

CHRISTI NORRIS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christi Norris of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Christi is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Support Services.

As the Communications Manager for the Social Welfare Board, Christi's influence extends far beyond the organizing and daily operations responsibilities of her job. Christi has been responsible for developing successful fundraisers, putting together a quarterly newsletter, and promoting a cheerful atmosphere in the organization through birthday celebrations and productive staff functions.

Christi's faith influences her work attitude and she is recognized as one who interacts with people of every age and socio-economic level with consistent charm and effectiveness. Christi demonstrates the high character coupled with high work standards which constitute a career worth imitating.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Christi Norris. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE RCA HERITAGE PROGRAM

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The RCA Heritage Program for its tireless efforts in preserving the name and legacy of RCA. For over sixty years, RCA served as a vanguard of progress not only in South Jersey, but in the country as a whole. RCA's visionary leadership and its dedication to industrial innovations led this company to become a world-renowned manufacturer of products for entertainment, communications, and national security. RCA also served as a critical component of the country's defense and manufacturing industries during World War II, giving the United States a significant technological advantage on the world stage. In having such a broad impact on the region, it is only right to preserve RCA's cultural and societal legacy.

The RCA Heritage Program, under the sponsorship of Rowan University, has worked to establish The RCA Heritage Program Museum, which will preserve the memory of RCA and educate future generations on its impact. In further promotion of education, The RCA Heritage Program established a scholarship available to South Jersey residents interested in pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering at Rowan University.

With the help of former RCA employees, The RCA Heritage Program has brought together generations of South Jersey residents, collecting pieces of history which would otherwise be lost to time.

Mr. Speaker, The RCA Heritage Program's continuing mission to preserve the lasting leg-

acy of RCA for South Jersey and its residents should not go unrecognized. I join all of South Jersey in paying tribute to this exceptional organization.

## TOP COPS—ISSAQUAH PD

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, September 24 of last year during a beautiful fall afternoon, six police officers in Issaquah, Washington stopped a gunman intent on murdering innocent people. Because of their quick actions and bravery, the officers will be honored Saturday evening at the 19th annual TOP COPS Awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

On that fateful day last fall, the gunman walked through yards and on sidewalks indiscriminately firing a rifle at homes, businesses, and passersby. Not far away, more than 100 people were watching a youth football game at a local school. Before the players and spectators could find refuge, the six officers put an end to his rampage utilizing the information being relayed via 9-1-1 operators.

On that day, as on every day, law enforcement officers saved lives calmly, swiftly and selflessly.

Each year, Mr. Speaker, the National Association of Police Organizations recognizes law enforcement officers from federal, state, county and local agencies for acts of bravery, courage and outstanding service to their communities over the preceding year. I am proud that six of our nation's finest officers—and who serve in the district that I represent—8th of Washington—will be acknowledged with the rest of our heroes during police week.

Mr. Speaker, to Officers Brian Horn, Jesse Petersen, Laura Asbell, Tom Griffith, Corporal Christian Munoz, and Sergeant Chris Wilson, I say "thank you." I will continue to support you and all of our law enforcement professionals around the country.

## DIANE WATSON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Diane Watson of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Diane is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

Diane's recent retirement from the St. Joseph School District Board of Education ended more than 40 years of total service to the public school system as a teacher and volunteer, including 12 consecutive years as a Board Member. During her first term on the board, she helped lead a \$36 million bond project for school improvement. In her later term, she helped with the establishment of personal computers for students. Diane's volunteer career extends across the community, including roles as a docent at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art; Chapter and Reciprocity President of P.E.O.; and an elder, deacon and

committee member to the First Presbyterian Church. As Area Coordinator for Phi Delta Kappa, she traveled the western part of Missouri encouraging quality education. She has also contributed her time and talents to the Calla Varner Board, the Junior League, the Flower Society, the St. Joseph Symphony, and the Performing Arts Association, among others. With an enthusiastic personality and a "can-do" attitude, Diane Watson has become an outstanding community volunteer and an admired friend to many—all of which she humbly attributes to "going wherever the Lord leads."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Diane Watson. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 562

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562.

Local 562 has a proud history in local labor movement which began in the 1800s and I am honored to rise today to honor its people, and its work, over the last 100 years. Local 562's 4,500 members serve the plumbing and mechanical industry in 67 counties in Eastern Missouri. In 1999 Plumbers Local 35 was merged by the International Union with Pipefitters Local 562 to create the new Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562.

Plumbers and Pipefitters local 562 provides some of the best educated and trained labor workforce in the world. Its workers have participated in the successful construction of some of St. Louis' most significant initiatives, ranging from large private buildings to major transportation and infrastructure projects. This success is due to Local 562's attention to quality service and craftsmanship.

Local 562 has also been a leader in the industry, as exemplified by its investing over \$12 million in a new training facility. Because of rigorous training, members of local 562 are at the forefront of innovative new industries in our ever changing economy. They are integral to our regional and national economic development, as a well skilled and educated workforce is critical to a growing economy.

For all of Local 562's contributions to our economy, it is also well known for its volunteer and charitable efforts in the community. The Plumbers & Pipefitters annually provide thousands of dollars worth of services to help St. Louis' poor and elderly citizens pay for their utility bills; donate plumbing repairs and home renovations for the less fortunate; help build decent and affordable housing; raise funds for police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders who have fallen in the line of duty; and volunteer time and money to children's hospitals.

