

Thanks to The Dwelling Place, Ms. McQuain was able to provide her son with a happy and stable life. Although their lives were brutally cut short, their resilience and ability to overcome hardship will never be forgotten, and they will continue to inspire the many families that face similar challenges.

My congressional district is fortunate to have The Dwelling Place providing support to our community, so that families in crisis can establish new lives without fear and with the potential and support for a bright future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Jane and William McQuain and in saluting the mission of The Dwelling Place and its dedication to assisting the homeless.

RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY
ADOLESCENT AND EDUCATION
CENTER OF HOLYOKE, MASSA-
CHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions that the Community Adolescent and Education, Care, Center, Inc. of Holyoke, Massachusetts makes to the community by improving the lives of teen mothers and their children.

Among the Care Center's core beliefs is that people living in poverty should be exposed to the same intellectual stimulus as those who are financially well off and that they will thrive if they receive it. The Center, therefore, works extremely hard to provide young mothers with high level programming in education, the arts and humanities, and athletics. These programs have been incredibly effective with up to 85 percent of graduates going on to college and many launching careers in social services, government and medicine.

On November 2, 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama presented the Care Center with the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award for its innovative humanities courses. I have been a proud supporter of the Center and its vital work, and I cannot think of a more deserving institution in my district.

Over 500 organizations from across the country were nominated for the award which, administered by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, is considered to be the highest honor for such programs in the nation. The Care Center is one of 12 after-school and out-of-school programs to receive the award and it was, in particular, recognized for its exceptional humanities programming. This included the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a free college course focusing on moral philosophy, art history, literature, writing, and American history; Introduction to Humanities, a college course offered in partnership with Greenfield Community College; and Nautilus II, an annual anthology of poetry and art by Center teen mothers.

The Care Center is dedicated to helping young parents with low incomes obtain access to an excellent education. Center Executive Director Anne Teschner and her dedicated staff, through their revolutionary programming, have opened doors leading to successful futures for hundreds of teens and their children.

I commend the Care Center on these efforts and am confident that this national recognition can be a catalyst that allows it to help hundreds more in years to come.

ALAN GROSS

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, for the last two years, Alan Gross, a 62-year old international development specialist and social worker, has been incarcerated in a Cuban prison. Today marks the two-year anniversary of his imprisonment. Alan traveled to Cuba on behalf of USAID to help the country's Jewish community expand its access to the Internet and establish an Intranet. This was a humanitarian mission, a mission to help a small and peaceful community improve its access to and use of the Internet. Alan's presence and actions posed no threat to the Cuban government.

And yet, Alan has been held in a maximum-security military hospital facility in Cuba since December 2009. He has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba. Alan's appeal to the Cuban Supreme Court was denied on August 5, 2011, formally ending his legal options for release.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleagues in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Alan Gross. Alan Gross is not a criminal, he is a humanitarian aid worker. Alan Gross is a man whose life work has positively impacted people across the world, including in the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and Haiti. Alan Gross is a husband, a father and a son who should be released and reunited with his family immediately.

HONORING TONY ROYAL

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, reaching the age of 50 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mr. Tony Royal was born in Savannah, Georgia on November 20, 1961 and is celebrating that milestone today; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal has accomplished much in his years, but the two things he is most proud of is being the husband of Leslie and father of Antasha and Anthony; and

Whereas, he is a stellar businessman, a model citizen and a community partner who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God, family and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal is celebrating his 50th birthday with his family and friends, his good will has touched the lives of persons everywhere across the nation in particularly the Fourth District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize Mr. Royal for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 20, 2011 as Mr. Tony Royal Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of November, 2011.

HONORING JOHNNY CHANDLER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Johnny Chandler who served his country honorably in the United States Air Force.

After graduating from Chowchilla High School in 1998, Johnny Chandler enlisted in the United States Air Force. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, and later completed Enlisted Aircrew Training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. After completing technical surveillance specialty training in Mississippi, Washington, and Oklahoma, he was assigned to the Airborne Air Control Squadron, one of the three operational E-3 Sentry (AWACS) squadrons in the continental United States. The primary mission of the 965th was Operation Southern Watch in the skies over Southern Iraq. The mission's objectives were to search for, track, and report enemy aircraft contacts to ground and airborne assets and intercept them if they ventured into the No-Fly Zone. While with the 965th, he participated in numerous Red Flag training missions, which are the Air Force's equivalent of the Navy's Top Gun School.

