proved to be an astute businessman that has successfully grown his University, Dr. Smith remains first and foremost a man of great faith. Dr. Smith is married to his wife Debbie, and they are the parents of two sons, Douglas and Micah.

While serving as an administrator for Management Resources Incorporated at Hope-mont Hospital in Terra Alta, West Virginia, Dr. Smith served as senior pastor of the Terra Alta Wesleyan Church and was Assistant Superintendent for the West Virginia District. He has published scores of articles for professional and church organizations, and coauthored "Leading a Change in Your World" with Larry Lindsay.

Dr. Smith graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts degree from Hobe Sound Bible College in West Palm Beach, Florida. He attended Kansas University's Graduate School, and graduated with a Master of Science degree in college teaching from Northeastern State University. In 1995, he graduated from West Virginia University with a Doctor of Education degree,