

that strives not only to support its members but to provide resources and volunteer activities to benefit their greater community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers and members of Carbondale, Illinois Elks Lodge #1243 on their 100th anniversary and to wish them all the best for many years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SPC  
ADRIAN GARCIA

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Army SPC Adrian Garcia of El Paso, TX. SPC Garcia was only three weeks into his first deployment when he was attacked while on a routine patrol in Ramadi, Iraq in March 2007. SPC Garcia was manning the turret of an up-armored HUMMVEE when a Rocket Propelled Grenade attack shattered both of his legs. SPC Garcia's injuries were so severe that both of his legs required amputations above the knee, leaving him in a wheelchair.

On November 11, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Army SPC Adrian Garcia with a brand new home at no cost. SPC Garcia's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to SPC Garcia for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their Nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

RECOGNIZING THE COMMENDABLE  
SUPPORT EFFORTS OF CLEAR  
CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS,  
INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commendable efforts of Clear Channel Communications Inc. in their support of diversity and small businesses within the radio broadcasting industry. For a long time, public broadcasting, especially in the area of radio, excluded or carried heavy restrictions on the voices coming from minorities and women of this country. These binding practices limited the freedom of expression for minorities and women in broadcasting and provided a frail platform upon which to deliver meaningful public affairs and news within these communities.

Radio broadcasting in past decades has experienced dramatic, positive change with the cultivation of environments which support mi-

norities and women's matriculation from their traditional auxiliary support positions, such as disk jockeys or custodial workers, into more influential roles such as managers, engineers, and program directors. The change also removed barriers which once denied favorable circumstances for members of these populations to gain ownership and syndication. This shift has allowed for a broad array of broadcast opportunities to include more autonomy in the presentation of public affairs discussions, music, and information which more specifically reflects the culture and interest of the minority and female listening audiences.

Technological advancements and a growing social affinity for more digital interface have placed pressure on the radio industry to maintain its standing among other broadcasting mediums. This strain, coupled with the nation's financial tensions, has made staying up to speed with the changing times all the more difficult. However, impressively, the radio world continues to provide phenomenal listening programs to the masses. This tenacity has been seen in no place greater than within the minority and women sectors.

Clear Channel recognizes the impact minority and women broadcasters have had on broadcasting and has taken a laudable position to make investments to ensure their productive futures. Their plan to divest 448 radio stations in 88 markets, which lead to the donation of six stations to the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, MMTC, shows that Clear Channel has a keen awareness of the value diversity plays in broadcasting and shows that they have a sound understanding of the needs of small, local radio stations. Clear Channel's efforts to enhance the infrastructure for these individuals and business owners will aid in their abilities to boost their hiring capabilities, expand their listening audiences, increase advertisement revenues and support their communities by delivering excellent content.

Mississippi was one of the states privileged to be a part of this gesture of good faith with the acquisition of WHJA (AM) in Laurel, Mississippi. James Hardman, a minority broadcaster from Tulsa, Oklahoma, with decades of experience, plans to put WHJA back on the air under a local marketing agreement (LMA) with MMTC. Hardman intends to produce high quality and innovative programs focused on the African-American community while encompassing the cultural differences across the State of Mississippi. Economic and political empowerment in the African-American community has been difficult to achieve without access and control of the mass media resources that impact our communities. Clear Channel's dedication to assist with gains in this area creates opportunities for success for African-Americans in Mississippi.

Mister Speaker, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the meritorious efforts put forth by Clear Channel Inc. towards ensuring the viability of the minority and women communities within the radio broadcasting industry.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Greatest Generation, as well as to welcome those who will soon be making the trip from their homes in South Carolina to our Nation's Capital.

Seventy years ago, their lives were interrupted by providence. By their selfless action, these ordinary men and woman became extraordinary.

They defended their country and their families. They protected the innocent and freed the captive.

They served freely and without reservation, in what was to become the deadliest conflict in human history.

Too often, Americans are reminded that freedom comes with a heavy burden. Thankfully, their generation understood this, and met the challenge bravely.

That is why there are no words that can express our gratitude, no medals or monuments sufficient to symbolize just how much we owe to them.

But the world we live in today, the freedoms we enjoy, the blessings we count, are all because of them.

That is why we continue to honor them.

And to remember.

RECOGNIZING THE ALAMEDA  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN  
AND FAMILY SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alameda County Social Services Agency, Department of Children and Family Services. Due to their exemplary work to open more good homes to foster children by actively recruiting and working with LGBT families, they have earned the All Children-All Families Seal of Recognition from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, a leading organization in the advocacy of LGBT civil rights.

Alameda is only the second county in the nation to receive this recognition. By eliminating the barriers that LGBT couples and individuals face when they chose to adopt or foster, Alameda County has helped to fulfill their mission of ensuring that every foster child finds a loving family. One example of how important Alameda County's work has been in this area is Lara and Emkay Bosque. Lara and Emkay have adopted two young children. Thanks to their efforts, two beautiful children are growing up in a permanent and loving family, instead of the foster care system. We need more families like the Bosques and I will be displaying their family photo in my office during November, which is National Adoption Month.

