

"Speakers' Forum" hosts distinguished individuals to address global peace, issues of environmental justice, gun violence, and the politics of crime and punishment that affect quality of life in local communities. The "Art and Writing Challenge" encourages awareness and discussion among Contra Costa County students of the environment, economic inequality and the promotion of non-violence. The first "Creating Peaceful Schools Conference" brought together over a hundred local educators to develop strategies for promoting non-violence in the classroom and encouraging children to focus on ways to promote a more peaceful and just environment. Furthermore, through peaceful public protests against wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and many educational forums developed by Mary Alice and her board of directors, the Center has become a well-known hub for thoughtful discussion of current events in the East Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, we invite this chamber to join us in honoring Mary Alice O'Connor for her tireless and dedicated service to the people of Contra Costa County. We join her family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating her on a successful and fulfilling career at the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, and wish her the very best on her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHRISTENING OF THE USS "SOMERSET"

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the christening of the USS *Somerset*. On July 28, 2012, the USS *Somerset* will become the latest San Antonio class landing platform/dock, LPD, to join our Navy's fleet. This ship will commemorate the valor and courage of the 40 passengers and crew of United Flight 93 who gave their lives to protect our way of life on September 11, 2001.

In waters across the globe, the USS *Somerset* will continue the fight for freedom that the United Flight 93 passengers and crew began. Wherever the ship travels, her impregnable exterior will symbolize our impregnable resolve to honor their memory and to continue their legacy of sacrifice for the greater good.

About 22 tons of steel taken from a crane near the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, PA, has been incorporated into the ship's bow stem. Like the steel from that crane, the American people have taken a new form since 9/11. We are stronger and more resilient than we were prior to that fateful day. Like the steel from that crane, we have emerged from the tragic events of September 11th ready and eager to take on new challenges, embark on new journeys and explore new horizons.

The USS *Somerset* is the last of three ships that have been built in honor of the September 11th victims. The USS *New York*, christened in March 2008, was built as a tribute to the individuals who lost their lives at the World Trade Center and the USS *Arlington*, christened in March 2011, was built as a tribute to the servicemembers and civilians who perished at the Pentagon.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the christening of the USS *Somerset* with great pride. It is my most sincere hope that the delivery of this ship

will provide the family members and friends of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 with some measure of solace. For the USS *Somerset* will carry the story and sacrifice of their loved ones to the Sailors and Marines tasked with defending our freedoms, promoting peace and providing assistance across our oceans.

#### HONORING KINEU DONALD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kineu Donald, Salutatorian of Raymond High School; Class of 2012. Kineu was born to the proud mother of Sheillia Donald, on December 16, 1993, in Edwards, Mississippi.

She attended Bolton-Edwards schools through middle school. While in middle school Kineu was consistent in her efforts to remain on the Honor Roll and Principal's List. She finished Bolton-Edwards Elementary Middle School, and was acknowledged as the Valuedictorian of her eighth grade class.

Throughout high school, Kineu has been recognized for her many achievements in both academics and extra-curricular activities. She was a member of the band, choir, Beta Club, Student Council, and Student Body. In addition to her extra-curricular activities, Kineu also participated in many community service projects sponsored by her school and church.

As a high school graduate, Kineu plans to attend Alcorn State University and major in agricultural economics or nutrition and dietetics, to aid her in her pursuit to become a food science technologist or a dietician.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Kineu Donald the Salutatorian for Raymond High School Class of 2012.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 6018—To authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

2. S. 2009—Insular Areas Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

#### RETURN OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in more than two decades, the

United States will host the 19th International AIDS Conference—drawing over 20,000 people from around the world to our Nation's capital.

Having participated in every Conference since I was first elected to Congress in 1998, I knew we could not bring the conference back to the United States until the discriminatory immigration ban on people living with HIV was lifted.

In 2007, I first introduced a bill to repeal the ban. Few believed it could be done, but through bipartisan support we achieved this goal.

This week, the return of the Conference is an important opportunity to shine a global spotlight on the fight against AIDS in African American communities and a national spotlight on the ongoing global epidemic.

Today, I will introduce new legislation to do just that.

Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Act articulates a policy and financing framework to achieve an AIDS-Free Generation in the United States and globally.

