

grace and dignity and God has blessed him over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mr. Jordan, a distinguished veteran and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION, WALT DISNEY COMPANY, AND THE "D23 PRESENTS TREASURES OF THE WALT DISNEY ARCHIVES"

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and the Walt Disney Company's D23, the Official Disney Fan Club, as they present an historic exhibit at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California, titled, "D23 Presents Treasures of the Walt Disney Archives."

The exhibit, which opens on July 6, salutes Walt Disney, one of America's most revered men of imagination. D23, the Official Disney Fan Club will showcase the largest-ever exhibition of iconic props, costumes, artwork, and artifacts at the Presidential Library of our 40th president, who believed there are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams.

Ronald Reagan and Walt Disney were American originals and eternal optimists who shared a belief in the essential goodness of the American way of life. Both grew up in the heartland of America during the early 1900s with hardworking, patriotic parents who believed that everything was part of God's plan. Next to his photograph in his high school yearbook, Reagan's outlook is captured in the expression: "Life is just one grand song, so start the music."

Both men moved to California in their 20s to pursue careers in entertainment. With deeply shared values and abundant talent, the friendship of the pioneering imagineer and actor/broadcaster began decades before Reagan went to Washington. In July 1955, Disney revolutionized family entertainment when he unveiled the Magic Kingdom, Disneyland, and asked Reagan to co-host ABC's television coverage of the historic event.

Disney joined the "Friends of Ronald Reagan" to encourage and promote Reagan's ideas about limited government and individual liberty during Reagan's first gubernatorial race in 1966. Reagan was hoping Disney would join his finance team in Sacramento but, sadly, Disney died just 16 days before Reagan's inauguration. In tribute, Governor Reagan successfully petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to create a stamp in Disney's honor.

During his presidency, Reagan visited Walt Disney World in Florida twice. In 1983, he promoted the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative in tandem with the World Showcase Fellowship Program, and encouraged students to "soar on the wings of invention and the winds of change."

In 1985, President and Mrs. Reagan celebrated a first at Walt Disney World by holding a "make-up" inaugural parade after the origi-

nal parade was cancelled due to severely cold weather. During his speech at that event, President Reagan honored the immense force for good that is found in the imagination of those who live in freedom and reminded us that Walt Disney personified the spirit of America, leading us to invent, to build, to envision, and to learn.

After leaving the Oval Office, one of President Reagan's first public events was a return to Disneyland, where he officiated at the park's January 1990, 35th anniversary celebration, proclaiming it "one of America's treasures."

It is a tribute to both men that this exhibition of Disney treasures will be open at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in honor of the bond between President Reagan and Walt Disney.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Iger, the chairman of The Walt Disney Company, which partnered with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library, continues Walt Disney's legacy. As chairman of Capital Cities/ABC television, he was an architect of the merger with Disney—a combination that has shaped and transformed the global media landscape. He has dedicated himself to fostering the creative vitality of the Disney organization and under his guidance The Walt Disney Company has become the world's largest media company.

Ronald Reagan was the first president I served under as a Member of Congress and his Presidential Library is less than a half-mile from my home. On a plane ride back to California, I met actor Fess Parker, who was catapulted to fame by playing Disney's Davey Crockett and was returning home after spending time with his friend Ronald Reagan at the White House. Fess Parker became a lifelong friend as well. Personally and as an American, I have a strong connection to this exhibit and the men it honors.

"D23 Presents Treasures of the Walt Disney Archives" celebrates the leadership, the accomplishments, the creative spirit and powerful legacies of two great American pioneers. Ronald Reagan ended the Cold War and reshaped the world. Walt Disney changed the face of family entertainment. And both men had a keen understanding of what you'd find at the "shining city on a hill": harmony, decency, wholesomeness, and homespun values that never have, and never will, go out of style.

IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MATTHEW BRADFORD "BRAD" THOMAS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Sergeant First Class Matthew Bradford "Brad" Thomas, of Easley, South Carolina, was killed in action while serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan. SFC Thomas attended Greenville Technical College after graduating from Travelers Rest High School.

SFC Thomas paid the ultimate sacrifice and served our country in the most honorable way. Without the dedication of our brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces, we

would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear. SFC Thomas served to the highest standards of military service.

My thoughts and prayers are with wife, Jana, and their son Cayden, as well as his parents Charles "Bud" and Marsha Thomas. As a Guard veteran myself with four sons currently serving in the military, I particularly appreciate your extraordinary military family. Freedom is not free.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THOSE FIGHTING THE WALDO CANYON FIRE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the heroic men and women who are battling the Waldo Canyon Fire. 1,200 firefighters from all over Colorado's 5th District and the nation have been fighting this fire around the clock since Saturday. They have been assisted by numerous law enforcement agencies who have managed an orderly and injury-free evacuation of 32,500 citizens.

The cooperation between all levels and branches of government has been seamless, coordinated, cooperative, and effective. One example is the use of military assets, such as C-130 MAFFS firefighting aircraft. These planes have dropped over 73,000 gallons of slurry on this fire in coordination with the highly skilled firefighting teams on the ground. Additionally, Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station have contributed firefighters, support personnel, and air and ground equipment to assist in fighting and containing the fire along Highway 24 and on the Air Force Academy grounds.

The community response has been equally impressive. Shelters, food banks, and other charitable organizations have been overwhelmed by the generous donations of food and manpower. The Care and Share Food Bank has received hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and the Red Cross is doing extraordinary work at the shelters they are running throughout the District. Many homes have been lost and much work remains, but I know that we have the people and the resources we need to win this fight.

