

that most women will not have to be put in a situation where they have to choose. So, I ask my Republican colleagues to join me in supporting the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which will provide the needed access to affordable health care and contraceptives and in doing so, not put women in the position where they have to consider abortion.

HONORING NEW JERSEY'S PROUD AGRICULTURAL TRADITION AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FARMS LOCATED IN THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Jersey's proud agricultural tradition and the contribution of farms located in our 11th Congressional District.

The prospering agricultural industry of today's New Jersey is the continuation of many years of farming dating back to colonial settlement in the sixteenth century. Primarily a rural society, struggling settlers developed small family farms to stave off starvation. Soon local farms not only became an important source of fruits, vegetables, and grain, but also for raw materials used for the prospering textile industry. Easy access to cotton, wool, and other farm products fueled the Industrial Revolution in New Jersey. Agriculture became not only a very profitable industry on its own, but also fed secondary manufacturing and merchant businesses.

Every day, farmers across the state raise animals, harvest vegetables, pick fruit, and participate in the 400 year old tradition that built New Jersey into an economic powerhouse.

Today, New Jersey agriculture constitutes an \$82 billion industry that provides a strong backbone for New Jersey's economy. It also benefits surrounding businesses with the growing popularity of agrotourism. This extremely successful business model involves enticing people from near and far to visit, learn about everyday farm-life, and participate in activities such as pumpkin, wine tasting, hay rides, petting zoos, or horseback riding. This not only brings customers from the surrounding tri-state area to appreciate what New Jersey has to offer, but also fosters a greater public understanding of commercial farming. New Jersey's large agricultural sector provides employment, not only for farm workers, but also for those in construction for irrigation and drainage projects. This multibillion dollar industry supports New Jersey, providing jobs and raw materials, drawing in customers, and serving as its own lucrative business.

New Jersey truly is the Garden State, as our motto says. Having a strong agricultural industry not only provides a great deal of economic benefits to New Jersey, but also contributes to a rich social tapestry. There are over 790,000 acres of lands across the state devoted to farmland. This has been celebrated as an extremely environmentally friendly use of land that preserves both a smaller carbon footprint and the beautiful greenery characteristic of New Jersey. In a world where food insecurity remains one of the most dif-

ficult problems for mankind to combat, thriving agriculture reduces the acuteness of this issue and diminishes our dependence on food imports. This land also provides access to fresh, locally grown foods, giving residents in the area healthier meal options. The agricultural industry is unparalleled in its contributions to New Jersey society, providing jobs, tourism, environmental protection, food security, raw materials for manufacturing, and so much more.

Standing as a shining example of New Jersey's proud agricultural tradition is Wightman's Farms, located in Harding Township, Morris County. Celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year, Wightman's Farms has worked continuously to expand what began as a farm into the prospering business it is today. The farm is one of over 8,000 other family owned and operated farms in New Jersey that support their local and state economy. Currently managed by the third generation of Wightmans, the integration of tradition and innovation has certainly helped Wightman's Farms not only last the test of time, but develop into a flourishing business enjoyed by customers near and far.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Jersey's agricultural tradition and the contributions of 11th District farmers.

RECOGNIZING THE PORT OF SEATTLE FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Port of Seattle for receiving the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Port of Seattle is one of just fifteen employers across the country to receive this honor.

Each year, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, awards employers with their annual Freedom Award. This is the Department of Defense's highest recognition awarded to employers for their exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. More than 3,000 nominations from Guardsmen and Reservists, or their family members on their behalf, were submitted and the Port of Seattle distinguished themselves among all the nominees.

A Naval Reservist nominated the Port of Seattle because of the Port's focus on hiring military members and veterans, as well as for their participation in the military's Transition Assistance Program. Twenty percent of the Port's employees have served in the military and the Port has started a fellowship program to help returning service members transition from active duty to the civilian workforce. The Port of Seattle's efforts at employing Guardsmen and Reservists serves as a model for other port districts that are establishing programs to hire more service members.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor the Port of Seattle for their superb treatment of Guard and Reserve employees. The Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is a well-deserved honor.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE ELENA PARENT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia State Representative Elena Parent on the occasion of her retirement from the Georgia General Assembly. In her short time in the Georgia State House, Elena has made a profound impact on the Georgia Legislature, and I know that she will be missed by her constituents from the 81st District.