I urge all my colleagues to support it so that we can begin to bring an end to AIDS here at home and around the world.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR INVESTS IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

**HON. RANDY HULTGREN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, as the national economy continues to struggle, I would like to highlight an encouraging development with regard to the telecommunications sector. As the attached synopsis of a recent report by the Progressive Policy Institute indicates, investment in the economy is a critical factor in promoting growth, creating jobs, and stimulating productivity. I applaud the telecom industry for its contribution to this effort.

#### REPORT: TELECOM SECTOR LEADS THE WAY IN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS

While the domestic economy continues to struggle, a new report shows that the telecommunications space remains one of the biggest investors in attempting to boost the nation's fortunes.

The Progressive Policy Institute report, "Investment Heroes: Who's Betting on America's Future," found that among non-financial institutions, AT&T and Verizon Communications were the two top investors of capital expenditures in the country last year. AT&T took the top spot with a reported \$20.1 billion in investments in 2011, with Verizon investing \$16.2 billion.

"The exponential growth in consumer demand for cable and wireless data services makes it both a necessity and an incentive for these companies to invest in building out their service capabilities," the report noted. "Investment is what led to development of the latest high-speed 4G networks, estimated to be 50% more efficient in streaming wireless data than its 3G predecessor. What's more, the commitment of these telecom companies to investment in wireless infrastructure, cable communications, and processing equipment is a good example of how investment can have important spillover benefits. By using the infrastructure developed and maintained by telecom companies,

companies that develop software applications for smart devices along with companies that provide Internet services—like Facebook and Twitter—are able to innovate and get those innovations to consumers quickly. Because of the broadband networks in place these non-telecom companies are able to expand their businesses and service offerings.”

Other telecom-related companies on the list included Comcast at No. 8 with \$5.3 billion in investments; Southern Company, which owns wireless operator SouthernLINC, at No. 10 with \$4.5 billion; Sprint Nextel at No. 16 with \$3.1 billion in investments; Time Warner Cable at No. 19 with \$2.9 billion in investments; Google at No. 24 with \$2.2 billion in investments; and Apple at No. 25 on the list with \$2 billion in investments.

“The role of investment in the economy is essential,” Diana Carew, an economist at the Progressive Policy Institute and co-author of the report, told Breakout “It creates jobs. It boosts wages. It boosts productivity. It stimulates growth. It affects millions of Americans in a very positive way.”

#### INVESTMENT HEROES: TOP 25 NONFINANCIAL COMPANIES BY U.S. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE\*

Rank and Company	U.S. Capital Expenditures (\$Bns)
1 AT&T**	20.1
2 Verizon Communications**	16.2
3 Exxon Mobil	11.7
4 Wal-Mart	8.2
5 Intel	7.4
6 Occidental Petroleum	6.2
7 ConocoPhillips	5.6
8 Comcast**	5.3
9 Chevron	4.8
10 Southern Company*	4.5
11 Hess	4.4
12 Exelon**	4.0
13 Ford Motor	3.9
14 General Electric	3.7
15 Enterprise Product Partners**	3.6
16 Sprint Nextel**	3.1
17 Walt Disney	3.0
18 FedEx	2.9
19 Time Warner Cable**	2.9
20 General Motors	2.8
21 Target	2.5
22 IBM	2.5
23 Chrysler Group	2.5
24 Google	2.2
25 Apple	2.0
Total	136.2

\* Universe includes nonfinancial Fortune 150 companies from 2011; financial reporting from FY11.

\*\* Reported to have U.S. operations only; may include a small amount of non-U.S. investment.

#### CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE GENE UPSHAW MEMORIAL TAHOE FOREST CANCER CENTER

##### HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the completion and opening of the Gene Upshaw Memorial Tahoe Forest Cancer Center in Truckee, California.

Led by Medical Director Laurence Heifetz, MD, FACP, and Medical Oncologist Hematologist Ahrin Koppel, MD, the Tahoe Cancer Center first opened its doors in 2006 with a mission of providing quality care for cancer patients in the Tahoe region.