THE TUAREG REVOLT AND THE MALI COUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this morning, my subcommittee held a hearing to examine current U.S. policy and U.S. policy options in response to the recent military coup in Mali and the larger revolt of the Tuareg people in northern Mali.

The Tuaregs have been in conflict with the central government in Bamako, Mali, for many years, but following the service of some Tuaregs as mercenaries for the late Muammar Qaddafi in Libya, the acquisition of more sophisticated weapons from the Libyan conflict

and increasing ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, they now pose a danger not only to Mali, but also to Algeria, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and perhaps even Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Mali, in recent years a model of African democracy, now finds itself struggling to resurrect democratic governance and put the military back in its proper role as part of government. The downfall of Mali's democracy could have a negative impact on the future of Mali, as well as the entire Sahel region of Africa.

Amadou Toumani Touré—popularly known as ATT—led a military coup in 1991 that created a transitional government and resulted in democratic elections in 1992. Mali's growing reputation for democratic rule was enhanced in 2002, when President Alpha Oumar Konaré, having served the two terms permitted under the constitution, stepped down, and ATT, running as an independent and leveraging his reputation as Mali's "soldier of democracy," was elected president.

Unfortunately, two issues eroded ATT's initial popularity. The first was a political system in which there appears to have been incentives for corruption. Certainly there was a growing public perception that the system was corrupt. The second was popular anger toward the government's handling of the Tuareg rebellion in the North. Weeks of protests at the government response to the northern rebellion dropped ATT's popularity to a new low.

On March 21, mutinying Malian soldiers, displeased with the management of the Tuareg rebellion, attacked several locations in the capital, Bamako, including the presidential palace, state television, and military barracks. The soldiers said they had formed the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State and declared the following day that they had overthrown the government. This forced ATT into hiding.

As a consequence of the instability following the coup, Mali's three largest northern cities—Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu—were overrun by the rebels on three consecutive days. On April 5, after the capture of the town of Douentza, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) said that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive. The following day, it proclaimed independence of their homeland Azawad from Mali. The Islamist group Ansar al-Dine was later a part of the rebellion, claiming control of vast swaths of territory, although this control was disputed by the MNLA. On May 26, the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine announced that they had signed a pact to join their respective territories and form an Islamic state.

Will this alliance last? Perhaps not. The MNLA is an offshoot of a previous nationalist political movement and is dedicated to a separate homeland for the Tuaregs and Moors who comprise its membership. Ansar al-Dine, whose name means "Defenders of Faith," is an Islamist group believed to have links with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other Islamist groups. Ansar al-Dine is dedicated to establishing sharia law—not only in Azawad,

but also in the rest of Mali as well. Disputes between the two groups already have resulted in gunfire involving the supposed allies.

As we held this hearing today, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the United Nations were discussing the viability of a peacekeeping mission in Mali. Such a mission would look to secure and protect civilian institutions and help restructure the Mali military. However, it also will focus on the situation in the North, which will be a tremendously sensitive matter, especially if the mission of the peacekeeping force is to retake territory from the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine.

To add further to the problematic nature of a response to the Mali coup and the Tuareg revolt, there is the matter of providing humanitarian aid to the 210,000 Malian refugees in Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Algeria. Another 167,000 Malians are internally displaced. Many of them are in remote areas and are difficult to reach with food and medical supplies. There is the question of how effective our aid efforts will be in such a challenging situation.

But no matter how difficult this matter is to address, there are too many people affected for the United States to fail to provide leadership in the effort to solve this political-social crisis.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARIZONA'S TGEN ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievements in the field of biomedical research of the Translational Genomics Research Institute, known as TGen, over the last decade.

Located in Phoenix, TGen applies the science of genomics, or the study of the human genetics, to finding cures for neurological disorders and diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

When TGen was founded in 2002, Arizona's state and local leaders were excited by the promise of the many novel scientific discoveries that could be made through TGen.

But what was most exciting was that these discoveries made possible through further research into the human genome would translate into immediate and effective benefits for doctors and especially patients.

By partnering with entities at the forefront of medical discoveries like the Mayo Clinic and Scottsdale Healthcare, TGen for 10 years has focused on utilizing genomic analyses to improve patient treatments. Whether it's sequencing anthrax or the plague; finding new clues to Alzheimer's disease; or leading new research partnerships addressing pediatric

and canine cancers, TGen's research has changed patients' lives.

In addition to making critical contributions to the scientific and medical fields, over the past 10 years, TGen has made many contributions to Arizona's economy in the forms of investment and private-sector job creation. Investment into TGen and the biosciences spurred growth across the state, and spurred the launch of the Critical Path Institute and Bio5 in southern Arizona; Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute and a northern Phoenix bio campus; TGen North; and expansion of W.L. Gore in northern Arizona.

On its 10th anniversary, I applaud TGen's president, Dr. Jeffrey Trent, and the scientists at TGen for their commitment to make a difference for medical patients and their contributions to creating innovative research for Arizona.

HONORING MARIE ROBINSON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Henry County, Georgia on July 21, 1922; and

Whereas, Mrs. Marie Robinson was born Marie Morris to Mr. Wil and Mrs. Mary Gay Morris, she was educated in the local school system in Georgia, married Mr. Moses E. Robinson and through their union was blessed with nine children, thirty-five grandchildren, sixty-six great-grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robinson has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robinson along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Robinson on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 21st, 2012 as Mrs. Marie Robinson Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of July, 2012.