

valuable program. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in saying thank you to all those who have been a part of the Eckerd College Search and Rescue program for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD WOLPE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of one of my House colleagues, Howard Wolpe. Congressman Wolpe was a former chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee and senior adviser for Africa to two Democratic presidents, who died last week at his home in Saugatuck, Michigan.

Congressman Wolpe, who represented Michigan in Congress from 1979–1992, was a leading anti-apartheid campaigner and advocate for Africa. As Subcommittee chair for 10 years, he sponsored the Comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act of 1986, which imposed sanctions against South Africa, and passed despite President Ronald Reagan's veto. Congressman Wolpe also spearheaded a comprehensive overhaul of American assistance to Africa, winning passage of the African Famine Recovery and Development Act and creating the African Development Foundation.

Congressman Wolpe also served as President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Africa's Great Lakes Region. He helped mediate an end to conflicts in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which killed and uprooted large numbers of civilians. He served as director of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and returned to government service as special adviser to President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Congressman Wolpe. I appreciate his dedication to this nation and to the peace in Africa. He will truly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, due to flight cancelation and subsequent delay traveling to Washington from my District, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT-ELECT ROSEN PLEVNELIEV

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate President-Elect Rosen Plevneliev who was declared the winner of Bulgaria's presidential election on Monday in an outcome that now gives his

party control over all major government posts and will bolster its push for painful economic reforms, according to The Washington Examiner.

President-Elect Plevneliev won Sunday's contest with 52.56 percent of the vote, according to the Central Election Commission in its final tally. It said the turnout was 48 percent.

Most of the power in the Balkan country of 7.4 million people rests with Prime Minister Boiko Borisov and Parliament, but the president leads the armed forces and can veto legislation and sign international treaties. He also names ambassadors and the heads of the intelligence and security services.

The governing GERB party now controls Bulgaria's top two executive positions and Parliament.

President-Elect Plevneliev, 47, is a former entrepreneur who has been lauded for pushing through several large-scale infrastructure projects as regional development minister. He has been a member of the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham). He has pledged to reduce the budget deficit and pursue business-friendly policies. He also said he would do his best to unite Bulgarians in pursuit of reforms in the judicial and health care systems, while diversifying energy supplies and improving trade.

President-Elect Plevneliev will take office on January 23. He will replace President Georgi Parvanov, who was barred by law from seeking re-election because he had served two five-year terms.

The center-right GERB party also scored victories in the run-off elections for local mayors in most of Bulgaria's big cities, including in the capital, Sofia.

Congratulations President-Elect Plevneliev and best wishes for success in serving the people of Bulgaria which is a valued partner of America.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 2940 AND H.R. 2930

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud supporter of H.R. 2940, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act and H.R. 2930, The Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act, both of which seek to help entrepreneurs and small business owners access the capital they need to start or expand their business.

Providing entrepreneurs with the ability to raise more capital will lead to further innovation and a more favorable business model, for small businessmen and women.

Mr. Speaker, the House has passed 15 jobs bills—the 'Forgotten Fifteen' that are languishing in the Senate. With over 46 million Americans living in poverty, we cannot afford to wait any longer.

I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to support these critical bills.

NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my friends RAÚL GRIJALVA, EDWARD MARKEY and 25 other Members, I am reintroducing the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), legislation that will protect one of our nation's greatest natural resources, the Wild Rockies. With Americans vacationing closer to home, our national parks have seen an increase in visitors in the last few years—a clear indication of America's love for our wild national treasures. We must do everything possible to preserve our pristine wilderness areas so they can be enjoyed by future generations. In addition, a healthy habitat helps to create jobs including those related to restoration, construction, engineering, recreation, tourism, and retail.

NREPA uses sound science to protect the health of whole ecosystems, including the animals that graze, the native plants and forests that grow, and the watersheds that run through the Northern Rockies. With that goal in mind, this legislation will protect 23 million acres by designating all of the inventoried roadless areas in the Northern Rockies as wilderness, including wild and scenic rivers and streams. The bill also includes a process for States and tribal governments to negotiate a management plan for migratory and biological corridors. NREPA will safeguard only federal public lands—lands owned by all Americans—in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington, and does not affect private landowners. It also allows for historic uses such as hunting, fishing and firewood gathering.

NREPA designations are based on ecological and watershed features—not political boundaries. As we all know, rivers don't stay within one Congressional District, animals don't know when they've crossed a political boundary, and forests span millions of miles with no regard for state-lines. I urge my colleagues to take this essential step toward preserving precious wildlife habitat and whole functioning ecosystems in the Wild Rockies.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EVANGELIST DELLA MAE KING SUTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to the life and legacy of Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton of Nesbit, Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Evangelist Sutton was an indomitable woman of God. She devoted her life to empowering those around her with the knowledge found both in traditional school settings as well as within the Christian church. Born July 20, 1941 in Desoto County, Mississippi, Ms. Della was the first born daughter to the late Turner King, Sr. and the late Remell Bridgeforth King.

Ms. Sutton began her educational training at Shiloh M.B. Church in Desoto County, Mississippi where her father was the instructor.

She later attended Hernando High School which culminated at 8th grade. Ms. Sutton graduated from Hernando High as class Valedictorian and went on to finish her secondary education at Eastern High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Finishing as Salutatorian of her Eastern High class, Ms. Sutton decided to further her education by enrolling in the Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. It was during this time that she met her life companion and husband, Mr. Jesse Sutton, Jr. From their union came three beautiful children who were raised and reared by the same biblical principles and standards Ms. Sutton and her husband had walked their entire lives.

