

first vice chair of Kings County Democratic organization, she spearheaded all of his fundraisers at which hundreds of people were in attendance. The most successful fundraiser she hosted had an attendance of up to 900 people.

In 1997, Reverend Headley began teaching Sunday school, and became the Sunday School Superintendent within a year in Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. In 2006, Reverend Headley became a licensed minister of the Gospel. Prior to that, she had been preaching in platform services and evangelizing on the subways and streets of Brooklyn. Upon the death of pastor Reverend Charles Dunston, the Lord called Reverend Headley to Berean Baptist Church. She was ordained as a Reverend by Reverend Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., pastor of Berean Baptist Church. Today she is an active member of the Young Adult Ministry; is a teacher with the New Members and Friends Ministry; and is an associate minister and member of Berean's newest drama ministry.

She is presently a Special Assistant to Congressman EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS in the Canarsie district office where she drafts most of the proclamations and assists with letters of commendation; condolence; and support for organizations seeking funding from Congressman TOWNS' office. She is his office liaison for the 40th Assembly District and sits on the Cypress Hills Weed & Seed Steering Committee on behalf of Congressman TOWNS.

Reverend Headley holds a Master of Science degree in Publishing. She presently is a second year student at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York City, pursuing a Master's in Divinity in Church Development. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Kimberly Headley for her passion for God's word and the dedication she has for improving our community.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL SCOTT HARPER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor this morning with great sadness to honor the service of one of Georgia's own, Lance Corporal Scott Harper. On October 13 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, he gave the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and he will be greatly missed.

Lance Corporal Harper was known by his close friends not as Scott, but by his nickname, "Boots." While a student at Alexander High School, he once forgot his tennis shoes for gym class and kept his boots on instead. On that day, he earned a lasting nickname and showed how he was prepared to adapt to all scenarios. When a Marine recruiter showed up at his school senior year, Boots answered the call and chose a life of service in the United States Marine Corps with a courage and motivation that most young men his age have not yet found.

After graduating, Boots served one tour in Afghanistan before returning home. He left on July 13 to begin his second tour of duty with the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment,

Second Marine Division. On October 13, his division was struck by small arms fire while conducting combat operations. A fellow Marine was shot first, and Boots ran into opposing gunfire to save his friend. Though Boots lost his life, he saved the life of his wounded friend in the process. Boots was as loyal a friend as there is, and there is no more honor than that.

Boots was devoted to his family and his community. Even when he only had a few days off, he would make the most of his time to come home and visit. Though communication was difficult, Boots wrote his family several times and called home as much as possible. The Saturday before he was killed, Boots called his father to say that he had decided to enroll at the University of Georgia when he returned home.

From Charlie Brown Airfield, crowds lined the streets to escort Boots home one last time, as a testament to the community's support of him and his family. Boots was accompanied by a Marine Corps Honor Guard, the Patriot Guard, the Douglasville Police Department, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, among others. Norfolk-Southern even stopped its railroad cars in honor of the procession. As they passed, everyone stood at salute to honor the fallen Marine.

Boots embodied the ideals that the Marines strive to achieve. I am both honored and proud that this soldier from the Third District fought so hard for our country and our freedom. Boots was a model citizen, soldier, and son. He was an extraordinary young man with incredible potential before him, and he will be forever missed. I am proud to stand here and thank him for sacrificing his life for strangers like me and my family.

Joan and I extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Scott "Boots" Harper, and we will never forget the service and sacrifice that he made for our great country.

HONORING SEAN RAY FERGUSON

HON. DEVIN NUNES
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sean Ray Ferguson, who at the age of 29 passed away on November 12, 2011, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sean was born on July 7, 1982, in San Diego, California to Darryl and Raelynn Ferguson. He was a 2001 graduate of Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia. During Sean's time at Mt. Whitney High, he was a standout player on the football team. He was playing wide receiver his senior year when Mt. Whitney High won the "Cowhide" game against Redwood High for the first time in 10 years.

