

Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to work with this incredible woman on promoting sound education policy for more than two decades. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Deputy Superintendent Karen Philip for her remarkable service to our nation's children and wish she and her husband, Lou, a phenomenal retirement filled with exciting travel, good health and the love of their amazing family: Kimberly and her husband Keith, Jeff, and his wife Jenn, and grandchildren Lydia, Mark, Caitlin, John, Emma and Amelia.

RECOGNIZING DR. GEORGE R.
CARRUTHERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. George R. Carruthers, a world-renowned scientist, an innovative leader in astronomy and engineering, and a resident of the District of Columbia.

Through the guidance and encouragement of his father, Dr. Carruthers discovered his interest in engineering. After graduating from Englewood High School in Chicago, Dr. Carruthers earned a bachelor's of science degree in aeronautical engineering, a master's degree in nuclear engineering, and a doctorate degree in aeronautical and astronomical engineering at the University of Illinois.

Though born in Ohio and raised in Illinois, Dr. Carruthers has spent most of his distinguished career as a resident of the nation's capital. Since joining the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in 1964, Dr. Carruthers has co-invented the far-ultra violet electrographic camera, which was first used in sounding rockets in 1966 and was used during the Apollo 16 mission to the moon in 1972, giving scientists fresh, revealing images of Earth and space. He was also the first to detect molecular hydrogen in deep space in 1970. Dr. Carruthers has been a driving force in the use of ultra-violet astronomy. Not only was he involved in the review of the early design of the Hubble Space Telescope, which was carried into orbit in 1990, where it remains and continues to operate, he has refurbished the telescope in the Observatory on the campus of Howard University, enabling students, educators, families, and the general public to use the telescope to view special astronomical events.

Dr. Carruthers was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2003, and has received numerous awards, including the Black Engineer of the Year in 1987, the Arthur S. Fleming Award in 1971, the Exceptional Achievement Scientific Award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1972 and the Warner Prize from the American Astronomical Society in 1973.

The District of Columbia and its residents are particularly grateful for Dr. Carruthers' work in helping to develop the next generation of engineers by creating the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program, a summer program in which D.C. Public Schools high school students work side-by-side with professional scientists. Dr. Carruthers has also edited and co-authored several publications and co-pro-

duced a series of instructional videos on Earth and space science for high school students.

For more than two decades, Dr. Carruthers has been an active member of Science, Mathematics, Aerospace, Research, and Technology (S.M.A.R.T.), Inc., where he has shared his knowledge through presentations and hands-on activities with students, educators, families, and the general public. Dr. Carruthers spent six years coordinating workshops in aerospace, science and technology for African-American students in the D.C. metropolitan area for S.M.A.R.T. and the National Air and Space Museum.

Dr. Carruthers is the editor of the National Technical Association (NTA) Journal and newsletter, is the President of the D.C. Chapter of NTA, and was a secretary of the Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology for more than two decades.

For a lifetime of achievements and for continuing contributions to science, engineering, and astronomy, as recognized throughout the nation and the world, I ask the House to join me in celebrating the uniquely distinctive place of Dr. George R. Carruthers in science.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Mr. HOLT's amendment to H.R. 2218—Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 702, I would have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
BOITANO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Richard Boitano as he retires as Associate Superintendent of Education for the Jefferson Union High School District.

Rick Boitano has served his community for 38 years as a teacher, Vice-Principal, District Director of Pupil-Personnel Services and Associate Superintendent. In addition, he has been active in numerous organizations dedicated to helping young people and the community at large, including the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Planning Council, San Mateo County TANF Planning Council, San Mateo County Community Schools Task Force, Board of Directors of Youth Empowering Systems, Inc., San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, Pacifica Youth Service Bureau, Every 15 Minutes Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program and the Association of California School Administrators.

In addition, Rick has been a presenter at the California State Juvenile Officers' Associa-

tion Annual Training Conference, the San Mateo County Prevention Coordinators Meeting, and the National School Transportation Association Convention on Gang Awareness, School Safety and Gang Intervention.

Rick has also served as Chairperson of the WASC School Accreditation Process and the San Mateo County Gang Task Force Schools Division. In addition, Rick is a member and past-president of St. Pius Catholic Church Mens' Club.

