

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Chuck Collier. I offer my condolences to his wife, Joni; daughter, Melanie; son, Jason; and sister, Carolyn Taubenheim.

IN HONOR OF U.S. MARINE LANCE  
CORPORAL JASON NICHOLAS  
BARFIELD

### HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fallen American hero. U.S. Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl.) Jason Nicholas Barfield was killed on October 24, 2011, while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Reports indicate that LCpl. Barfield died as the result of traumatic injuries received when his patrol was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was only 22 years old.

LCpl. Barfield, from Ashford, Alabama, was assigned to the 3d Combat Engineer Battalion, 3d Marine Division, Twenty Nine Palms, California. He is survived by his parents, Raymond and Kelli Barfield, and seven siblings.

LCpl. Barfield delivered the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Undoubtedly, his loss will be most felt by his loved ones and friends. Today, and each day following, my family and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to those close to him.

I recently had an opportunity to speak to LCpl. Barfield's father, Raymond. It was a moving conversation that I will forever remember. Mr. Barfield was gracious in spite of his grief, immensely proud despite his pain. During our conversation, I learned that, LCpl. Barfield recently proposed to his girlfriend, Joyanna Champlin. So, today, I stand here not only to pay tribute to Jason's sacrifice, but also to recognize the memorable people who held prominent positions in this patriot's life. The family and friends of our heroes are indeed heroes themselves.

We are blessed that our nation is protected—day after day, year after year—by courageous American service men and women. Those in uniform standing on the front lines risk everything in order to defend and serve. Their commitment to our country is demonstrated through their selfless sacrifices and unwavering courage. We owe them, and their families, our most eternal gratitude.

We will forever honor LCpl. Barfield for his selfless actions. His legacy will be memorialized in American history so every generation will know of his selfless acts.

America remains a free nation because of the men and women in our Armed Forces who serve and protect us each and every day—just as LCpl. Jason Nicholas Barfield so bravely did. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to go out to his parents and loved ones during this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. BURKE

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael J. Burke, a former law enforcement officer, instructor and director of training in the State of Iowa, and express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the great people of Iowa.

For the past 22 years, Mike has contributed his time to the safety of the citizens and first responders in the state of Iowa since beginning his career as a detective with the Webster County Sheriff's Department in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Mike's law enforcement career had many highlights, most notably being recognized for outstanding service and meritorious acts by the United States Attorney's Office for his efforts behind the investigation and prosecution of a methamphetamine trafficking organization.

Upon leaving law enforcement, Mike initiated and coordinated the criminal justice program at Iowa Central Community College. During his time with ICC, Mike grew the program to new levels by initiating "hands-on training" for future criminal justice professionals. As coordinator and instructor of the program, Mike was recognized on two separate occasions for being a "Master Presenter" by the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development.

In 2003, I had the privilege of being involved in the creation of Homeland Security Training Center at Iowa Central Community College of which Mike was appointed Director. Until his retirement from the training center in August of 2011, over 35,000 responders in Iowa received critical homeland security training through this program including thousands of law enforcement officers training to keep Iowa's streets safer.

Mike has truly made a significant impact on the quality of life for citizens in the State of Iowa with the qualified training he ensured Iowa's responders would receive. His leadership and dedication will be missed, but the blueprint he leaves behind will be a model for the program's continued success far into the future.

I consider it an honor to represent Mike and all of ICC in the United States Congress. I wish Mike, his wife Cindy and their two children, Megan and Robby, the best of luck as they enter this new chapter of their lives together. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike for his stellar career.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE  
SCHUSTER

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elaine Schuster, as she is honored with the Believe in Girls Award from the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on November 12, 2011.

Elaine was—and is—never afraid to speak her mind, and that trait has proven invaluable

to the various causes and constituencies for which she has fought. Through her important work with Big Sisters—one of the oldest and most established youth mentoring programs in the country—Elaine has advised, coached, and helped numerous girls and young women make healthy choices in their lives.

Elaine has been a role model to many, exhibiting these qualities on a daily basis through her good deeds, passion for helping others, and generous nature. Never one for holding back, she has dedicated herself to helping young girls, including her grandchildren, believe there is nothing they cannot do, become or achieve. To reflect on her work for our community is to reflect on a life of selflessness, devotion, drive and, above all, care for her fellow neighbor.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Elaine Schuster as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative, and I urge others to learn from her leadership and guidance.

NATIONAL UNDERSERVED  
VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, in Congress we have an obligation to care for our veterans in return for their financial challenges face them long after their conclusion of active service and while we have service and dedication to our Nation. For many veterans lifelong physical, psychological and made important strides towards improving care for veterans, there is still much to do. The most recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that in 2009, approximately 76,000 veterans were homeless on any one particular day and 136,000 veterans were homeless at some point during the year.

The stark reality is that veterans are more likely than their civilian counterparts to suffer from homelessness. In fact male veterans are 1.4 times as likely to be homeless than non-veterans and female veterans are two to four times as likely to be homeless. Col. Darryl C. Hunter, M.D., founder and director of the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance has stated that "by conservative estimates, up to 30 percent of the homeless population is comprised of those who have worn the uniform of our Nation's military." In addition to homelessness, research has found that troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are at an increased risk of developing mental health problems, with over 15 percent already diagnosed with depression, anxiety, or PTSD. Many of these veterans are not aware of the available Department of Veterans Affairs health programs and services that can be a critical component of reintegration into the community.

It is important that we work together to reduce the incidence of homelessness among veterans and repay, in what small measure we can, their service to this great country.

As part of this effort, I along with Representative DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California are proud to cosponsor the resolution supporting the designation of the week of November 6–12 as National Underserved Veterans Awareness Week. The week will have a particular

focus on disseminating information on health services available to veterans, as well as the various health benefits provided in private insurance plans.

