

and perseverance. I am honored to represent Brittany and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her on obtaining the Gold Award, and will wish her continued success in her future education and career.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EARL CAMPBELL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to recognize Earl Campbell, one of the best football players to ever play the game and a visionary businessman who started from the bottom and worked his way to the top. The Tyler Rose is a living legend in the state of Texas, and it gives me pleasure to recognize him before Congress and this Nation.

Earl was born in Tyler, Texas, the "Rose Capital of the World." In 5th grade he began playing football as a kicker, before realizing that he enjoyed delivering the hits. Earl became a star linebacker and led John Tyler High School to the Texas 4A State Championship in 1973. When coaches moved his strength and intensity to the offense, he became one of the most powerful running backs in history.

Naturally many colleges all wanted someone with the leadership abilities and strong work ethic that Earl possessed. He chose to stay close to home and play with legendary Coach Darrell Royal at the University of Texas in Austin. Earl had a celebrated career at Texas, winning the Heisman Trophy, college football's highest honor after his senior year in 1977. He was a two-time All-American choice and finished his career with 4,443 yards and 41 touchdowns. Earl restored the Longhorn dynasty to its rightful place among the top collegiate programs in the country.

The Houston Oilers made Earl the first overall draft pick in 1978, once again keeping him close to home in Texas. His punishing running style made an immediate impact on the team, leading them to a 10-6 record and a playoff appearance. They lost in a classic game against the Pittsburgh Steelers now known as the "Ice Bowl." Despite the loss, Earl finished the season with 1,450 yards and 13 touchdowns, earning the Rookie of the Year Award and the Offensive Player of the Year Award. Most importantly, he helped shepherd in the "Luv Ya Blue" era that had the Astrodome rocking and brought pride to the city of Houston.

For the 8 years that Earl played in the NFL, he was one of the most feared yet respected players. Opponents feared his tough, physical style of play. His 5'11", 244-pound frame was described as a "one man demolition team." Teammates respected his leadership and dedication. When they needed him, he was there, missing more than two games a season only once. He would finish his career with 9,407 yards, 74 touchdowns, 5 Pro Bowl appearances, 3 All Pro teams, and the Most Valuable Player Award in 1979. Earl is a member of both the College and Professional Football Hall of Fame and will be remembered as one of the greatest players to ever hit the gridiron.

The dedication to success that Earl displayed on the field translated off of it as well. In 1991, after hearing raves about his sausage recipes, he took \$150,000 and started his own company, Earl Campbell Meat Products, Inc. The small business is the heart of the American economy, and Earl worked hard to make sure that his company stood out. He drove hundreds of thousands of miles, all over Texas and the south, to promote his products. Today, they are one of the largest sausage manufacturers in the country, selling over 11 million pounds a year.

While being one of the most famous Texans around, Earl has never lost the small town values that helped shape him. He married his high school sweetheart, Reuna, and they have two sons, Christian and Tyler. After Tyler was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, the family rallied together and became ambassadors for the National MS Society. They have helped raise thousands for research and remain committed to fighting the disease. He also helps mentor athletes at the University of Texas, preparing them for the life-altering changes they will soon experience. The State of Texas and our Nation is a better place because of people like Earl.

Earl Campbell is a shining example that the American Dream is possible for anyone. Through tireless effort and internal fortitude, he became a world-class athlete, respected businessman, and noted philanthropist. I am honored to recognize Earl, a true Texan, for his lifetime of inspiration and service to the community.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES E. STENNER, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Lieutenant General Charles E. Stenner, Jr., upon his retirement after 39 years of distinguished military service to our Great nation in the United States Air Force and the United States Air Force Reserve.

General Stenner was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1973 and went on to fly the F-4, A-10, and F-16 aircraft. General Stenner's last military assignment was as both Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC, and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. As Chief of the Air Force Reserve, he served as principal adviser on reserve matters to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As Commander of Air Force Reserve Command, he had full responsibility for the supervision of all U.S. Air Force Reserve units around the world.

