

great Nation and the United States Air Force. His exemplary character and selfless service have resulted in a career of which he and his family can be very proud. I wish them the very best as they face new challenges in the coming years. Mr. Durante consistently conducted himself in a professional manner, which brought great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. I know my fellow Members of the Senate will join me in thanking him for his commitment to this Nation and in wishing him all the best in the future.

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Tobyhanna Army Depot, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 23, 2012.

In the summer of 1912, the Army arrived in Tobyhanna, PA and established a temporary artillery training camp under Major Charles P. Summerall, Commander of the 3rd Field Artillery at Fort Myer, Virginia. Based on the camp's success, Congress authorized the Army to purchase land to create a permanent camp in 1913. Since then, it has been a military testing facility, a prisoner-of-war camp, and, since 1953, an Army facility that repairs communications equipment for all branches of the military.

Today, Tobyhanna Army Depot is the largest full-service electronics maintenance facility in the U.S. Department of Defense. With a regional economic impact of an estimated \$4.4 billion and more than 5,400 employees, Tobyhanna Army Depot is Northeastern Pennsylvania's largest employer. Its presence alone creates 19,300 regional jobs. In addition, Tobyhanna Army Depot employs an additional 300 personnel who permanently work at "forward repair activities," supporting our military personnel around the globe.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the Department of Defense's recognized leader in the areas of automated test equipment, systems integration and downsizing of electronics systems. The Army has designated Tobyhanna as its Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR), and Electronics, Avionics and Missile Guidance and Control. The Air Force has designated Tobyhanna as its Technical Source of Repair for command, control, communications, and intelligence systems.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 100 years, the Tobyhanna Army Depot has been an incredible asset for Northeastern Pennsylvania and the United States. Therefore, I commend all those personnel—military and civilian—who have faithfully served our community and our country while stationed at the Tobyhanna Army Depot.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUTH KISAKO KAMEI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruth Kisako Kamei, a 50 year resident of Mountain View, California, who died at the age of 91. She was a loving wife, a devoted mother, a doting grandmother, a beloved sister, and a community leader.

Ruth Kamei was born in Mayfield, California, on September 20, 1920 to Niro Nishimoto and Kisaye Murakami. She was a graduate of Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California. Before World War II, Ruth met and married her husband of 70 years, Kenzo. During the war, Ruth was interned in Heart Mountain, Wyoming where she worked in the camp cafeteria. Once the war was over, Ruth and Kenzo settled in Mountain View, California and founded Kamei Nursery, specializing in cut flowers.

Ruth was a very active member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, participating in the Buddhist Women's Association and a member of the original Temple Choir. She was also a member of the Ikenobo School of Ikebana. She also enjoyed gardening, Japanese cooking and needlework.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Kenzo, her sister Mary Sasaki, her son Kenneth, and daughters Eileen and husband Robert Eng, Judy and husband Steve Inamori, grandchildren Ami, Ellen and Jonathan Kamei, Emily Eng Holbrook, Laura Eng Derdenger and Julia Eng, Bradley, Gregory and Kathryn Inamori, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother Yoshio Nishimoto, and sisters Nobuko Kurotori and Grace Kashima.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Ruth Kamei and offering our deepest condolences to her family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as the Bastogne Brigade Combat Team. This brief recitation of the history of these soldiers barely does them justice.

The Bastogne Brigade Combat Team fought in World War I and it was the first American expeditionary force to penetrate the Hindenburg Line, a vast system of defenses built by the Germans in northeastern France. Among many historic contributions during World War II, the Bastogne Brigade Combat Team played a vital role in Operation Overlord in 1944, the largest seaborne invasion in history. Later that year, they were part of the airborne invasion of Holland and secured control of supply routes and bridges in the German-occupied Netherlands.

In 1964, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division was deployed to Viet-

nam and participated in more than 40 combat operations and fought for seven consecutive years without respite.

In 1991, they again played a vital role as part of the largest helicopter air-assault mission in military history during Operation Desert Storm. They have since taken part in peace-keeping operations throughout the world. In Iraq, they played a central role in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in 2007, they were sent to the city of Tikrit, a safe haven for terrorist organizations.

In 2010 they were deployed to some of the most violent territories in Afghanistan and successfully carried out missions that prevented insurgents from carrying out violent acts against civilians and military targets. The soldiers of the Bastogne Brigade Combat Team will soon be re-deployed to Afghanistan where they will continue performing with valor, risking their lives to help make our own country more secure. Many of them will be on the front lines, doing foot patrols, creating security and interacting with Afghan civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the brave soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RAY BRASWELL, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the leadership of Dr. Ray Braswell as Superintendent of the Denton Independent School District (DISD) for the last 14 years. After 33 years of distinguished service with Denton ISD, he is retiring.

Dr. Braswell has led the transformation of Denton ISD from a small school system to a large district with progressive and dynamic instructional programs. The population of the district more than doubled and has also added 20 schools and four other facilities.

Braswell was named one of the Top Five Superintendents in Texas in 2003 and 2009. During his tenure as superintendent, accountability test scores have improved every year and Denton ISD has twice attained the prestigious recognized status from the Texas Education Agency. One of Dr. Braswell's proudest accomplishments was the opening of the Advanced Technology Complex for the juniors and seniors of Denton ISD in 2006. This complex has afforded over 3,000 students the opportunity to attain certifications, technical skills, and credit for college level courses in such varied fields as health occupations, media technology and cosmetology.