The Center's services are vast and include: medical evaluation, examination, diagnosis and treatment; chemotherapy infusion and blood product administration; pharmacy, laboratory and diagnostic imaging services; a psychosocial services program with wellness,

support groups, nutritional counseling and rehabilitation therapies; professional and caring staff; and Financial Counseling for patients. And for the first time in the Truckee-Tahoe area, the expanded Center will also house radiation oncology services as well.

In coordination with the University of California Davis Cancer Care Network, the Tahoe Forest Cancer will provide world class treatment and care for cancer patients in northeastern California and Nevada. The Center will connect patients not just to the best in modern treatments and equipment, but to some of the most renowned medical professionals in our state. I am certain that both these patients and their families will reap the dividends of this facility for decades to come, often in the hour of their greatest need.

Mr. Speaker, the foundation of our nation's strength has always been found in our local communities. Neighbors who willingly band together and pool their resources are remarkably skilled at employing those resources to their most useful and productive ends. They do so because they have a vested stake in the future of their towns and cities, and they understand the burdens borne to finance that future because they are the ones who bear them. I can think of no finer example of this remarkable and unique characteristic of our shared heritage than the opening of the Gene Upshaw Memorial Tahoe Forest Cancer Center and I am proud to rise today in celebration of this auspicious occasion.

#### HONORING LISA WARD

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a worthy member of our society Mrs. Lisa Ward. Lisa Ward and her husband, Darrel Ward, are the proud parents of two.

Mrs. Ward is a dedicated and devoted mom, who works tirelessly in the Canton Public School District and in the community to make a difference in the lives of children. As an employee for the Canton Parks and Recreation Department in the city of Canton, she has helped to create various service-oriented activities for our youth.

Some of those youth activities include indoor and outdoor sports, movies in the park, carnivals, health feasts and decreasing childhood obesity. Understanding the importance of community and parental involvement Mrs. Ward works diligently to garner support and sponsorships from vendors, merchants, and parents in the community to offer these and other activities to help provide recreational opportunities for children and to help them develop socially. In her desire to serve as a concerned and involved parent in the lives of children, she often goes above and beyond the call of duty. In honor of her dedication and contribution to her local community and children, Mrs. Ward has received the Parent of the Year award from the McNeal Elementary School and the District Parent of the Year award from the Canton Public School District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lisa Ward, for her commitment and contribution to helping improve the

lives of children in the Canton Public School District, located in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

#### HONORING DR. JOSEPH THOMAS FELSEN, MD UPON THE OCCA- SION OF HIS “RETIREMENT”

##### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Joseph Thomas Felsen on his “retirement” as he transitions to a new adventure. Commonly referred to as Dr. Joe, he dedicated over 35 years to serving my district. Between raising funds for Jones Memorial Hospital, joining various health committees in the district, and working to bring more physicians to the rural areas of his county, Dr. Joe's unselfish concern for others improved the well-being of his patients and community.

Dr. Joe has been an outstanding member of this district for his entire life. He was born at Jones Memorial Hospital and later worked there as an attending physician in Internal Medicine from 1979 until his retirement. Practicing for over 30 years in the same building as his father, Dr. Irwin Felsen, the two combined for 73 years of patient centered care in the 29th district.

I am extremely grateful for Dr. Felsen's invaluable contributions to our community and wish him the best of luck when he and his wife, Florence Anne, leave for the Peace Corps this September.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SMUKLER, ESQ.

##### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, the late Joseph Smukler, Esq.

Joseph was a giant of a man. He was a humanitarian, a philanthropist, a scholar and an attorney of great renown. He was universally recognized as one of the most public spirited citizens of the Delaware Valley.

Joe was a tireless advocate of the voiceless. The urge to advocate led to his leadership on behalf of Jews persecuted in the former Soviet Union and to reach out to the poor and disadvantaged at home through charitable work. His professional advocacy led his statewide peers to recognize him as Pennsylvania's “Super Lawyer” in 2004.

Joseph had a keen intellect, which he honed as a cum laude graduate of Kenyon College, with an A.B. and Highest Honors in Economics, Harvard Law School where he earned an LL.B., Oxford University England where he attained a Graduate Diploma in law, and at Gratz College where he was awarded his Doctor of Hebrew Laws (Hon.)

He was a natural leader who served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. That talent and leadership ability advanced him through the legal ranks to the positions of senior partner and chairman of the Personal