

Sergeant Cheeks' commitment to individual and community wealth building was the driving force behind much of his pledge to serving the citizens of Canton. To that end, he served as the Chairman of the Madison County Union for Progress, a private organization that helps citizens seek and secure employment; he served on the Board of Directors for the Canton Housing Authority, an organization in which he currently still serves as a chief advisor; he served on the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center's Board of Trustees and Madison General Hospital's Board of Trustees. Sgt. Cheeks has also been the Utility Commissioner for the City of Canton for three years in addition to volunteering with the Full Gospel Fellowship Church under the direction of Pastor Toni Brooks to serve hot meals to senior citizens at their homes once a week. He graciously took care of the personal needs of several senior citizens and hosted a talk show twice per month at WONG radio station that addresses various issues within the community.

Not only is Sgt. Cheeks committed to economic equality and bettering the community, but he is also committed to civic engagement and involvement. He currently sits on the Voter Registration committee and serves as the Chairman of the Membership Committee for the Canton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Even with all this on his plate, Sgt. Cheeks still made time to own and manage Winn-n-Cheeks Grocery Store for over twenty years after retiring from the Army. Sergeant Cheeks has been a pillar in his community more than half a century and has served our country honorably; I cannot find anyone nobler or better suited to have a federal building named in their honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing First Sergeant Landres Cheeks for his dedication to serving others.

#### HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR ARMED SERVICES

#### HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to our men and women in uniform during this holiday season.

While we must always remember those who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country, it is especially important to remember them as we celebrate this holiday season. What should be a time of joy, will be a difficult time for many families who are dealing with the loss of a loved one who has died in service to our Nation.

Two families in my own district are coping with the tragic loss of their loved ones this year. Marine Corporal Kyle Schneider of Phoenix, New York was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Lorie Schneider, his brother Kevin, and his fiancée Theresa Lynn Dodge.

Chief Warrant Officer Brad Gaudet, a native of my colleague Mr. GOHMERT's district, was killed in Afghanistan after his helicopter crashed near Kabul. He is survived by his wife Ginny, of Liverpool, New York, and two young daughters.

In this season of giving we must remember not only those who have fallen, but also the families they have left behind.

In addition to remembering those we have lost, we must continue to honor those who currently serve. We must remember that there are soldiers who will spend their Christmas in a war zone fighting for our freedom; soldiers who have not seen their families for months.

We must also remember veterans at this holiday time. While their service is over, the debt of gratitude we owe to them for their sacrifice should never be forgotten.

Christmas is an important time to stop and pay tribute to our men and women in our armed services. We are privileged to live in the greatest nation in the history of the world because of their service and sacrifice.

#### RECOGNIZING ERIC FOSS

#### HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work of Eric Foss, my legislative assistant.

Eric has worked in my office since I came to Congress and is leaving Washington, D.C. to return to Kansas. He has been a valued and reliable member of my staff, and it has been my honor to work with him as we serve the great people of the State of Kansas.

Eric is a proud Jayhawk, and a graduate of the University of Kansas and KU law. He has been a great source of information in my office, and my entire staff and I are sad to see Eric leave. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors in Kansas, and know Eric will do great things.

We thank Eric for his service to the 3rd District of Kansas.

#### RECOGNIZING REALTOR ASSOCIATION OF GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE

#### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

The Association has a long, successful history of growth and success that mirrors the community growth and economic development of the City of Fort Lauderdale and surrounding South Florida community.

From its humble founding in 1922 by six local real estate professionals as the Fort Lauderdale Board of Realtors, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale has grown over the past nine decades into one of the largest realtor Associations in the state of Florida.

Today, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale serves more than 7,500 members across Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade counties who in turn assist tens of thousands of South Floridians.

Since its inception, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale has helped its

membership conduct thriving businesses and along the way has promoted the highest standards of professional practice in the real estate community.

As a Member of Congress, I have been particularly proud of the Association's work over the years as a constant champion for consumers in our local communities.

In cities and towns across America, realtors provide expert advice and guidance to current and future property owners on what often is the biggest investment a family makes. Realtors promote affordable housing, expand home ownership, and work to end housing discrimination wherever it exists.

The Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale does all of these things while maintaining the highest level of professionalism. The Association's realtors study long hours to hone their professional skills and adhere to the Code of Ethics set out by the National Association of Realtors.

The last few years have been extremely difficult for the housing market nationally, and especially in South Florida. Yet, realtors have stood ready to assist with the challenges of the current market because they know—as all of us who live in South Florida know—that our community is one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise our families.

I am pleased to join in celebrating the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale on their 90th anniversary and wish to honor all of Florida's realtors who serve our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale as it continues its long tradition of excellence to the South Florida community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DAVID LOWRY WIDELL

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. FARR, Mr. MILLER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute to the life of David Lowry Widell who recently passed away at the age of 44. His advocacy and passion for Central California's wetlands, wildlife, and water issues made him a distinguished community leader and notable conservationist. He served our great state in a number of capacities, most recently as the General Manager and Governmental Affairs Director for the Grassland Water District.

Dave was born on May 17, 1967 in Watsonville, California, and was raised in the agriculturally rich city of Los Banos, California. Dave grew up hunting and fishing, and it was at this time that his deep appreciation for the Valley's wildlife and resources developed. His love of the Valley led to a fulfilling career, one where he was able to seek political solutions to some of Central California's most pressing issues.

Dave's reverence for the San Joaquin Valley was enhanced by the knowledge he gained through his education. Upon graduating from Los Banos High School in 1985, Dave studied at Modesto Junior College, and then transferred to the University of California, Davis, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in History in 1990.

Dave spent his adult life working in the public's best interests. He served our nation in the United States Air National Guard and served our state in several capacities, such as a field representative for former Assembly Member Rusty Areias, and later as Assistant Secretary at the California Resources Agency. Dave also worked for the City of Los Banos as Planning Commissioner, and Director of the Merced County Farm Bureau Board. In 1992, Dave joined the Grassland Water District and served as Assistant General Manager.

Prior to returning to the Grassland Water District in 2007 as General Manager, Dave dedicated his time to a number of organizations, and served in a number of roles, including Chief Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs at the California Waterfowl Association and as Director of Conservation Policy for Ducks Unlimited. Dave's breadth of experience gave him a unique combination of intellect and enthusiasm, which allowed him to serve the San Joaquin Valley—and its people, water, and wildlife—with tact and influence.

Whether he was working on issues important to the Valley or spending time with his son Ty, currently a student at Purdue University, Dave lived a full and rich life. His dedication and service will leave a lasting legacy, and we will miss his insights and his humor.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the life of David Lowry Widell, a respected and joyous man with a steadfast commitment to protecting the Central Valley's natural resources.

#### A TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE OF EVELYN HAUSNER LAUDER

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary accomplishments of Evelyn Hausner Lauder, who passed away at her home in New York City on November 12, 2011. Evelyn was a loving wife and mother, a savvy business woman, a devoted philanthropist, and a noble citizen of our country who put the "active" in the word activist.

Evelyn Hausner married into one of America's most distinguished families, but her beginnings were humble. In 1936, Evelyn fled Nazi-occupied Europe with her parents, making their way to America and eventually settling in New York City. While attending Hunter College, Evelyn met her future husband, Leonard Lauder. In 1959, they married and worked together to help grow the Estee Lauder Company.

With only six products when she joined, Evelyn recalled that "it was a baby company"—something to grow and nourish. Today, Estee Lauder stands as one of the most respected companies in the world. Evelyn herself created the Clinique product line and was an integral part of the fabric of the company.

Evelyn's real fame, however, was found in her role as an advocate for the one in eight women in the United States who develops breast cancer. Evelyn herself was a survivor. When she learned of her cancer diagnosis in 1989, she fought back—and won. She went

on to personally help build the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center, founded the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and launched the Pink Ribbon campaign. Evelyn's pink bows today are recognized symbols of hope for a cure for breast cancer, as does her lipstick Pink Ribbon.

