

and San Jose, the Capitol Corridor has significantly grown and invested in infrastructure, increasing the number of weekend trains to thirty-two, weekend trains to twenty-two and expanding its corridor to span seven counties with a total population of 6.7 million. In addition to investing in railcars and tracks, it has established signaling systems and sixteen stations that directly connect its passengers to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority buses, and Sacramento Regional Transit light rails.

Over the past twenty years, the Capital Corridor has experienced a 600 percent increase in ridership, up to 1.7 million passengers in the 2010–2011 fiscal year. In all, it has carried nearly 19 million people to travel 1.3 billion miles. With this popular intercity train service, the downtown Sacramento Valley Station is now the seventh busiest Amtrak station in the country.

The Capitol Corridor has been managed by the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) since 1998. Previously, the Capitol Corridor was a partnership between Amtrak and Caltrans. The CCJPA consists of a partnership of six transit agencies from the counties serviced by the Capitol Corridor. Operating funds for the CCJPA are provided by Caltrans. Administrative costs are kept down because of the strong partnership between Amtrak, BART, Caltrain, Caltrans, CCJPA and Union Pacific Railroad. In the past twenty years, the Capitol Corridor has stayed major accident-free and also improved lives by reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Capital Corridor, and its record of giving Northern Californians more transportation options, on their 20th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Capitol Corridor's outstanding work in providing the community with much needed services.

#### ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Thomas C. Garner joined the United States Army on March 5, 1943, eager to serve his nation during World War II. Originally assigned to the revered 78th Infantry Division, Garner soon applied and was selected for Army Air Corps pilot training. He served nearly a year abroad with the Air Corps, running an oxygen generating plant on Guam in support of the B-29 bombers that raided Japan.

Six months after the war's end, Garner decided to make military service his career and

reentered what was now the United States Air Force. Garner's troop carrier organization serviced all the embassies in Central and South America and the Caribbean and, from 1948–1949, participated in the Berlin Air Lift. Over the course of his career, Garner also deployed to Japan, Wake Island, Bermuda, Bangkok, and Thailand.

Garner retired in 1970 after 27 years of active duty service. He then became a civil servant, kicking off a second, 20-year career with the Social Security Administration. During those years, Garner also served with the Texas State Guard, receiving numerous awards and citations and achieving the rank of Colonel.

An active community servant with the Plano VFW and Air Force Sergeant's Association, Garner continues to put others first.

For these reasons, it is my pleasure to name Thomas Garner a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 7, 2011, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 898. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 898: "Yes"—Jackson Lee of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6.

#### A TRIBUTE TO NIKITA DAVIS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Nikita Davis for her passion for teaching and serving as a mentor to the youth in her community.

Ms. Davis was influenced at a young age by her peers and teachers to serve as a role model for young adults in New York City. When she attended Mary Louis Academy for girls in Jamaica Estates, New York, her mathematics teacher made such a great impression on her that it has transcended into her current work. At the time Ms. Davis gained an affinity for working with adolescents and other students, tutoring and teaching them alongside her teachers.

When Ms. Davis enrolled in Mount St. Mary College and began studying mathematics and secondary education, she continued her work with teens in the community. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Davis was offered a teaching position in the Mathematics Department of the NYC Department of Education. She has served in this capacity for the past eight years and truly loves the difference she can make among the youth.

Ms. Davis reminds herself of how her grassroots involvement with her peers at a young age propelled her to this current post. To this day Ms. Davis still works with students after school for personal tutoring, and is a member

of the United Federation of Teachers Delegate Assembly where she serves as a union delegate for her colleagues.

A quote that offers a unique perspective into the drive Ms. Davis has for her profession is by Sasha Azevedo. "When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then you will have accomplished the meaning to live." For Ms. Davis this is the essence of her mission as an educator.

Ms. Davis lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is married to her wonderful husband Derrick and has two daughters, Anaiya and Laila.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the profound accomplishments of Ms. Nikita Davis to continue the fight of educating our youth.