Johnny returned to the United States about a year later and was subsequently selected to be one of the first Airborne Surveillance Technicians to participate in the resurrection of the old 960th World War II bomber squad. While at the Base Exchange in Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey, Johnny watched the television monitors as the first airliner impacted the World Trade Center on September 11, 2011. While with the 960th, he completed two tours with the Operation Northern Watch in the Northern part of Iraq, guiding American and allied aircraft to targets and monitoring enemy air defenses and missile sites. He had over 1,000 flight hours on the E-3 Sentry including 300 combat hours. In 2003, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and was selected for cross-training in the Air Force Combat Control.

Johnny retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2005 and enrolled in Oklahoma State University's engineering program. He graduated in May 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. During his academic career, Johnny used his engineering expertise to design a multitude of robotic unmanned aerial and ground systems. He recently accepted a position as an Aerospace Engineer at the Naval Surface War Center where he will be working with high-powered lasers, rail guns, conventional weapons, and unmanned aircraft

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Johnny Chandler for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING REP. GONZALEZ'S
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Congressman CHARLES GONZALEZ. I am sad that after seven great terms in the House, Congressman CHARLES GONZALEZ will not be seeking reelection. Picking right up from where his father left off, CHARLES has been a tremendous leader for the people of the Texas 20th Congressional District and the United States.

CHARLES and I share the honor of representing large Hispanic communities. As the Chairman of the Hispanic Caucus and his tenure in Congress, he has fought fiercely to better the lives of all Hispanics in America. We both proudly co-sponsored the DREAM Act. We both share the belief that everyone in America deserves the equal opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

CHARLES and his compassion will be greatly missed. I wish him and his family all the best and more.

REGARDING THE IMPRISONMENT
OF ALAN GROSS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep concern over the plight of an American citizen overseas. Today marks two years that Alan Gross, a 62-year old international development specialist who has worked for over two decades helping people in troubled areas across the globe, has been held in a Cuban prison.

For the first fourteen months of his captivity, Mr. Gross was held without charge. In February of this year, he was charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of the State, then given a two-day trial and sentenced to 15 years in prison, his appeal denied.

Mr. Gross was in Cuba on behalf of USAID. He was there to help the country's small Jewish community establish an intranet and improve its access to the internet. His presence and actions were not meant to pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government. Since being incarcerated, he has lost approximately 100 pounds, his health is deteriorating, and two immediate family members, his mother and daughter, have been diagnosed with cancer.

His 15-year sentence is absurd, and his continuing incarceration is inhumane. I urge my colleagues to join me in requesting that the Cuban government release Mr. Gross on humanitarian grounds as quickly as is possible.

67TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF COLMAR POCKET

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming 67th anniversary of the Battle of Colmar Pocket.

The Battle of the Colmar Pocket was fought between January 22 and February 9, 1945, to liberate the last major French city occupied by the German Army. The ferocious preliminary fighting which formed the Colmar Pocket began after the arrival of U.S. 7th Army and 1st French Army forces at Strasbourg, north of Colmar, on November 23rd and Mulhouse, south of Colmar on November 25th, 1944. These Armies, under command of the 6th Army Group under Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, had fought their way through the Vosges Mountains to reach these cities beginning in mid-September, and were the first military force in history to successfully do so.

The 1st French Army, commanded by General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, had the mission to clear the Pocket and liberate Colmar, destroying the German forces in the Pocket or driving their remainder across the Rhine. Initially, the 36th Infantry Division, under Major General John Dahlquist, arrived at Selestat on December 4, 1944, fixing the northern shoulder of the Pocket. Under French command, the 36th Infantry Division fought its way south to the vicinity of Kaisersberg, Osthelm, Mittelwihr, and Bennwihr, in frigid winter weather, where the division fought off fanatical German counterattacks launched in support of the German Ardennes Offensive, the Battle of the Bulge. In mid-December this stalwart division was withdrawn from the Colmar sector to rest and refurbish after its long, debilitating campaign through the Vosges. For the fighting to collapse the Pocket, two 36th Infantry Division soldiers received the Medal of Honor, Sergeant Ellis R. Weicht and T/SGT Bernard P. Bell.