At this time of celebration for Alameda County it is important to remember that they are a shining example of what counties and agencies across the nation can do to decrease the number of children in our foster

care system by finding them permanent, stable homes. Currently our foster care system serves over 400,000 children, with over 105,000 waiting to be adopted. LGBT families can play an important role in decreasing the number of children in care. Unfortunately, LGBT individuals and couples face discrimination in 31 states when they attempt to adopt or foster. Congress invests over \$7 billion in our child welfare system annually, yet we are allowing potential adoptive parents and foster families to be excluded to the detriment of children.

We should show our support of those children who are without families by passing HR 1681, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. I introduced this bill to protect those families looking to foster or adopt children from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status or on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

It is the purpose of our foster care system to find children families who will love and cherish them. There should be no added burden for anyone based solely on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.

I would again like to acknowledge Alameda County for their commitment to children in search of families and to the families willing and able to adopt a child in need. I hope more counties will follow their inspiring lead.

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RECOGNIZING WOODFILL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**HON. GEOFF DAVIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodfill Elementary School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon award winning educational institution in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private institutions whose students achieve academic excellence or have made profound advancement in closing the gaps of achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

To be named a Blue Ribbon School is to join an elite group. Of over one hundred thirty thousand schools in the United States, just over 6,000 have received this honor since its creation by the Department of Labor in 1982.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishment of this exceptional Kentucky institution, it is my hope that Woodfill Elementary School's leading example of hard work and growth encourage schools across the nation to strive for the same level of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the students, teachers, and administration of Woodfill Elementary School for their devotion to the success of the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
CORPORAL JOSE "DANIEL" GASCA

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**HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corporal Jose "Daniel" Gasca of El Paso, TX. Corporal Gasca was driving an up-armored HUMVEE when it was hit by a control detonated IED in Fallujah, Iraq in September 2008. Corporal Gasca suffered spinal fractures, broken ribs, a ruptured spleen, and leg injuries so severe that both of his legs required amputation. Corporal Gasca, his wife, Angel, and their sons; 3 year old Mathew and newborn Eli, currently live in a non-handicapped home while Daniel continues his treatments and therapies at Walter Reed.

On November 10, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Corporal Gasca with a brand new home at no cost. Coporal Gasca's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Corporal Gasca for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

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**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial of Naval Aviation and its service to the United States of America.

Throughout the last century, the men and women of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard who have heeded freedom's call have become America's front line of defense. Generation after generation of children from the Emerald Coast have watched our country's finest aviators overhead and dreamt of following in their footsteps. I am proud to say that the First Congressional District of Florida holds a special place in its heart for the Blue Angels and all who fly in our nation's defense.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, NAS Pensacola, welcomed its first aviation unit on January 20, 1914, less than three years after the Navy purchased its first planes. On December 7, 1917, Pensacola was designated as the first permanent U.S. Naval Air Station. It was America's sole Naval Air Station until World War I. In the ensuing years, tens of thousands of America's finest Naval Aviators have trained

at NAS Pensacola, including Neil Armstrong and Ted Williams. Today, all U.S. Naval Aviators begin their training at the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

From the first Naval Aviator, Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson, to the current class of flight students at NAS Pensacola, thousands of Naval Aviators have protected America's interests around the world and in outer space. Just like their predecessors from previous generations, today's students at NAS Pensacola go through rigorous training to serve on shore and at sea, at home and abroad, to protect the United States and support freedom wherever and whenever they are called. From combat patrols over Iraq and Afghanistan to relief missions in Haiti and around the world, Naval Aviation is a touchstone of America's naval might.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Naval Aviation for its contributions during its first 100 years and to honor it as it takes flight in the next 100 years.

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HONORING ROBERT ALAN DUGGAN

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**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Robert Alan Duggan, and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 46.

Born in Livonia, Michigan on February 23, 1965 to Patrick and Joan Duggan, Bob was a classmate and fellow graduate of the class of 1983 from Detroit Catholic Central High School. He went on to attend the Adrian College, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Broadcasting. While attending Adrian College he became a member of this nation's oldest and largest professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. Bob joined the Screen Actors Guild in 1997.

A true son of Livonia, Bob Duggan was born at St. Mary's Hospital, and there the incredibly benevolent heart that led him to donate more than 120 pints of blood to the Red Cross in his lifetime stopped beating. Bob was a long time member of St. Aidan Catholic Church, where he had served as an altar boy and faithfully attended every Sunday. He was a realtor who loved the Detroit area, and an avid sports fan.

Regrettably, on November 3, 2011, Robert Duggan passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved parents, Patrick and Joan, and his brothers Michael, Daniel, James, and Timothy. Bob was a devoted uncle, and will long be remembered by 13 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Duggan is remembered as a dedicated son, devoted brother, loving uncle, and a true friend. Bob was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community, and his country. Today, as we bid Robert Duggan farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and in honoring his devotion to our country and community.