

when he was arrested. He was helping to improve their access to the internet and to build an intranet. Never did any of his actions pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government. Because of his unethical imprisonment, Mr. Gross, who is 62 years old, is declining in health and spirit and quick action must be taken.

Mr. Gross is an international development specialist and social worker. He has positively impacted the lives of people in over 50 countries, including the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and Haiti. His work has always focused on helping people.

I join my constituents of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Mr. Gross' wife Judy, their two daughters, and my Colleagues Senator BEN CARDIN and Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN in calling for the speedy and unconditional release of Allan Gross.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 30, 2011, I was not present for rollcall vote 869 on passage of H.R. 3094, the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

Had I been present for rollcall 869, I would have voted "no."

#### A TRIBUTE TO THEOPHINE ABAKPORO

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Theophine Abakporo for his dynamic approach to healthcare in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Abakporo, M.D. is the Medical Director/Chairman, Emergency Services of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine in Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Abakporo has worked with Wyckoff for the last fourteen years, and has been instrumental in forging a relationship between the community and the hospital. He is also an Attending Physician in Emergency Medicine at Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center. Dr. Abakporo is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Disaster Medicine.

While pursuing his medical career Dr. Abakporo became deeply involved in the health care needs of inner-city communities in the United States. Dr. Abakporo worked hard and committed himself to participating in health outreach and other programs related to the well being of the Brooklyn communities such as Ocean Hill, Brownsville, East New York, BedStuy, Bushwick and Ridgewood communities. This strong willingness to help and care for people, contributed to his interest and focus in the field of Emergency Medicine and Pre-Hospital Care.

Dr. Abakporo is the recipient of a Congressional Award of the U.S. House of Representatives, and an award in Health Care Excellence in Community Service. He is a Healthcare Advisor to Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS, 10th Congressional District, New York. He was also appointed Chairman of the Health Advisory Council of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey by Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

In response to the increasing need for disaster awareness and management, Dr. Abakporo has taken further training and certification. He is certified by the United States Department of Homeland Security in Healthcare Leadership and Administrative decision making in responses to weapons of mass destruction (WMD). He is certified by the United States Army in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive incidents (CBRNE). In addition, he is certified by the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) in On-line—Medical Control.

Dr. Abakporo is an accomplished, young and dynamic physician, with a distinguished track record of working successfully with healthcare professionals, government leaders and community groups to address health care issues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Theophine Abakporo for providing an intuitive approach to healthcare in his community and to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING LORETTA KING

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Loretta King, a champion for civil rights, a loving wife and mother, and a dedicated public servant.

Today, Loretta is celebrating her retirement most recently as the career Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. In total, Loretta has dedicated more than 32 years of her life in defense of our Nation and the public at large.

Loretta's career is one self-sacrifice and commitment to protecting the rights of all Americans, without regard to race, gender, or political affiliation.

As a career-track civil servant, Loretta epitomizes a Justice Department lawyer; Loretta did so without seeking the limelight, year after year, day in and day out, for all her career. Starting as a law clerk while completing her studies, Loretta literally rose up the ranks at the Justice Department to become the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the government's chief civil rights advocate.

After graduating in 1990 from American University, Washington College of Law, Loretta was chosen by the Justice Department's Legal Honors Program. From 1980 to 1990, Loretta served as a line attorney in the Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section, tasked with enforcing Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In this post, Loretta led and settled the Justice Department's first sexual harassment case as well as its first paternity leave case. Over the next 20 years, Loretta worked in both the Justice Department's Civil and Civil Rights

Divisions. In 1992, Loretta was tapped to serve as the Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section. In 1994, Loretta was elevated to her current role as the Civil Rights Division's Deputy Assistant Attorney General, where she has served continuously for 17 years, except during temporary assignments to other senior roles in the Division. Specifically, in 2009, Loretta served as her Division's Acting Assistant Attorney General, pending confirmation to that post of Thomas Perez. From August 2010 through June 2011, Loretta led the Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section as its Acting Chief.

A civil rights legal pioneer, Loretta became one of the highest ranking women and persons of color to serve in the Justice Department, and the first African-American woman to hold the positions in the Civil Rights Division of Acting Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

As a Member of Congress representing Americans who know all too well the sting of injustice, I am here to salute Loretta's tireless work and long service upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. As Robert F. Kennedy once said, "few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." Loretta has done just that.

Again, I ask the House to celebrate Loretta as a servant to her family and country as well as defender of the civil rights of all people, including the residents of the Nation's capital.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing a floor vote on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted: "No" on rollcall No. 869, On Final Passage of H.R. 3094—the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

#### HONORING CHICK-FIL-A

##### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, we need businesses to set up shop in our community to provide the goods and services that are needed in order for our citizens to survive and thrive on a day-to-day basis; and

Whereas, in 2001, Mr. Tony Royal opened the 1,000th Chick-fil-A restaurant at Turner Hill Road here in Lithonia, Georgia to service the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and nearby communities; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal is the owner and operator of the restaurant, he credits all of the success to his team: the sales, the community outreach, the community partnership, and the promotion of scholarships; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal and the Chick-fil-A team at Turner Hill continues to be a resource

for citizens in DeKalb County and beyond with excellent service, providing employment opportunities and providing a product that “keeps America moving”—contributing to the local and national economy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating Mr. Tony Royal and Chick-fil-A at Turner Hill on their tenth (10th) anniversary as a business anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 1st, 2011 as Chick-fil-A Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of November, 2011.

#### HONORING ZELLA GHARAT

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Zella Gharat, who after 33 years as a member of the Stanislaus County Board of Education, has announced her plans to retire effective December 13, 2011.

