

1982, President Reagan said, "Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American volunteerism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran, and the Nation. He was the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all America's veterans."

The tradition of respect and honor established by National Veterans Day in Birmingham would be ably carried on by Raymond Weeks' successor, Colonel Bill Voigt. To this pivotal position of community leadership, Colonel Voigt brought his experience from the Alabama Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force Reserves and a deep and abiding concern for our veterans. His dedication went above and beyond duty. New leadership has been tasked to continue this tradition.

As we look toward the 65th anniversary of America's first Veterans Day and to 2014, the 60th anniversary of the legal holiday, we can cast our vision. It is to continue to honor our veterans.

We would do well by restoring emphasis on General Eisenhower's request of Raymond Weeks in 1947 for Veterans Day to perpetuate world peace: "I wish you every success in your purpose of arousing all American citizens to the need for cooperating among ourselves to the utmost to achieve the greatest of all goals—assurance of enduring peace."

The history of Veterans Day is a lesson in character education that can be used to inspire students to learn "living history" from our veterans. Alabama teaches character traits daily, including those illuminated by the history of the founding of Veterans Day—patriotism, courage, perseverance, loyalty and citizenship. Raymond Weeks demonstrated these qualities in his pursuit of the creation of a National Veterans Day and stands as an example of good citizenship for all students and every generation.

The symmetry of service has been a powerful constant through the generations in Alabama.

As an example, recently a rededication was held for the Rainbow Viaduct Memorial in Birmingham, which commemorates the heroism of the 167th Alabama Infantry during World War I. At that same ceremony, members of the modern-day 167th Alabama National Guard were recognized as they prepared for deployment to Afghanistan. Almost a century apart, the challenges may be different but the ethos of service and duty remains the same.

It is important to remember both what we honor and who we honor on Veterans Day. We honor soldiers and their devotion to freedom, yes. But we reflect that these are people around us who have willingly and unselfishly served on our behalf: fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, grandparents, a favorite uncle or cousin, a high school buddy or college roommate, a best friend or a childhood playmate.

Some we have joyfully welcomed back from an assignment or waved at during a parade. Others we thank at their gravesite, shedding a tear in their memory. We thank them for their sacrifice, bravery, and patriotism. We forget none of them.

This is what inspires us as we prepare for the annual observance of Veterans Day this coming November, and it is what continues to motivate my native Birmingham to set the highest standard for honoring those who have preserved the precious gift of freedom for all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEIGHBORWORKS HOMEOWNERSHIP CENTER SACRAMENTO REGION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center Sacramento Region and its employees as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. NeighborWorks is a nonprofit organization committed to improving the Sacramento community by increasing opportunities for families to purchase their own homes and preserving homeownership. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring NeighborWorks Sacramento Region for their important contribution to the Sacramento community.

Originally founded in 1987, NeighborWorks has grown tremendously and now serves the entire Sacramento Region as well as parts of California's Central Valley. Lead by a committed board of directors and CEO Pam Canada, the devoted staff and partners of NeighborWorks continually work alongside local residents to improve Sacramento's neighborhoods, and make the dream of homeownership a reality for all. For 25 years, NeighborWorks has been successful in increasing homeownership, assisting first-time home buyers, and empowering residents through education and community engagement. It is my privilege to serve as an honorary member of their Board of Trustees, as it was the honor of my late husband, Congressman Robert T. Matsui too. I have enjoyed working with Pam, and always find her and her staff to be responsive to the needs of my constituents.

As our nation's foreclosure crisis continued this past year, the NeighborWorks Sacramento Region has counseled more than 19,800 customers on a variety of housing related issues including foreclosure prevention, refinancing and home purchasing. Through their 3 offices, they have prevented more than 400 foreclosures by helping these distressed homeowners acquire loan modifications, and assisted 2400 residents in purchasing affordable homes. In conjunction with the McGeorge School of Law, NeighborWorks has provided more than 670 customers with free legal services through the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program. Through their work, they have helped hundreds of families avoid homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center Sacramento Region on its 25th Anniversary. I am confident that the organization will continue to be a beacon for those seeking the American dream of homeownership. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the excellence of the staff and of NeighborWorks Sacramento Region who commit their lives

and professional careers to the people of Sacramento.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE 37TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, each year about this time I rise to recognize the wonderful young men and women who have contributed a substantial amount of work to my office. Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how important it is to have such exceptional young men and women working towards our nation's future.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows or interns. They do amazing work for the constituents we are privileged to represent, and are a vital part of every aspect of this establishment.

Although the United States has experienced some hard times in recent years, I simply have to look to the eager and idealistic young staff members and interns in my office to know the future of our country is bright and our best days lay ahead.