I have always admired Evelyn's work from afar, and I have the honor and privilege of representing her son, Gary Lauder, her daughter-in-law, Laura Lauder, and grandchildren, Ellie and Josh, and having them as my dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Evelyn Lauder's husband, Leonard Lauder; her children, William Lauder and Gary Lauder; her daughter-in-law, Laura Lauder; and her beloved grandchildren. Evelyn Lauder's life is instructive to all of us of the significance that one person can have for an entire nation . . . to literally insert an issue into the national dialogue and consciousness. As the poet wrote, "and so she passed on, and all the trumpets sounded on the other side."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF FAROOQ KATHWARI

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding charitable and humanitarian works of Farooq Kathwari.

Just this month, Mr. Kathwari received yet another prestigious honor, as the United States Institute of Peace, USIP, dedicated the Farooq Kathwari Amphitheater in recognition of both his long standing work with USIP, as well as his decades of humanitarian efforts across the globe. Not only has Farooq enjoyed a long and illustrious business career, but throughout his life he has also dedicated himself unflinchingly to numerous humanitarian causes. I have always marveled at the way he balances such a successful business career with his commitment to giving back and "paying it forward." Farooq Kathwari is a most fitting recipient of this singular honor from USIP. While leading a Fortune 500 company, he generously lends his valuable time and energy to promote world peace through advocacy and by serving on the boards of numerous human-rights organizations.

The life story of Farooq Kathwari illustrates what our great country stands for, and the bountiful opportunities the United States offers its citizens. Farooq Kathwari came to America over 40 years ago as a political refugee from strife-torn Kashmir, and he now leads one of the Nation's largest and prestigious companies. He arrived in New York City at age 20 armed with a B.A. in English and political science, and with a determination to live and grow in a free society. Two years later he earned an MBA, went to work for Newcourt Securities, where he rapidly rose to the position of vice president, and simultaneously launched his own importing business. Soon thereafter, the iconic American company, Ethan Allen, purchased an interest in his com-

pany. In 1980, the firms merged, and Farooq Kathwari became vice president of Ethan Allen. By 1989, he had risen to the post of Chairman, President, and CEO. Farooq has been the top executive at Ethan Allen Interiors for 26 years; under his leadership, the company has become a leading competitor in interior design and home furnishings, while also fostering a business that values environmental and social responsibility. He is a national leader in the furniture industry; where he serves as the director and chairman of the National Retail Federation and director and is the former chairman and president of the American Home Furnishings Alliance. The industry also inducted him into the American Furniture Hall of Fame.

While Farooq's professional accomplishments are impressive, his most laudable contribution is his tireless dedication to foster world peace and to bettering the lives of others. His humanitarian efforts extend to those people displaced by conflict zones and who end up in refugee camps, and to those facing religious persecution in the Middle East and elsewhere. Most recently, Farooq was honored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees for his steadfast dedication to raising consciousness of the plight of refugees worldwide. He also serves on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and has received numerous awards for his peace activism, including the humanitarian award from the Anti-Defamation League. Farooq is a director and former chairman of Refugees International, a director of the International Rescue Committee, director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and the Henry L. Stimson Center, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also my friend.

Mr. Speaker, Farooq's life's work is to help foster a dialogue for peace in much-troubled regions, and to promote human rights around the world. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to stand and join me now in honoring Farooq Kathwari, a most compassionate and selfless citizen. May his good works serve as a model for countless others to follow.

#### HONORING SGT. TIMOTHY K. GILBOE

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sgt. Timothy K. Gilboe on being awarded the Silver Star for his heroic action in Afghanistan.

In 2006, Sgt. Gilboe left his home in Jackman, Maine to serve in the Army. After enlisting, Sgt. Gilboe showed outstanding qualities as a soldier, earning him membership to the 4th Brigade's Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk. Eventually, he was sent to Afghanistan.

On April 28th, 2011, insurgents opened fire on Gilboe's platoon, wounding the leader and squad leader. Sgt. Gilboe returned fire while suppressing the flames that ignited on a comrade's backpack. When an insurgent ran towards him with a rifle, an unarmed Sgt. Gilboe