In 1979, Dr. Braswell began his long career with the Denton ISD. He served as an interim superintendent and associate superintendent before being named superintendent in 1998. Dr. Braswell had been the executive director for policy, planning and evaluation, executive director of research and development and director of secondary education. He also served as associate principal and assistant principal at Denton High School. Dr. Braswell's sincere

compassion and strong rapport with his staff and students has helped him build and maintain strong partnerships within the district.

On behalf of the Denton Independent School District, faculty members, students, family and friends, I would like to congratulate Dr. Ray Braswell on his many years of public service, his accomplishments, and his commitment to Denton ISD. I am honored to represent Denton ISD and the 26th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SCHATZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Orange County, California are exceptional. Orange County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. John Schatz is one of these individuals. On Friday, June 29, 2012, Schatz will end his tenure as the General Manager of the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) after 35 years of service to the community.

Schatz graduated from the University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and received a Juris Doctor from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton in 1989. In 1998 Schatz was appointed by the State Legislature to the Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century. From 2000 to 2004, he served as an instructor on "Water Policy in Southern California" at the University of California at Irvine. He was also a member of Association of California Water Agency's State Legislative Committee for several years.

Prior to becoming General Manager of Santa Margarita Water District, Schatz was the General Manager of Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) in western Riverside County from 1984 to 1994. Before joining JCSD, he worked in a variety of positions, including Administrative Manager, for the Rancho California Water District in Temecula from 1977 to 1984.

At SMWD, Schatz established a culture of efficiency. Among his accomplishments were doubling the number of connections while reducing staffing from 163 to 122 employees by emphasizing cross-training and expanding the use of technology. During his tenure, Schatz helped keep SMWD's services affordable by holding the line on rate increases while finding cost-saving solutions. In the last 15 years, the District has raised rates only twice and decreased its rates six times. It has reaped an additional \$1 million in annual revenues and saved ratepayers \$6.9 million. Under Mr. Schatz's leadership, SMWD recently partnered with four other water agencies to complete the \$54 million Upper Chiquita Reservoir, creating the largest domestic water reservoir built in south Orange County in 45 years while helping to preserve the county's open space.

In light of all John Schatz has done for the community of Orange County, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. John Schatz's tireless passion

for conservation and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

EMPOWERING LOCAL PARTNERS TO PREVENT TERRORISM ACT OF 2012

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, this bill, the Empowering Local Partners To Prevent Terrorism Act of 2012, is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN HONOR OF MRS. CAROLYN HENRY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations to Mrs. Carolyn Henry, a beloved citizen of Thomasville, Georgia, who will be celebrating her 31st year as the Minister of Music and 51st year as a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia. On June 23, 2012, Mrs. Henry's relatives, friends, colleagues and church family will pay tribute to her for her outstanding musical stewardship and years of dedicated service at First Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Henry is a graduate of Fort Valley State University where she received her bachelor's degree in Music Education. Following her graduation from Fort Valley State University, Mrs. Henry enrolled in Valdosta State University where she would receive her master's degree in Music Education. She attended the University of Georgia for advanced studies in Vocal Pedagogy and received training in Choral Conducting from renowned conductors Rodney Eichenberger and Dr. Andre Thomas of Florida State University.

As an advocate for quality education and sound musical training for our nation's school children, Mrs. Henry served as a public school music teacher for 37 years in both Thomas County and Berrien County, Georgia. Over the course of her teaching career, Mrs. Henry also served as the Director of the Community Choir at Thomas University and as an Adjunct Music Instructor at Georgia Southwestern University.

To go along with her many academic and music education accomplishments, Mrs. Henry has received acclaim as a vocalist and music administrator. She is an original member of the world renowned Georgia Mass Choir and she was selected as one of the choir members to perform in the movie, "The Preacher's Wife," starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington.

Currently, Mrs. Henry is the Founder and Artistic Director of the C.H.A.R.M. School, a private music studio for voice and piano students in Thomasville, Georgia. This studio serves as a preeminent training center for future musicians and artist performers. In conjunction with her musical commitments at the C.H.A.R.M. School and at First Missionary Baptist Church, Mrs. Henry also serves as the Music Director of Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Carolyn Henry, a beloved educator, magnificent vocalist and outstanding role model, as she and her loved ones celebrate her many years of musical achievement and dedicated community service on behalf of First Missionary Baptist Church and the Thomas County, Georgia community.

Enjoy your anniversary celebration Mrs. Henry! May God continue to bless you and may you have many, many more years of musical excellence.

HONORING RICKY DIXON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable gentleman, Ricky Dixon. He was born April 7, 1994, in Greenville, Mississippi. He is the proud son of Ms. Hevonne Dixon and Mr. Collis Grisby.

Ricky's mother has truly been an inspiration to him. While raising Ricky, she obtained her college degree while also working a full time job. It was this example that inspired Ricky to always strive for greatness regardless of his circumstances.

Ricky is very competitive and a high academic achiever; his test score on the Algebra I state exam for the State of Mississippi subject area test ranked him in the top ten percentile among high school students in the State of Mississippi. The following year he was inducted into the National Honor Society.

In 2010, Ricky began his junior year in high school at Rosa Fort High School. During this time, he had the privilege of traveling to Washington, DC, to attend the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Journalism Conference. This experience broadened Ricky's knowledge and opened his eyes to what the world has to offer in terms of career opportunities. However, although Ricky knows that his education can offer him opportunities around the country, he wants to return to Rosa Fort and teach Algebra I so other students can go anywhere and be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ricky Dixon as the Salutatorian of Rosa Fort High School's Class of 2012.