A retired legal assistant, Gharat was first appointed to the County Board of Education on June 6, 1978. Throughout the years, she has worked with four county superintendents, including Neal Wade, John Allard, Martin Petersen and the current superintendent, Tom Changnon. She's seen many changes in education since 1978. “Special education programs were fairly new when I started, and I've watched the Head Start program grow over the years,” said Gharat. “I was on the Board when we purchased our current Outdoor Education site and was there for our first county Academic Decathlon and our first Youth Entertainment Stage Company performance. I also remember the important vote to purchase SCOE's administration building at 1100 H Street,” she said.

Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools Tom Changnon praised Gharat for her invaluable contributions to the Board. “Zella always has the best interest of students in mind,” said Changnon. “She is an advocate for children and a valuable member of the Board. We will miss her.”

“I've seen a lot of changes over the past 33 years, and I've also seen opportunities for students expand,” said Gharat. “From charter schools to specialized academies, there are a multitude of programs in place to ensure that every student can succeed,” she said. “I'm proud of all that we've accomplished over the years.”

Through its role of long-range policy development and other critical functions, the County Board works with the Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools and staff to offer the most effective education programs and district support services. The County Board of Education has responsibility for approving the annual county office budget, adopting policies governing the operation of the Board, acting as the appeals board for student expulsions, acting as the appeals board for inter-district transfers, acting as the appeals board for Charter School petitions, establishing the County Superintendent's salary, and may serve as the landlord and owner of property.

The Board also encourages the involvement of families and communities and is a vehicle for citizen access to communication about SCOE's programs and services. Regular meetings of the Stanislaus County Board of Education are open to the public and are held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. Meetings are generally held at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, unless otherwise announced.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Zella Gharat for her 33 years of dedicated service as a member of the Stanislaus County Board of Education.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LCG COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the LCG Community Services, Inc. for its mission to provide client-centered services to low-income individuals with one or more special needs to constituents in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

LCG Community Services, Inc. (LCG) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community based organization that began operations in 2006. LCG offers their services to individuals that have special needs, such as homelessness, mental illness, and developmental disabilities, the elderly, chronic illness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and victims of domestic violence. LCG serves over 5,000 consumers per year from many different nationalities and ethnicities.

LCG recognizes that a home is the foundation necessary to begin addressing other critical individual needs. As such, LCG takes particular pride in their housing programs. LCG provides transitional and permanent housing in congregate and scatter-site settings. LCG, through its HAC division, also operates a group home for orphaned children in Haiti. The group home established in December 2010 is a place for adolescent orphan boys to grow up in a safe, supportive environment after the earthquake.

LCG believes that educating consumers is the most effective method of advocacy. Through health fairs, dinners, and various other programs, LCG provides workshops, seminars, and educational materials to the community at-large.

LCG has found that integrating celebrity entertainment with education can be a very powerful tool in reaching out to children and young adults. LCG organizes an annual, summer, Children's Health Awareness Day, with famous entertainers that are attended by over 2,500 families. Every Thanksgiving, LCG Community Services hosts over 500 seniors for Thanksgiving dinner at Boy's and Girl's High School, in Brooklyn. These are individuals who have found themselves alone during the Thanksgiving holiday. They also provide mental health professionals, and staff from medical clinics that speak to the seniors and who are available to answer questions.

LCG also has a comprehensive guardianship and court evaluation program, United Guardianship Services of New York (UGSNY). UGSNY was formed to assist the elderly, many of whom are no longer capable of mak-

ing their own health and financial decisions. UGSNY's goal is to provide the highest level of care, through the use of dedicated legal, financial and social service personnel. UGSNY works closely with the New York State Court system, Adult Protective Services and other city and state agencies to provide comprehensive assistance with the respect and dignity that our elderly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize LCG Community Services, Inc. for their continued involvement with the less fortunate.

#### IN COMMEMORATION OF TED TRAMBLEY'S CYCLING CAREER ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize a dedicated and gifted athlete on his 60th birthday, Ted Trambley.

In commemoration of his birthday, I want to honor him and his achievements as an exceptional cyclist, culminating this year with a truly inspired race to the top of Mount Haleakala in Hawaii this summer in record time.

Born in 1951, Ted Trambley grew up in Pleasant Hill, California and graduated College Park High School in 1969 and California State University, Hayward in 1975 where he was a gymnast and avid cyclist. It was in college that cycling became one of his true passions in life and he began a career in racing that has spanned over four decades.

Ted has belonged to several racing clubs over the years, including the Diablo Wheelman, Strada Sempre Duro, and his current club, Taleo.

Of the many races he has finished over his career, one of his most memorable was the Davis Double Century, a 200 mile race in a single day. In 1974, early in his career and at the height of his competitive peak, he was barely edged out of the lead and finished second. He continued this race annually for four years.

He also participated in the Death Ride through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California, racing 129 miles and climbing over 15,000 feet of elevation. A race not for the faint of heart.

Since 1986, Ted has been competing in the annual Mt. Diablo Mountain Challenge, a 10.8 mile race climbing 3,249 feet, where he regularly finishes among the fastest and at the very top of his age group. Drawing between 800 and 1,100 riders each year, this is one of the premier races in the San Francisco Bay Area.

These races are just a sample of his long and storied career, but it was this year, in 2011, at the Cycle to the Sun in Hawaii, on the island of Maui, that Ted Trambley truly demonstrated the strength and endurance that has defined his character for so many years.

This race is one of the most difficult bike races in the world, climbing over 10,000 feet of elevation and travelling over 36 miles while its gradient sometimes reaches 18%. As a comparison, the famed Mont Ventou in the