

mechanics, aircraft radio operations and repair metallurgy classes in the nation. Its newspaper, *The Tatler*, became a nationally and internationally recognized student publication.

The high school closed its doors to students in 1995, and the facility re-opened in 2004 as a 189-unit apartment building, named the West Tech Lofts.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary, West Tech will be opening up the public school for the first time since its conversion to the lofts. A week of celebratory events will be hosted between July 17th and the 21st and will feature memorabilia and special exhibits as well as tours and alumni speakers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of West Tech High School.

RECOGNIZING THE CROATIAN MUSICAL GROUP RUŽE DALMATINKE

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Croatian musical heritage group, Ruže Dalmatinke from Seattle, Washington, for being featured in the Homegrown Concert Series at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center.

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress sponsors various programs throughout the year to celebrate and present different cultural traditions to the American people. This summer, Ruže Dalmatinke performed Traditional Croatian Singing.

Lead vocalists and sisters, Binki Franulovic Spahi and Alma Franulovic Planchich, immigrated to the United States with their family after World War II. The sisters have sung together since their childhood and were inspired to form the Ruže Dalmatinke in 1981. The group has passionately shared their Croatian heritage, lifestyle, and music in Washington State since.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Ruže Dalmatinke for being featured in the concert series hosted by the Library of Congress. Ruže Dalmatinke has shown incredible devotion to Croatian musical heritage by performing and sharing all around the United States.

IN HONOR OF SEYMOUR "SY" POLLOCK

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Seymour Pollock, who was raised in Brooklyn, Connecticut in my Congressional District and turned 100 years old on July 8th. Known by his friends and family as "Sy," he is a straightforward man with a complicated backstory. Losing his mother as a young boy, he and his two brothers spent much of their childhood separated. The financial burden of caring for three sons forced his father to place his kids in foster homes, where

Sy suffered abuse. Continued domestic instability prompted Sy to leave home and stow away on a cruise ship when he was 16. When he was discovered hiding on board, the teenager told the Captain that his name was Seymour, to which the captain replied "Well, now you are going to see less." Sy worked in the galley until they returned to port.

During World War II, Sy served in the United States Army, where he cleaned and repaired semi-automatic weapons for the troops on the frontlines. His unit was responsible for setting up the coastal defense for what is now Battery Park in New York. After the war, Sy's father bought a building in the Bronx and opened up a business there selling and repairing cash registers. He and his brothers eventually ran that business together.

Sy retired to Florida at 82. He is the father of two daughters and a grandfather of two ambitious young men. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the extraordinary life of this man who exemplifies the American dream.

IN MEMORY OF L.A. CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WILLIS EDWARDS

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Willis Edwards who died on July 15, 2012, after waging a valiant battle against cancer. He was 66. For more than forty years, Willis Edwards served his community and the nation as a soldier in Vietnam, as an academic support specialist at the University of Southern California, as a civil rights activist and community organizer, as the long-time president of the Hollywood/Beverly Hills Chapter of the NAACP, and a trusted advisor to presidential candidates.

Born in Texas in 1946, Mr. Edwards was raised in Palm Springs and attended California State University at Los Angeles, where he was elected the first African American student body president in the school's history. After graduation Mr. Edwards was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star. Upon his honorable discharge, Mr. Edwards served as Director of Black Student Services at USC.

Mr. Edwards' political activism in national politics began with Robert F. Kennedy's historic 1968 presidential campaign. Through his dealings with the Democratic Party, he became a supporter and friend of Los Angeles' first black mayor, Tom Bradley, who later appointed him to the city's Social Service Commission in 1973.

In 1982 Mr. Edwards was elected president of the NAACP's Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch. He played a major part in getting the group's Image Awards, a gala that honored African Americans who worked in front of and behind the camera in Hollywood, televised on NBC. He also played a leading role in Reverend Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign.

Mr. Edwards played a major role in securing national honors for Rosa Parks; friends say that was his proudest accomplishment. He helped to arrange for the civil rights hero to be seated next to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clin-

ton during the 1999 State of the Union address. He also helped secure for her the Congressional Gold Medal, and for her casket to lie in repose in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

It is easy to forget that among all Mr. Edwards' accomplishments in the civil rights and political arenas, he was also battling a very personal struggle with HIV. The disease nearly took his life 15 years ago, but he miraculously recovered with the help of new drugs. In a 2001 speech to the NAACP he went public about his experience living with HIV. He helped to tear down barriers in order to have a frank conversation about the disease within the African American Community, where it was still regarded as a taboo subject by many.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Willis Edwards, this country has lost a great man and leader. My home state of California and county of Los Angeles has lost a champion and fighter for civil rights and equal opportunity. I have lost a dear friend.

I ask a moment of silence to honor the memory of Willis Edwards.

H.R. 5856—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will start debate on H.R. 5856, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2013. In this bill, \$388 million is to be appropriated for military bands and musical performances. This is a stunning amount of taxpayer funds to be spending on military music at time of fiscal crisis and tough choices. While the Pentagon's 140 bands and over 5,000 full-time musicians carry on a time honored and noble tradition of military music, this level of spending on a military function that does not directly enhance national security is unsustainable. At a time of trillion dollar budget deficits, Congress needs to act to significantly reduce taxpayer funding of military bands.

It is my intention to offer an amendment on H.R. 5856 to reduce Pentagon spending for military bands and performances for fiscal year 2013 from \$388 million to \$200 million. The \$188 million reduction would be applied to the deficit reduction account established in H.R. 5856.

Earlier this year on H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, the House approved an amendment I offered to limit spending on "military musical units." The amendment stated, "Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this Act for military musical units (as such term is defined in section 974 of title 10, United States Code) may not exceed \$200,000,000."

I do not want there to be any misinterpretation or mischaracterization of my intentions when I offer my amendment. My goal is to reduce military musical units, not military personnel in a role essential to our national security.

This is a time of tough choices. My House Republican colleagues have decided to protect and shield millionaires and billionaires from any increase in Federal taxes commensurate with their wealth to help reduce the deficit. Instead, they have targeted domestic programs

for cuts making children, seniors, low-income families, and communities all across the country to shoulder the burden of deficit reduction. Now it is the Pentagon's turn to experience some budget cuts that do nothing to reduce military readiness, mission strength, or our troops' ability to defend our Nation.

Unless cuts are made, the Pentagon is on track to spend more than \$4 billion over the next decade on military music. It is unconscionable to borrow billions from China to fund

deficit spending on the Defense Department's massive musical budget.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the McCollum Amendment to cut military musical spending by \$188 million and apply those funds to deficit reduction.

AMENDMENT REGARDING FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES  
H.R. 5856 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I offer an amendment to H.R. 5856 that would reduce spending on "Operation and Maintenance, Defense Wide" account by \$88,952,000 and increase spending on the "Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites" account by an equal amount.