General Stenner led a modernization effort of the Air Force Reserve which increased combat effectiveness and improved response capabilities to humanitarian crises and disaster relief operations in the United States as well as operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Libya, Japan, Haiti, and numerous

other locations around the globe. General Stenner moved the Air Force Reserve from a Cold-War-model, or "Strategic Reserve," to a full partner major command through his Air Force Reserve 2012 initiative. Creating a cultural shift in both Active and Reserve Components, he was able to rebuild the Air Force Reserve's infrastructure to support its newly evolved twin missions of being first and foremost a "Strategic Reserve" that can be leveraged to support daily operations as an "Operational Reserve."

After conducting more than 20 years of continual combat operations, the Air Force Reserve's success is evident today. General Stenner's efforts were critical to implementing new policies supporting Air Force Reservists, their civilian employers, and their families who were impacted by increased Reserve operations. Thanks to his continuous dialogue with Congress, reservists now get improved health care, new credits toward retirement, inactive duty training travel pay, and post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

Because of General Stenner's visionary leadership, planning, and foresight, the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States will long reap the benefits of his many years of service. I thank General Stenner for his many years of dedicated service I wish him and his wife Dee the very best as they enter retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO DIANA ZHANG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Diana Zhang for being named a state winner of the Library of Congress's Letters about Literature program.

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing program that is sponsored by the Library of Congress. The program asks students to write to the past or present author of a book that has affected their life. Approximately 59,000 young readers from across the country submitted letters last year to compete for the state-level awards for 2012.

A panel of judges that can include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers, and even state officials chose Diana's letter as a state winner. Diana wrote a letter to author Catherynne M. Valente to explain how Valente's two novel series, *The Orphan's Tales*, affected her life. Valente's acclaimed novels spoke to Diana, and now Diana's letter to Valente has earned her recognition in her community as well as here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Diana's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating her on her achievement and will wish her continued success in her future education and career.

CONDEMNING THE ATROCITIES
THAT OCCURRED IN AURORA,
COLORADO

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in honoring and remembering all of the victims of the tragic shootings in an Aurora, Colorado movie theater last Friday, July 20, 2012, and to condemn the senseless and abhorrent violence that took their lives or left them wounded. The victims' friends and families can count on the unyielding support of their fellow Americans as we come together to mourn the loss and heal the wounds caused by the heinous acts of that day.

We must also recognize the heroic efforts made by those inside the theater to protect others. Their courage, along with the quick and decisive actions of the hundreds of first responders, law enforcement officials, and hospital workers, undoubtedly saved lives. I join my colleagues in offering my thoughts and our prayers to those touched by this horrible event.

A VOTE AGAINST H.R. 459

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 459 because our economy requires an independent central bank, free of short-term political pressures. Congress established the twin policy goals of maximum employment and price stability for the Federal Reserve, and it is important that the institution pursue monetary policy in support of those goals independent of political influence.

Congress conducts regular and robust oversight of the Federal Reserve and expanded the Government Accountability Office's audit authority in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. In that legislation, Congress expanded the types of audits GAO may conduct of the Federal Reserve and the data that must be shared with the public. The Federal Reserve's financial accounts have long been subject to audit both by the GAO and an outside, independent audit firm.

I wish to make clear, however, that the independence of the Federal Reserve has no bearing on the scrutiny that Congress must exert over the large commercial banks. Roughly four years ago, the banks were dragging the American people into a financial storm the like we have not seen since the Great Depression. The recession cost \$19.2 trillion in lost household wealth—40 percent of the net wealth of American households. Thirty-one percent of homeowners with a mortgage are underwater, owing a bank far more than their house is worth.

As the magnitude of the rot, the corruption, the shady practices, the greed, misplaced institutional incentives unfolded, we experienced a near-meltdown of our economy. The sec-

ond-guessing began even when we were in the midst of devising remedies to stop the fall. That controversy continues, but we're in the midst of a much larger question: "What is it that we do now to speed the recovery and make sure that it never happens again?"

The crush of special interests and the near constant political campaigns places people with limited expertise in the worst possible circumstances as they make these decisions. New scandals have continued to unfold. The most recent is the LIBOR scandal that we are only beginning to unearth, where massive international banks gamed the system for their own financial advantage, to stave off regulatory action, to avoid a negative market response, or to gain an unfair advantage as they placed their own financial bets.