After completing studies at Mississippi Industrial Ms. Sutton continued on to receive her Master's of Science degree from Jackson State University.

Ms. Della Mae believed in supporting efforts which would produce nurturing environments which fostered quality learning conditions for children. She served as a dedicated educator for more than thirty years in several learning facilities throughout Mississippi. Some of them included East Side High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi; Oakley Training School in Larned, Mississippi; Mendenhall Junior High School in Mendenhall, Mississippi and Northside Elementary School in Pearl, Mississippi from which she retired.

Throughout the years, Ms. Sutton has been recognized on several occasions for her outstanding works. The most notable was when she was recognized by former Governor and First Lady Ronnie Musgrove as one of the Most Outstanding Women for the Each One-Reach One Mother of the Year contest. She served as Chairperson of the Elementary Language Arts and was recognized for a host of other social awareness and scholastic advancement achievements. Ms. Sutton was also recognized by Who's Who Among Teachers, Teacher of the Year and by the Jackson District Association's with their Living Legacy Award.

Ms. Sutton was a civically engaged woman. She was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of "Keep Jackson Beautiful", an instructor of the Jackson District Ministers' Wives/Widows group and passionate supporter of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. She was an active member of the General Missionary Baptist Convention and a devote member of the New McRaven Hill Missionary Baptist Church where she served as Sunday School teacher, Mother's Ministry member, devotional leader for the Mission Society and Vacation Bible School teacher.

This spiritual steward for Christ lived a life of both passion and purpose. She was an advocate of education, a champion of civility and a true lover of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of a true champion, Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton.

HONORING PROFESSOR DERRICK BELL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman RANGEL to honor the extraordinary life of Professor Derrick Bell, a bold legal scholar, educator, author, activist, veteran, husband, father, brother, mentor and friend. Prof. Bell was a preeminent intellectual and a fearless harbingers of change. He was a man who inspired many to advocate for civil rights, hiring equity and judicial reform, and his stories of individual protest will be a timeless call to action for all who stand for justice. With his passing on October 5, 2011 we look to Prof. Bell's continued legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Derrick Albert Bell, Jr., was born to Derrick Albert and Ada Elizabeth Childress Bell on November 6, 1930 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Schenley High School and became the first member of his family to attend college, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1952 from Duquesne University. In 1957, after serving as an Air Force officer for two years, Prof. Bell earned his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, where he was the only African-American student.

With the recommendation of U.S. Associate Attorney General William Rogers, Prof. Bell took a position with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was the only black staff member. When, in 1959, the Department asked him to relinquish his membership to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Prof. Bell resigned. This would be the first of several high-profile resignations proffered in protest of racial injustice. He soon joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where he oversaw more than 300 school desegregation cases in Mississippi.

In the mid-1960s, Prof. Bell served as faculty and executive director of the University of California's Western Center on Law and Poverty. In 1969, partially as a result of black students' protests for a minority faculty member, Prof. Bell was recruited to teach at Harvard University—where he shortly became the ivy league school's first black tenured professor. He established new coursework and law review articles dedicated to civil rights law, became an invaluable mentor to students of color and called on the university to improve its minority hiring record. In 1973, he published, "Race, Racism and American Law," a book that became a staple in law schools and is now in its sixth edition.

In 1980 Prof. Bell left Harvard to become one of the first African-American deans of a non-historically black law school at the University of Oregon School of Law. However, he resigned five years later when the school did not offer a position to an Asian American woman. After returning to Harvard in 1986, he led a five-day sit-in inside his office to protest the school's failure to grant tenure to two professors whose work involved critical race theory. Moreover, in 1990 he took an unpaid leave of absence, pledging not to return until Harvard Law School asked a woman of color to join

tenured faculty for the first time. (Eight years later, Professor Lani Guinier achieved that milestone.)

By the time the school refused to extend his leave, Prof. Bell was already teaching at New York University School of Law, where he continued to be a visiting professor until his passing. Professor Derrick Bell's long legacy as a pioneer of critical race theory and as an unwavering upholder of principles, earned him a comparison by then Harvard law student Barack Obama, as a civil rights hero akin to Rosa Parks.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District and New York's 15th Congressional District salute and honor Professor Derrick Albert Bell, Jr. He dedicated his life to challenging academic paradigms and seeking justice for the systemically marginalized. His legacy will serve as a reminder that we must not be afraid to ask critical questions and to defend individual principles on behalf of future generations. We extend our deepest condolences to Professor Bell's family and to his extended group of loved ones. He will be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, I was attending the funeral mass of a family member and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE STANDARD DATA ACT

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with my colleague Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, among others, to introduce the Standard Data and Technology Advancement Act, or the "Standard DATA Act." This legislation will establish consistent requirements for the electronic content and format of data used in the administration of key human services programs authorized by the Social Security Act.

Human services programs serve overlapping populations and should, from an information technology standpoint, operate consistently within and across programs. By beginning the process of data standardization and the use of common reporting mechanisms, this bill will help achieve three goals: better prevent and identify fraud and abuse; increase the efficiency of administrative resources to serve eligible beneficiaries; and produce program savings for U.S. taxpayers.

The private sector is far ahead of the public sector in its ability to use data efficiently to detect patterns of misuse, such as when credit cards are lost or stolen, and streamline backend data processing to reduce manual workloads. The public sector needs to review and implement these same sorts of best practices to better improve the operation of public benefit programs.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources, I called a March 11, 2011