Major General Iron Mike O'Daniel's 3rd Infantry Division then under acting Division Commander Brigadier General Robert N. Young, which had also fought its way as part of 7th Army through the Vosges Mountains to Strasbourg, was attached to II Corps of the 1st French Army under Major General Aime de Goisard de Monsabert, and in mid-December continued the fight to collapse the northern section of the Pocket, seizing Kaisersberg, Sigolsheim, Mittelwihr, and Bennwihr and the dominating high ground of Hill 355 above Sigolsheim and Hill 216 outside Bennwihr in the final two weeks of December 1944. For their intrepid and gallant actions in the fighting between December 15 and January 21, 1945, the following 3rd Infantry Division soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor: 1LT Charles P. Murray, Jr.; 1LT Eli Whitely; LTC Keith L. Ware; T/SGT Gus Kefurt; and T/SGT Russell Dunham.

As this difficult fighting was taking place, other 1st French Army units were pressing remaining German units in the Vosges Mountains at the westernmost extent of the Pocket, as well as in the south near Mulhouse. The tough fighting and harsh winter weather had greatly worn down the French, and it was determined further U.S. reinforcement was need-

ed to enable our valiant allies to finally collapse the Pocket. The first to arrive were the soldiers of Major General Norman D. Cota's 28th Infantry Division, which had fought hard in the Bulge. They arrived on January 19th, taking over the 3rd Infantry Division's sector in the Kaisersberg valley.

On January 22nd, the 3rd Infantry Division, now under MG O'Daniel, with attached 254th Infantry Regiment of the 63rd Infantry Division and reinforced by a combat command of the 5th French Armored Division, launched the II Corps main effort to breach enemy defenses protecting the Colmar Canal and to isolate Colmar from the Rhine River by seizing the bridge at Neuf-Brisach. January 22nd found then Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey from Somerset, Kentucky, in command of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry. He had commanded the battalion since taking command in the Anzio beach head in February 1944, and had commanded it for Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France, the Southern France campaign, and through the Vosges. Leading his battalion across the Ill River, through minefields against dug-in enemy machine gun positions south of the village of Guemar in a night attack, Ramsey showed outstanding leadership and gallantry which led to the award of the Silver Star. Despite being wounded by enemy shell fragments, he ensured his battalion continued advancing in the face of stubborn resistance, breaking through the enemy positions and enabling the rest of the division to drive south.

Ramsey would continue his sterling combat service and go on to achieve the rank of Major General, and commanded the AMERICAL Division in Vietnam from 1969 until 1970. He was severely injured in a helicopter crash in Vietnam and eventually was forced to retire for medical reasons in 1974. MG Ramsey is a proud son of Kentucky, and a member of the University of Kentucky Hall of Fame.

The 3rd Infantry Division's dogged attack and imaginative scheme of maneuver enabled it to reach and cross the Colmar Canal the night of January 29-30 after a week of very heavy fighting. This combat included a serious incident at the bridge across 111 at the Maison Rouge where the failure of the bridge resulted in isolated battalions of the 30th and 15th Infantry Regiments defending unsupported against severe enemy armored counterattacks. For actions during January 22nd through the 26th, two Medals of Honor would be awarded to 3rd Infantry Division soldiers, PFC Jose F. Valdez and 2LT Audie L. Murphy.

The XXI Corps, commanded by Major General Frank W. Milburn, took command of the 3rd Infantry Division, the 28th Infantry Division, the 75th Infantry Division commanded by Major General Roy E. Porter, the 5th French Armored Division, and the 12th Armored Division commanded by Major General Roderick C. Allen at the end of January and continued the attack which succeeded in the 3rd Infantry Division's seizure of NeufBrisach. The 75th Infantry Division attacked and protected the 3rd Infantry Division's west flank. The 28th Infantry Division launched its attack from the Kaisersberg valley and cleared the suburbs of Colmar, enabling units of the French 5th Armored Division to enter the city on February 2nd. Immediately thereafter, the 12th Armored Division was committed for a drive south and