Rick Boitano was born and raised in San Francisco, having received his Bachelor of Arts, Secondary Teaching Credential and Administrative Services Credential from the University of San Francisco. He and Beverly, his lovely wife of 35 years, have raised four boys—Tim, Jonathan, Matt and Andrew—and his retirement will provide extra time for his grandson, Jude.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rick for his decades of service to the young people of California's 12th Congressional District. He has earned his retirement and I wish him nothing but the best, which is exactly what he gave the students and parents of the Jefferson Union High School District every day for thirty-eight years.

RECOGNIZING AZERBAIJAN AND
THE AZERI PEOPLE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Azerbaijan and the Azeri people for their ongoing support of the United States and our allies in the Global War on Terror. Azerbaijan has been a consistent supporter of U.S. efforts in the fight against terrorism, and the Azeris have worked with us to strengthen economic and political stability in the Caspian region. It is important that we recognize the sacrifices made by our allies and continue to thank them for their support.

As we reflect back on the recently passed 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, we must remember that the fight against terrorism is not a fight against Islam. On September 11, 2001, Americans of all faiths and citizens from around the world tragically lost their lives.

Today, uniformed and civilian men and women around the world work shoulder to shoulder to combat the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks that don't just affect the United States, but virtually every nation. This effort is not one of faith; rather it is an effort to keep citizens of all nations safe from barbaric acts of terrorism.

Immediately after 9/11, Azerbaijan, a majority Muslim nation, was among the first to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Azerbaijan participated in operations Iraq and is actively engaged in Afghanistan, having recently doubled its military presence there. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern

Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Additionally, Azerbaijan provides specialized training for Afghan police, border guard officers and de-miners, education and training of Afghan civilian and military medical doctors, and medical treatment of Afghan citizens at Azeri hospitals. Azerbaijan has provided medical equipment and supplies to Afghanistan as well as assisting in the construction of schools and hospitals there.

Azerbaijan remains a reliable partner of NATO and the EU in the South Caucasus through its consistent and effective contribution to common goals and objectives. Azerbaijan is also an active partner of the United States in efforts regarding the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction through its participation in programs such as Caspian Guard and Cooperative Threat Reduction.

On July 5, 2011, an Azerbaijani aircraft flying a support mission for NATO troops crashed as it descended into Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. While it is my understanding that investigations are ongoing, it has come to my attention that one leading theory is that Taliban fighters may have shot down the aircraft as it made its final approach. While we await further information on exactly what happened that night in Afghanistan, it is important that we recognize the loss of life of the nine crew members on board that flight who made the ultimate sacrifice.

While we can take comfort knowing that we are not alone in this fight, we must also make sure we comfort those who make sacrifices alongside us. It is with a heavy heart that I offer my thanks and appreciation to the family, friends, and countrymen to those crew members of Silk Way Airlines IL-76. The world is a safer place due to their commitment to support and supply our troops and allies in their hunt for those seeking to harm peace-loving people around the world.

ENDING CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to put an end to the defined-benefit retirement plan currently available to Members of Congress.

These are extremely difficult economic times. We are in a debt crisis that will require sacrifices on the part of all Americans. I served in both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps, and I was taught that leaders should never ask others to do anything that they themselves would be unwilling to do. Congress needs to set an example and lead the way for the country. I think this is a good start.

The defined benefit retirement plan gives Members of Congress an averaged percentage of their annual salary (currently \$174,000) for every year they serve in Congress. To be eligible for the retirement plan they must first serve at least five years. They will then receive 1.7% for every year up to 20 that they serve in Congress, and 1% for every year after 20. For example, if a Member of Congress served for 20 years, and they were at

least 62, he or she would receive 34% of their salary, or \$59,160 per year, based on the current salary. Members of Congress pay 1.3% of their salary into the pension plan and are required to pay into Social Security at the same rate as everyone else. They may contribute to a Thrift Savings Plan that has a match similar to many private sector 401(k) plans.

My legislation will honor any retirement benefits accrued prior to the passage of this bill, and will keep the Social Security and Thrift Savings Plan in place.