#### THE REOPENING AMERICAN CAPITAL MARKETS TO EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES ACT OF 2011

#### HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, unemployed Americans are crying out for more jobs and urging Congress to review rules and regulations that stifle innovation, economic growth, and job creation. I am introducing the Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act of 2011 for one reason: to increase job creation on Main Street. Burdensome costs are discouraging companies from going public, which deprives firms of the capital needed to expand their businesses and hire more American workers.

During the last fifteen years, fewer and fewer start-up companies have pursued Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to access the capital needed to expand their businesses, develop innovative products, and hire new employees. The number of IPOs in the United States is slipping behind the rest of the world in terms of growing our markets. Other markets are growing or holding steady, while the United States continues to decline. This is especially true in the Asian markets, which have seen an explosion of new public companies in recent years.

Since 2010, the Asian markets have had nearly 700 new IPOs compared to less than 300 in the United States during the same time-frame. Unfortunately, federal regulatory burdens are a major contributing factor in the steep drop of IPOs in the United States.

This decline is of concern because going public provides opportunities for companies to raise badly needed capital in order to expand, reinvest, and create jobs. From 2008–2010, 21 percent of the United States GDP was generated by venture capital-backed start-up companies. In addition, an August 2011 survey of CEOs conducted by the IPO Task Force found that over 90 percent of job growth occurs after a company goes public.

Unfortunately, a series of "one-size-fits-all" laws and regulations have changed the nature of the United States' capital markets and had a disproportionate cost on smaller American public companies. Washington's regulatory oversteps have harmed American workers by eliminating jobs that are created when a start-up company decides to go public. Instead, to

avoid costly regulatory requirements, many companies decide to merge with others, which usually results in job cuts.

To help solve this problem, my bill would create a new category of issuers, called "Emerging Growth Companies" that have less than \$1 billion in annual revenues when they register with the SEC and less than \$700 million in public float after the IPO. These companies will have as many as five years to transition to full compliance with a variety of federal regulations that are expensive and burdensome to new companies. This "on-ramp" status will allow small and midsize companies the opportunity to save on expensive compliance costs and create cash needed to successfully grow their businesses and create new American jobs.

I am proud to have Mr. CARNEY from Delaware and 26 additional co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle join me in introducing this bill today. With unemployment holding steady just under 9 percent, this bill would help bring investments back to the United States and help our best job creators put Americans back to work.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARVIN  
ANDREW McMICKLE

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I rise today to recognize a religious leader, constituent, and friend in my District. At the beginning of January 2012, Reverend Dr. Marvin Andrew McMickle will assume his new full-time role of President at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. For the past 24 years, Dr. McMickle has been the Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, leading his flock and many others to join him in the fight for social, racial, and economic justice. Dr. McMickle's travels to Israel, Greece, Austria, Senegal and the West Indies are testaments of this effort to uphold his teachings of justice. His leadership in Northeast Ohio is unmatched. He served on numerous boards and led organizations, including President of the Cleveland NAACP between 1989 and 1992.

Dr. McMickle's many accomplishments can be attributed to his educational credentials. Over the years, Dr. McMickle has obtained several post-secondary degrees, two of which are Doctorates from Princeton Theological Seminary and Case Western Reserve University. He used his many years of education to perpetuate the transfer of biblical knowledge and insight to instruct a Homiletics course at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. In addition to academic leadership, Dr. McMickle has written numerous books, articles and sermons to serve as tools and guidelines for others to develop their ministries.

Congratulations to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School for selecting such an exceptional man, husband, father and leader as their new President. Dr. McMickle will be deeply missed in my district, but I know his work at Colgate will continue to change the world.

IN HONOR OF THE LEMAY FIRE  
DISTRICT

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lemay Fire District, which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

The history of Lemay Fire District can be traced back as early as 1902. Due to unrestricted building, no fire protection, and bad roads, some insurance companies refused to write insurance in the Lemay area. So, after several disastrous fires, the Luxemburg Improvement Association organized a volunteer fire department in 1902. The Longwood Volunteer Fire Department Fire Association was organized two years later to provide protection to the south side of Lemay.