Outside of public office, Elena is incredibly involved in the Metro Atlanta community, currently serving on the Foundation Board of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, the Advisory Board of Directors of It's a Journey, Inc., and the Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. She has also conducted fundraising and development efforts for HOPE Atlanta, a homelessness-prevention non-profit. I commend her for such meaningful service to the people of Georgia.

Elena recently announced that she will begin working as the Executive Director of Georgia Watch, a consumer advocacy group, at the end of her term this year. Having already received numerous awards for her leadership, including inclusion in the Atlanta Business Chronicle's "40 Under 40," Elena is an excellent choice for this position, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the future.

I wish Elena, her husband, Briley, and their son, Brooks, the very best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF AUTUMN M. LEVA TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF COLORADO'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of a valued member of my staff, Autumn M. Leva.

Autumn has served in my Washington D.C. office for the past year and a half, first as our Staff Assistant and most recently as my Executive Assistant, Scheduler, and Legislative Aide. She has successfully handled her duties with a wealth of knowledge of the legislative and procedural processes. Her dedication and work ethic will be very difficult to replace.

A longtime resident of Colorado's fifth Congressional District and a graduate of Salida High School, Autumn received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a minor in Spanish from the University of Montana in 2007 and went on to receive her Juris Doctor from Regent University School of Law in 2010. She is the daughter of Kathy Messick of Salida, Colorado and sister to Shane Leva.

Autumn's sparkling personality, enthusiastic can-do attitude, and team-player mentality will be truly missed. However, it is her love for the Lord that will be most remembered by myself

and her colleagues. Always ready with an encouraging word, Autumn harnessed her passion for the law and traditional Christian values by handing the legislative portfolio of values issues. As her zeal for these issues deepened, she felt the Lord calling her to serve in this capacity fulltime and so she will serve as spokeswoman for the Minnesota for Marriage campaign this fall.

Autumn has worked hard for the people of Colorado. Her conservative and Christian values are needed today more than ever. So while I will miss her greatly, I know God will bless her in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOUISBURG COLLEGE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Louisburg College on their 225th anniversary as an institution of higher learning.

Throughout its tenure, Louisburg College has continued to prosper and educate students during its 225 years, attracting students from 42 states and 15 countries.

In four different centuries, students from Louisburg College have excelled in many areas of our economy, including business, government, politics, education, sports, and the military. Today Louisburg College has over 700 students and nearly 14,000 alumni.

I thank those who have played a role in the success of Louisburg College and join the administration, faculty, students, alumni, Town of Louisburg, and the County of Franklin in celebrating the 225th anniversary of Louisburg College.

May God continue to bless Louisburg College, the students, teachers, and families that make it a great place to learn.

HONORING PEDRO LUIS RUSTAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American Hero, a man whose focus, drive, intellect and leadership were responsible for spawning innovative systems that have saved lives and ensured the security of our great nation.

Pedro Luis Rustan, known as "Pete" to all within the Intelligence Community, was an extraordinary American. His passing leaves a void within the Intelligence Community and for all his family and friends.

Pete may not have appreciated my remarks because he was never concerned about who received the credit, only that the job was done. However, he was a man who was grateful for the gifts that God gave him and he could think of no greater use for these gifts than service of the Nation that had blessed him and his family with freedom.

Pete was born in 1946 in a small city 40 miles from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay. In August 1967, he made a dramatic escape from Communist Cuba with his

father, two sisters, and brother-in-law. They fled to a railway, climbed inside a railroad boxcar and jumped from the moving train as it approached the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo. Pete and his family swam and waded through a snake-infested swamp before reaching multiple tall security fences topped with barbed wire. Pete carried his younger sister on his back over the fences. After being picked up by a Navy patrol craft they sought and received political asylum.