Recognizing a century of leadership and excellence in the construction industry, and in our community, I offer hearty congratulations to the members of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562, and thank them for their service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, on the 200th anniversary of President James Madison signing a declaration of war against Great Britain, it is \$15,736,971,094,472.17. We've added \$5,110,094,045,559.09 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

LEECHIA JONES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leechia Jones of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Leechia is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in the Workplace.

Leechia is humble regarding her numerous accomplishments she has earned through her leadership and dedication, which include the Communicator of the Year award from Southwestern Bell; the Sullivan Award from Catholic Charities, and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Association for Community Leadership and from Leadership St. Joseph. Often called upon to help with new initiatives, Leechia extended her wisdom and leadership as coordinator for the St. Joseph Youth Alliance during its beginning phases, serving there as a loaned team member from Family Guidance Center for three years.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Leechia Jones. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

CELEBRATING CHIEF DAVID  
DUBOIS' TWENTY NINE YEARS  
WITH THE ROCHESTER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2012 Chief David Dubois retired from the Rochester Police Department after 29 years as a law enforcement officer in that community. A native of Somersworth, New Hampshire, Chief Dubois decided from an early age to pursue a career in law enforcement based on the example of his father who also enjoyed a career as a police officer.

Chief Dubois began his career as a part-time police officer in Somersworth and became a full-time officer in Rochester in 1983.

He quickly rose through the ranks, serving the community in many capacities during his tenure. In May of 2002, he was appointed Police Chief and served in that position for a decade. Throughout his career, he has been known as a community leader committed to protecting the citizens he represented and the men and women under his command. Chief Dubois has also been active in the Rochester community and has participated in many civic organizations like the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Rochester.

I want to commend Chief Dubois for his service and wish he and his family well in the coming years.

MONTFORT POINT MARINES: JOE COBBS AND JOHNNY THOMPSONS; DISTINGUISHED MASON AND SON OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN LUKE MARTIN, JR.

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two American trail blazers from North Carolina's first congressional district: Montfort marine veterans Johnny Thompskins and the recently deceased Joe Cobbs. I would also like to recognize the son of a Civil War veteran Luke Martin, Jr. Thompskins, Cobbs, and Martin will be honored by the Christian Community Charity Workers (CCCW) Inc., on June 24 at the Flame Banquet Center in New Bern, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, recruiting for the "Montfort Marines" began on June 1, 1942, following public pressure on President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Black leaders to issue Executive Order 8802, which barred government agencies and federal contractors from employment discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin. The order also required all of the U.S. Armed Services, including the United States Marine Corps, to recruit and enlist African Americans. Despite an era thick with racial discrimination, Black recruits lined up by the thousands to defend the freedoms of people abroad, while still being denied basic unalienable rights at home.

Among the inaugural class of Black Marines were Johnny Thompskins and the late Joe Cobbs. Thompskins, a man of small stature but enormous courage; and Cobbs, who developed a strong work ethic while working his family's farmland, received basic training at the segregated Camp Montfort Point in North Carolina, because no Black recruit was allowed to enter the main base of nearby Camp Lejeune unless accompanied by a white Marine.

Nevertheless, these three men were unafraid by the onslaught of World War II. They understood that victory in war was only achievable with the talent of its Black citizens. As a result, these men served their country with distinction, chartered uncharted territory, and set the bar for exemplary African American servicemen.

At 94 years old, Martin is widely known around the state of North Carolina as one of a few living children of Civil War veterans. His father, Luke Martin, Sr., was a slave in Hertford County when he joined the Union Army

and began to bravely fight for the freedoms of his loved ones.

Nonetheless, Martin, Jr. is a distinguished mason who has earned enormous respect for building a several structures across Craven County. Martin's son Frederick Martin was killed in the Vietnam War in 1968.

Today, Thompskins and Martin reside in New Bern, North Carolina. Cobbs also lived there until his passing in May. All entered the world as young men determined to forge independence and enthusiastic to contribute to the country and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Thompskins, Cobb, and Martin to America expand the definition of patriotism. Their trailblazing efforts will forever remain a cornerstone in American history.

LINDA JUDAH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Linda Judah of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Linda is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award: Woman in the Workplace.

Ms. Judah has served as Director of Buchanan Child Support Enforcement, a hospital and school nurse, and is currently the Executive Director of the Social Welfare Board. Linda has grown to have a compassionate understanding of the specific health challenges faced by low-income patients and has worked aggressively to overcome those challenges. Through her hard work and dedication to ensure that the Social Welfare Board achieve the highest level of care, the clinic now serves as a standard for others seeking to provide high-quality care.

In addition to serving as a leader for several overseas medical trips, Ms. Judah has worked diligently to secure funding for the free clinic through a period of economic uncertainty and has earned such a respect among nursing students and interns that she was invited to be the commencement speaker at graduation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Linda Judah. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
MUSIC SCHOOL AS THEY CELEBRATE  
THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many who have gathered in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, Connecticut. This is a remarkable milestone for this wonderful institution of learning.