There still remained an area between the two that had no fire protection, so a group of citizens organized the Bismark Heights Volunteer Fire Department. The department added equipment through the years but had experienced difficulty keeping track and caring for the equipment. So in July 1911, the Bismark Heights Volunteer Department incorporated so it could have recourse to law to protect the equipment. This incorporation would eventually lead to the Lemay Fire Protection District.

In 1917 the Bismark Heights Volunteer Department changed its name to Dewey Heights Volunteer Fire Department, the change being recorded in 1922. A fire house was built in the summer of 1919 at the corner of Orient and Erskine Avenue.

On December 6, 1920 the Longwood and Luxemburg Volunteer Fire departments were invited to consolidate with Dewey Heights as one organization. By 1921, both departments turned their equipment and assets over to Dewey Heights.

In 1933, a tag system was introduced to pay for the protection which consisted of 1500 people. Later that year, full time firefighters were added, giving 24 hour service.

In May 1942, the voters in the Lemay area approved a tax-supported fire district. The Dewey Heights Fire Department was officially named the Lemay Fire Protection District. The district operated out of the fire station located at Erskine and Orient Avenue until 1992.

In 1979, the fire district added another service to help the community; it hired paramedics and established an ambulance service. The fire district not only responded to fires, but began treating and transporting sick and injured people to the hospital.

In 1991, land was purchased, and a new firehouse was built at 1201 Telegraph Road in central Lemay. The firehouse opened in 1992 and is still being used today.

The great flood of 1993 impacted the Lemay area and the Lemay Fire District responded to help its citizens once again. The north part of Lemay has been flooded causing propane tanks to become loose and creating an exposing hazard. With the help of many fire agencies, the disaster was prevented and lives were saved.

The Lemay Fire Protection District continues to serve the citizens of Lemay with twenty four firefighters. While many things have changed over the last 100 years, the one constant that has remained the same has been the unwavering commitment to the community.

HONORING ERIC MASSARI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and service of Mr. Eric Massari of Waterbury, Connecticut, one of our nation's distinguished heroes.

Mr. Massari served in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), also known as "Merrill's Marauders," a group that operated in Southeast Asia during World War II. This elite and all-volunteer unit successfully conducted numerous daring missions behind Japanese lines.

Throughout their service, these volunteers suffered from a multitude of illnesses and diseases, extreme malnutrition and countless encounters in which they were both outgunned and outnumbered. By the end of the war, the Marauders had advanced approximately 750 miles through one of the harshest jungles in the world. Of the 2,750 men to cross enemy lines, only two were left alive who had not been hospitalized. Mr. Massari was one of these two men, and explains that he "had the good lord on [his] shoulders at all times."

The Marauders have received widespread and deserved recognition for their heroic acts. There have been books, movies, and comic books depicting their brave encounters.

Waterbury is lucky to have such a hero living in Town Plot. Each soldier has been awarded the Bronze Star, and the unit has been awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation. However, one of the most meaningful recognitions for Mr. Massari came in the form of a postcard that he received last month. It was a thank you card from a group of Chinese students, who had recently learned about the Marauders in school. They wanted to express their appreciation for being rescued from the Japanese by Massari's unit some 67 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Eric Massari represents the kind of courage, honor, and character that all of us should admire. As a distinguished veteran and a former employee at the Waterbury Tool Company, Mr. Massari has spent his life serving our country and the great state of Connecticut. I ask my colleagues and the entire country to join me in honoring the service of Eric Massari, and all of our veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO LAVERNE NIMMONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Laverne Nimmons for her service towards educating the youth of Brooklyn and her high expectations for her community.

Dr. Nimmons was born in South Carolina and migrated to Brownsville, Brooklyn in 1960 where her mother would instill in her a lifelong passion for teaching. Dr. Nimmons' mother was a teacher at PS 137K and eagerly and ambitiously pushed her daughter towards studying public education. Dr. Nimmons attended Queens College after the passing of her mother and would receive her Bachelors