In the early 1970s Pete studied electrical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and was quickly drafted into the Air Force. In the Air Force he served first as an enlisted man, and then successfully completed Officer Candidate School, becoming a U.S. Air Force officer. He eventually went on to graduate school at the University of Florida, from which he received a doctorate in electrical engineering in 1979.

During his 26-year career with the U.S. Air Force, Pete ran several advanced technology space programs and was mission manager for a joint NASA—Defense Department project, the Clementine mission, a small, low-cost spacecraft that made history by mapping the surface of the Moon and discovering ice at its south pole. Daniel Golden, a former NASA director, said that Pete always "seemed to take on things that were impossible." He retired from the Air Force in 1997 with the rank of colonel but continued to deliver intelligence systems that accomplished the seemingly impossible with National Security technical systems.

After retiring from the Air Force, Pete consulted on commercial space ventures and for federal intelligence agencies. He was on an advisory board that recommended changes at the National Security Agency, one of the country's largest intelligence agencies. As Michael V. Hayden, a former director of the National Security Agency said of Pete, "He was hands-down the most valuable member of that board. He was creative. He was energetic. He was candid without ever being caustic or unkind."

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Pete returned to the government, leading research efforts in satellite reconnaissance for the Defense and Intelligence Communities. He held numerous positions at the National Reconnaissance Organization, NRO, including Director of the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate, Director of the Ground Enterprise Directorate, Director of Small Satellite Development and most recently, Director of the NRO's Mission Support Directorate. He retired from the NRO officially in October 2011. In each instance he enhanced the capability of the organization and demonstrated his well earned reputation as a technical innovator and advocate of streamlined acquisition principles in space programs. He was a true asset to the NRO and to our country.

Pete contributed to improving the world outside of work as well. He personally led missions to a small impoverished town in Honduras where he provided shoes, developed aqueducts and tilapia fish farms. In his private and personal life he also was one who accomplished the seemingly impossible.

On June 28, Pedro "Pete" Rustan lost his battle with cancer but won his eternal reward after 65 vibrant years, passing away at his home in Woodbridge, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Alexandra, and children, Peter and Amy. He leaves behind a legacy of intel-

ligence systems and people whom he mentored to continue to achieve the seemingly impossible in his memory. He will be greatly missed in the Intelligence Community and by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

RECOGNIZING HARCUM COLLEGE'S NONPROFIT BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harcum College of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on receiving the Nonprofit Business of the Year Award from the Main Line Chamber of Commerce.

Harcum College is an outstanding, independent, two-year, co-educational college that seeks to prepare students for meaningful careers by offering majors in over twenty disciplines. Enrollment has risen over 70% in the past six years, reaching new levels every semester since 2009, and is currently at a record high of 1,615 students. Harcum employs 140 full-time faculty and works with many organizations on the Main Line, including the Main Line Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, Main Line First Fridays, Montgomery County Dental Association, and the Shriners.

Harcum has been the recipient of over \$1.3 million in federal funding over the past five years which has been used to update and improve classrooms, technology, student programs, and training for secondary school teachers. And Harcum College has been a Main Line Chamber member for almost 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Harcum College of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on receiving the Nonprofit Business of the Year Award from the Main Line Chamber of Commerce.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ED BRIDGES, DI- RECTOR OF THE ALABAMA DE- PARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Ed C. Bridges, longtime Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, which is the oldest state archives agency in the United States. After 30 years of service in this position, Dr. Bridges will be retiring at the end of the current fiscal year.

Dr. Bridges is a graduate of Furman University, where he achieved both the Woodrow Wilson and Danforth Fellowships. He went on to receive his Masters and Doctorate in History from the University of Chicago. This fervent pursuit of knowledge eventually translated into a lifelong career.

Before holding his current position as Director, Dr. Bridges wore many hats in the academic world; including, teaching at the high school level in South Carolina, teaching at the