In response, we must move toward performance-based regulation—providing greater clarity of what we want and linking those goals to clear measures. My acquaintances in the business community with long financial expertise suggest that we can start by actually enforcing the existing rules and providing the regulatory capacity to make sure they are enforced.

We must give adequate personnel and resources to the existing regulatory agencies—the SEC, the CFTC, the FDIC and the Treasury, among others—to allow them to better supervise the financial sector. Pay them fairly so they are not poached by the industries they regulate. In turn, they must prosecute financial felons and send people to jail.

There are people sentenced to prison for years who broke into a home or used a gun. But all of these crooks put together have not robbed the American public of a third of their wealth the way the financial crisis did. It is doubtful that all of the people in all of America's prisons have stolen a fraction of the money that disappeared from the balance sheet of America's families. But we see continue the fraud, collusion, sharp practices, and outright theft in the financial sector that has destroyed families, bankrupted businesses, and stunted people's futures. The sooner we bring the perpetrators to justice, the less risk we are going to have in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO NYEMASTER,
GOODE, P.C.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise once again to recognize the Des Moines-based law firm, Nyemaster Goode, for being named a recipient of the 2012 Freedom Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Nyemaster Goode was nominated in 2011 by Doug and Kristina Stanger.

The Freedom Award is the greatest honor bestowed on employers by the Department of Defense for "exceptional support" of Guard and Reserve employees. In 2011, the ESGR received an incredible 3,236 nominations from across the Nation, in the hopes their employer would be chosen among the Nation's best companies for Guard and Reserve employees. Earlier this month, it was confirmed that Nyemaster Goode would receive this prestigious award with 14 other companies from

across the country that will be honored in Washington, D.C. this September at the 17th annual Freedom Award Ceremony. Nyemaster Goode can now count itself among the 175 elite employers that have won this award since its establishment in 1996.

Doug and Kristina Stanger, both members of the Army National Guard, nominated Nyemaster Goode because they knew firsthand that the efforts the company took to accommodate our citizen soldiers were truly something special. Doug and Kristina felt that Nyemaster Goode represented the "perfect example" of how employers should go above and beyond to support our local heroes in their companies and communities. After weighing the merits of more than 3,200 nominations, the Department of Defense has wholeheartedly agreed with the Stangers and proudly recognized Nyemaster's job-well-done on a national level.

Mr. Speaker, Nyemaster Goode's receipt of the 2012 Freedom Award highlights the rewarding Iowa traditions of hard work and commitment to our neighbors. I thank Doug and Kristina for their nomination of Nyemaster Goode, and I thank Nyemaster Goode for setting a pristine example for employers across our great Nation. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me again in congratulating Nyemaster Goode for their outstanding accomplishment and wish them continued success in the years ahead. May God continue to watch over all of our soldiers and their families, across the world and here at home.

IN HONOR OF BRUCE WOOLPERT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleagues, Representatives ESHOO, LOFGREN, and HONDA, to honor the life of Bruce Woolpert, a remarkable businessman, a noted philanthropist, and a stalwart of the Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay Area communities. As the leader of the Granite Rock Company, Bruce will be remembered for his integrity and his generosity, not only to his employees, but to the community where he was raised and in which Graniterock was based.

Bruce Wilson Woolpert was born on May 30, 1951 to Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Wilson Woolpert and Bruce Gideon Woolpert. Betsy's father, Arthur Roberts Wilson incorporated Granite Rock Company in 1900 after seeing an opportunity with a small granite quarry located in Aromas, California. Bruce was a native to Watsonville, California, the beacon of the Pajaro Valley. He attended MacQuiddy Elementary School, E.A. Hall Junior High School, and graduated from Watsonville High School in 1970. He went on to study economics and mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles, graduating summa cum laude. He obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Stanford University in 1976, graduating first in his class, and going on to work for Hewlett Packard. By 1986, he returned to Graniterock to serve as President and CEO.

It was at Graniterock that Bruce sought to make a company where its workers were delighted to come to work every day. He was a