Two months after graduating high school, Sean enlisted in the United States Army, honorably serving our country for eight years, and retiring at the rank of Staff Sergeant due to combat wounds. In addition to two Purple Hearts, one of which was presented to Sean directly by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, he also received many awards and commendations for his service in Iraq with unit "Deuce Four."

After retirement, Sean began working for Triple Canopy, a private contracting company, working as a personal security agent for mem-

bers of the U.S. State Department. His job required him to return to Iraq, where he was working at the time of his death.

Sean's family recalls his great love for America and freedom. He was fully engaged in our mission of bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people. Sean was proud to be in Mosul, Iraq, when the first elections were held after the fall of Saddam Hussein. His favorite quote was "Freedom isn't free," and he had a deep understanding of the hard and difficult work it takes to be free.

Sean is survived by his parents; his sister, Aimee Sorensen; and his brother, Matthew Ferguson. He is also survived by seven nephews, one niece, his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At this time of great sorrow, I hope that Sean's family can take comfort in knowing that we will forever be indebted to his service to our country.

CHANGES TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY BOARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the Fiscal Year 2012 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act contains important changes to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, MWAA, board.

I have been concerned with the actions of the board and have proposed several changes to the structure and function to increase transparency and accountability. Under the new law, members of the MWAA board will no longer be able to serve past the end of their term and all could be replaced for "cause." The changes also increases the size of the board from 13 to 17, with Virginia getting two new appointments and Maryland and the District of Columbia each getting one additional board member.

The changes are fair, providing the governors of Virginia and Maryland and the mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority the president already has under existing law to replace members of the board.

The changes will improve accountability. Until now, board members served until their replacement takes office. There was an incident earlier this year where a board member whose term expired in January 2009 and had not been replaced was voting by proxy from Africa. He was finally replaced in April 2011, more than two years after his term expired. A replacement has yet to be named for a board member whose term expired in May 2010. A third board member's term ends at the end of November and it is unclear if the replacement process has begun.

Board members need to be replaced when their terms end. It's not their fault that they aren't being replaced but if the officials making the appointments know that the seat is going to be vacant, this reform will provide more of an incentive to make appointments in a more timely fashion.

These airports are the economic engine for the region. With MWAA responsible for the Dulles rail project, ensuring that Virginia has

more say and that board members are more accountable is more important than ever. Everything possible must be done to keep the rail project on budget to keep the tolls as low as possible.

Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell wrote Representative TOM LATHAM and Representative JOHN MICA in strong support of these changes. I submit Governor McDonnell's letter for the RECORD as well.

Some interested parties have stated that the original 1986 law that established MWAA is a compact between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia and that any changes to the structure of the board must be approved by all three localities. I want to state clearly that this is not true.

The independent and well-respected Congressional Research Service has told my office that the MWAA statute has been amended twice in 1991 and in 1996, specifically in response to court decisions involving the Board of Review. It is my understanding that neither change required the consent of MD or DC.

The Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts provides everything else necessary regarding the authority of Congress to enact subsequent legislation that has an effect on approved interstate compacts. Sections of this publication support the claim that Congress remains free to change federal laws, even if those laws have adverse effects on compacts that Congress has specifically consented to.

The relevant sections of the Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts are too long to include here today, but can be found on pages 43–47.

These changes to the MWAA board will improve its function, governance, accountability and transparency and provide greater input for those with a large stake in the successful completion of the Dulles Rail project. Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport drive economic growth in northern Virginia and the entire Capital region. The MWAA board must operate successfully to ensure the success of both Dulles International and Reagan National Airports and the Dulles Rail, ensuring tolls on local drivers are kept to a minimum.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Richmond, VA, August 8, 2011.

Hon. TOM LATHAM,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN LATHAM AND MICA: I write you today to respectfully ask for your endorsement and support for changes to the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority Board of Directors being proposed by Congressman Frank Wolf. As you are aware, MWAA, which was created through an interstate compact between Virginia and D.C., as authorized by Congress, maintains and operates Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport pursuant to a lease agreement with the federal government. MWAA is also responsible for maintaining and operating the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Greenway and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Project.