A model of such outreach to veterans is operated by the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance. Every year, the Alliance hosts an all-day health fair and free clinic to provide health screenings and eye exams to underserved and homeless veterans at no cost, as well as advising them on their service benefits and connecting them to resources on healthcare, mental health, and homelessness.

#### HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY TO WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

#### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 150th birthday of Weld County, Colorado. Weld is the sunny, rolling home to 31 towns filled with Coloradans of all backgrounds and aspirations. In 1821, Major Stephen H. Long made an expedition to the area now known as Weld County and declared the land was not fit for human prosperity. Almost two centuries later it is without question that Major Long did not have the vision or the admiration for this great place as those of Weld County have today.

Located in the north central part of Colorado, Weld County provides an impressive supply of opportunity and industrial support being the State's leader in production of cattle, grain, and sugar beets and the second leader in production of oil and gas. It is ranked as the third leading agricultural area in the United States.

But it is not the natural resources or the environmental make up of Weld County that make it what it is today, on its 150th birthday. It is the people of this county that have taken it from a prairie region first settled by railroad workers, to a vibrant and growing home to thousands of Colorado families. Beyond its industrial value, one of the State's strongest public universities, the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, is located within Weld County and provides thousands of students the opportunity for higher education and a more fertile future every year.

I congratulate the people of Weld County on 150 years of progress and prosperity and eagerly anticipate what the future holds for this forward-looking Colorado County.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 822 on H.R. 2112, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "yes."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on their 60th anniversary. Big Sister is the largest mentoring program in the region that specifically serves women and girls. Volunteers enthusiastically dedicate their time and service to the communities in the Greater Boston area. Their actions are deserving of this body's recognition.

The Big Sister Association was founded in 1951 by three Cambridge residents: The Reverend Harold Taylor, Assistant Rector at Christ Church in Cambridge; Edith Taylor, a Cambridge police officer; and Frances Marley, an administrative assistant and legal consultant for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Believing that girls in their community could benefit from the guidance and support of an older female friend, they created a one-to-one mentoring program where girls, Little Sisters, were individually matched with caring and committed volunteers, Big Sisters.

They continue to welcome new women and girls to the Big Sister program. In their first year, they matched six girls—in 2009, Big Sister served more than 2,700 girls throughout 69 Massachusetts cities and towns. What keeps them growing is the steadfast belief that by focusing on the healthy development of girls, they are preparing the next generation of mothers, teachers, doctors and business leaders. By continuing to implement new mentoring programs this has led to the creation of a vibrant community where girls know that there is no limit to what they can achieve. Their humble actions and service to the community are commendable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston community is tremendously valued in my district and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LT. COL. LUKE JOSEPH WEATHERS JR.

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers Jr., a Tuskegee Airman in the 332nd Fighter Group. He was born to Luke Joseph Weathers, Sr. and Jessie Rita Hawkins on December 16, 1920 in Grenada, MS. In 1925, he and his mother moved to Memphis, Tennessee to reunite with his father who had moved to Memphis earlier with his brother, William "Bill" Weathers.

Luke Weathers was baptized at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Memphis and later attended St. Anthony Catholic School. Weathers transferred and completed his high school

education at Booker T. Washington where he excelled academically and athletically. Upon completion, he was accepted into Xavier University and studied from 1939–1942. He returned to Memphis in 1942 and read an article in a newspaper about an experimental training program for African-American pilots and aviation in Tuskegee, Alabama. After speaking to his parents about the program, Weathers met with Mayor E.H. Crump who made a call to President Roosevelt informing him that he would be sending Luke to the program. On July 27, 1942, Luke Weathers arrived in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and trained for nine months and one day. On April 29, 1943 he began his active duty as a Fighter Pilot Single Engine in the 302N Fighter Squadron flying P-51 bombers. The 302N Fighter Squadron was later merged into the 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the "Red Tails." Weathers named his plane the "Spirit of Beale Street."

Lt. Col. Weathers departed for Italy January 3, 1944 to begin his tour in WWII, traveling to North Africa, Italy, France, Europe, and Germany. For his courage and service, he earned an Air Medal with 7 clusters, a Distinguished Flying Cross medal and an American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal WWI. Weathers was credited with shooting down two German fighter aircrafts while on a mission to protect U.S. Army Air Corps bombers in Europe. During this tour, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost one of their bombers. Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis on March 13, 1945 and became the first African-American to receive the key to the City of Memphis. He was also honored with a parade down Beale Street and the day was declared "Capitan Luke Weathers Day."

Luke Weathers met LaVerne Nalling while in Memphis. Together, they owned and operated several businesses including the Weathers Jeffery vocational school in Jackson, Tennessee where Weathers was a flight instructor. He was also the Director of Boone-Higgins Trade School for Negro Veterans in Jackson. They also operated a beauty shop, Laundromat/dry cleaners and a carpet cleaning service. In 1959, Weathers founded The National Defense Cadet Corps, NDCC, for the Memphis City School System at Manassas High school. This program created an opportunity for African American males who had a desire for military training but did not have access to a ROTC program. For a brief time afterwards, Weathers moved his family to Anchorage, Alaska where he had accepted a position with the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA. He moved his family back to Memphis and became the first African-American Air Traffic Controller in Memphis. During his tenure with the FAA, he accepted tours of duties in Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, DC.

In 1985, Lt. Col. Weathers retired from the FAA in Washington, DC and the Air Force Reserves. In his retirement he stayed active with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and continued to promote African Americans in the military including women. Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers Jr. died on October 15, 2011 at 90 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Moore Weathers; two sons, Luke Joseph Weathers III and Andre M. Weathers; daughters Wanda Weathers Smith, Renee Weathers Powell, and Trina Weathers Boyce; and 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. His was a life well-lived.