I believe that Members of Congress should feel the same economic pressures the rest of society does, and I firmly believe that the current effort to reduce spending and constrain the size and scope of government requires that all possible solutions be taken, including cuts to the Congressional budget. I urge the passage of this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BUILDING OWNERS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco on the historic occasion of its 100th anniversary.

BOMA San Francisco has been advocating for commercial real estate interests, training future leaders and promoting sustainable practices. I have partnered with BOMA since my days on the San Mateo Board of Supervisors and in the California Legislature and have witnessed its effective work that supports business growth which in turn creates tax dollars for important public services.

Healthy commercial real estate provides homes for countless businesses that employ our workforce. BOMA always strives to create better work environments for our future generations. It has been honored for its progressive environmental policies to help promote energy conservation and sustainable practices in office buildings. BOMA is also a tireless advocate of emergency preparedness.

For 20 years BOMA has partnered with the San Francisco Fire Department and put big smiles on children's faces. The San Francisco Firefighter Toy Program is the oldest program of its kind in the country and has donated over a million toys to disadvantaged children.

Mr. Speaker, the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco has left its mark on San Francisco and made it a more beautiful, healthy and happier city for a century. I ask this body to honor BOMA on May 19, its 100th anniversary.

MASS GRAVES HOLD THOUSANDS, KASHMIR INQUIRY FINDS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to call the attention of my col-

leagues to the most recent developments in India-controlled Kashmir. In late August, the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission stated that it had found evidence of 2,156 unidentified bodies buried in approximately 40 mass graves, officially recognized for the first time, that pock mark the landscape of this long troubled region. This disturbing revelation, while horrific in scale and heart-breaking in scope, has the potential to serve as a catalyst to propel Kashmir forward, away from its violent past. For the first time, everyone in Kashmir, as well as the rest of the world, will be forced to acknowledge the wanton violence and unrest that have torn their communities apart.

History has taught us that in conflicts like the one propagated on Kashmir and its people, the first casualty is always the truth. The findings in this inquiry have now irrefutably confirmed the very worst fears people like myself who have been concerned about this issue since 1989. It is my sincerest hope that when finally faced with the sum of their actions to this point, those responsible for these crimes will see the error of their ways and summarily be brought to justice; I also hope that all of the well intentioned people of the region, whether they are Kashmiri, Pakistani, or Indian, can use this tragic circumstance to begin to work towards reconciliation, and finally move towards a peaceful resolution for everyone living in Kashmir. I am submitting an article from the August 23, 2011 edition of the New York Times and strongly urge my colleagues to read it.

MASS GRAVES HOLD THOUSANDS, KASHMIR INQUIRY FINDS

(By Lydia Polgreen)

NEW DELHI.—Thousands of bullet-riddled bodies are buried in dozens of unmarked graves across Kashmir, a state human rights commission inquiry has concluded, many of them likely to be those of civilians who disappeared more than a decade ago in a brutal insurgency.

The inquiry, the result of three years of investigative work by senior police officers working for the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission, brings the first official acknowledgment that civilians might have been buried in mass graves in Kashmir, a region claimed by both India and Pakistan where insurgents waged a bloody battle for independence in the early 1990s. The report sheds new light on a grim chapter in the history of the troubled region and confirms a 2008 report by a Kashmiri human rights organization that found hundreds of bodies buried in the Kashmir Valley.

Tens of thousands of people died in the insurgency, which began in 1989 and was partly fueled by weapons, cash and training from Pakistan.

According to the report, the bodies of hundreds of men described as unidentified militants were buried in unmarked graves. But of the more than 2,000 bodies, 574 were identified as local residents.

"There is every probability that these unidentified dead bodies buried in various unmarked graves at 38 places of North Kashmir may contain the dead bodies of enforced disappearances," the report said.

The report catalogs 2,156 bodies found in graves in four districts of Kashmir that had been at the heart of the insurgency. It called for a thorough inquiry and a collection of DNA evidence to identify the dead, and, for the future, proper identification of anyone killed by security forces in Kashmir to avoid abuse of special laws shielding the military