These facilities are all located within the Commonwealth of Virginia and have a tremendous impact on our economy and trans-

portation network. All funding for the airports, and the current metrorail to Dulles project, is provided by the Commonwealth or its subdivisions, and the federal government. Despite this fact, as chief executive I have no effective mechanism for effectuating a change or providing oversight when the MWAA Board takes action which may be adverse to the interests of the Commonwealth and its citizens. Neither do the other stakeholders in the District of Columbia, Maryland or the federal government. Each appointee to the MWAA Board serves for a period of six years and remains on the Board until a successor is chosen. Neither the federal statutes, nor the respective jurisdictional statutes enabling the interstate compact provide a mechanism for removing a Board member, since they do not currently serve at the pleasure of the Governor. This lack of oversight essentially allows members of the Board to potentially act in accordance with their own goals and directives for MWAA without consultation with or allegiance to the leaders and taxpayers in the Commonwealth and the other member jurisdictions.

Congressman Wolf is seeking changes to rectify this lack of oversight by providing the Chief Executives of each of the member jurisdictions and the President with greater authority in appointing and removing members to the Board. Specifically, members would serve at the pleasure of the appointing executive, and the appointing executive would be provided the authority to remove a board member at any time with or without cause. Furthermore, as referenced above, all of the facilities under MWAA's control are located within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, however, Virginia only has five of the thirteen seats on the board. As such, the Commonwealth should be granted three additional seats on the MWAA Board, increasing the number of Board members representing Virginia and its interests from five to eight. These changes would provide me and future governors the ability to ensure that MWAA's policies and directives are in accordance with the best interests of Virginia's citizens.

I wholeheartedly support the changes proposed by Congressman Wolf, and, again, I respectfully urge you to do so as well. Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. McDONNELL,
Governor.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ZIDDE HAMATHEITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite for his profound dedication to his religion and for sharing his convictions with my community through prayer.

Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite was born on January 11, 1971 to the late Archbishop M. Zidoneo and Rakal Hamatheite in Brooklyn, New York. He was taught at an early age to respect God and the people of God. It was because of his upbringing that he understood that he would pursue a career in prayer service.

Under the auspices of his Pastor, Rev. Alvin Barnett of West Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite learned the ways of the ministry until he turned 25. The Lord led him to accept the challenge as the Pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in December 1995 as a result of his training.

After working in the Department of Education for several years and seeing the desperate need of the young people in this community, Reverend Hamatheite sought to rival against strongholds on the young people. He joined forces with the 73rd Precinct where he serves as Clergy Liaison, Police Chaplain, and Administrator for the Police Explorers Program. He and several members of the church also mentor youth for the Kings County District Attorney's Office in their Youth and Congregation in Partnership Program. Reverend Hamatheite saw the need to teach young men how to be real men so he developed a program that the Lord gave him, entitled, M.O.V.E. (Men of Valor Empowered), working with 12- to 17-year-old young men.

Reverend Hamatheite serves on several boards in my district: he is the Vice President of Bridging the Gap Ministries; first and former President of the Young Pastors, Ministers, and Evangelists Department of the Eastern Baptist Association; and the former Recording Secretary for the Moderator's Department of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Reverend Hamatheite now serves as the Pastor of the Wayside Baptist Church, where he was installed on July 18, 2011. Since arriving at Wayside Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite has implemented a new Visionary Theme, "Moving from Conformity to Transformation." During his first year as Pastor he established leadership classes for all leaders, reorganized the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and under his pastorate many have come to give their lives to Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Hamatheite for his passion for God's word and the diverse initiatives he has employed as Pastor of Wayside Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT BRUCE CHRISTMAS UPON RECEIVING THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Bruce Christmas for receiving the 2011 Washington County Extension Service Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Bruce and his family have dedicated their lives to the field of agriculture, and I am proud to recognize their achievements before the United States Congress.

Bruce was born to a farm family in 1933, becoming the fifth generation of Christmas farmers in the Florida Panhandle that stretches back to 1848. He graduated from Cottdale in 1951, received his associate's degree from Chipola College in 1953, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1955. He maintained a thirst for learning by earning a Masters of Animal Nutrition in