These are the people who toil in obscurity, but who willingly and happily jump at every task they are given because they know they are serving a great purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than serving your country. That is why I ran for public office. When I was six years old I dreamed of becoming a public servant when I grew up so I could help others. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

This rings true for a number of great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my office. Their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Ashley Guill, Ashley Bobo, Aliya Wishner, Quentin Scott, Anna Bartels, Tara Karoian, Lilit Rostomyan, Amanda Osborne, Monique Morgan, Sarah Birk and Francisco Guerra.

Mr. Speaker, the infusion of energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

This is why I am so optimistic about our country's prospects for the future. As Margaret Mead said:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

These particular young people I have had the honor of getting to know have displayed extraordinary talent, quality, commitment and energy in their time in Washington. Their initiative and drive have shown me that in time,

they will assume the responsibility of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, if these young men and women are a representation of the future, I know our country will remain a nation of fairness, equality and greatness for generations to come.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF  
BENJAMIN STAUB

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for his service to the House, Benjamin Staub. For six years Ben has worked ably and diligently for the Judiciary Committee, and I would like to commend him on his achievements.

After growing up in Greeley and Silverthorne, Colorado, and being named a Boettcher Scholar, Ben graduated cum laude from Yale University. During his time at Yale, Ben worked for the Undergraduate Admissions Office, taught health in New Haven high schools with the Community Health Educators, worked at the Blake Street Head Start and Calvin Hill Day Care, volunteered in the welfare-to-work early childhood educator program at All Our Kin, and served as a Freshman Counselor for Davenport College. He served as the Executive Co-Coordinator and on the Board of Directors of Dwight Hall at Yale—the student-run nonprofit for community service and social justice with more than 3,000 annual undergraduate volunteers. He interned at the Paris branch office of the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) and wrote and recorded a year-long radio column for Colorado Public Radio about his senior year in college. He earned Yale's John C. Schroeder Prize for social service and the Davenport College Prize for Citizenship.

Ben came to Washington following graduation to work for the political television advertising firm of Murphy Putnam Shorr and Partners, and following the 2006 election, came to work for the House Judiciary Committee.

During his time with the Committee, Ben has worked on a host of issues of national significance—principally in intellectual property policy, antitrust law, and civil liberties. He distinguished himself as an excellent writer and was instrumental in the Committee's work on performance rights legislation and protecting intellectual property from digital theft. He authored large portions and supervised the editing and publishing of the Committee staff's report *Reigning in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush*, and always stood ready to work on a host of issues at a moment's notice, including voting rights, health care, civil rights, immigration policies, and Executive Branch oversight.

Finally, Ben is well known among his peers as a dedicated athlete and began a trend in our office to use stability balls as desk chairs.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like

to thank Ben for his exemplary work, generosity, sense of humor, and loyalty. He will be sorely missed as a colleague, advisor, and friend. We wish him the best of luck and extend to him our deepest gratitude.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION,  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
CENSUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing a resolution supporting the importance of census surveys and the data they produce. Special thanks to Senator JOHN ROCKEFELLER for his leadership on the issue and for introducing the Senate companion, and to the House original cosponsors, Reps. MICHAEL HONDA, JUDY CHU, KEITH ELLISON, JOHN OLVER, BETTY MCCOLLUM, JOSÉ SERRANO, LAURA RICHARDSON, EARL BLUMENAUER, FORTNEY STARK, JOHN LEWIS, and BARNEY FRANK, for their strong support of census surveys.

Since our founding, Congress has recognized the value of census surveys to inform policymaking and measure our country's progress. By including this modern invention in our Constitution, the founders turned a survey into a tool of political empowerment. The decennial census is the basis for fair representation and fair distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal aid. In recent times, the information is used by the public and private sectors for planning purposes and to better understand the needs of communities.

The statistics gathered through the Census Bureau give politicians, researchers, urban planners, educators, and other interested Americans, a regular and measurable snapshot of the growth and the socio-economic status of our Nation. Census programs like the American Community Survey and the Economic Census provide vital data to federal, state, and local governments, to all sectors and industries, and to all geographic areas across the country—from rural to urban to suburban neighborhoods.

These surveys are a fundamental building block for how our country measures itself; the value of these statistics cannot be underestimated. They let us know how we are doing as a nation, identifying areas where we could grow, where we could be more economically efficient, and how best to compete globally. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF SHERMAN  
HEMSLEY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of my friend, actor Sherman Hemsley. This man was best known as the iconic and central figure, George Jeffer-

son, in the sitcom, "The Jeffersons" who became one of the most enduring, beloved characters in television history.

Much of that credit belongs to Mr. Hemsley, the gifted character actor who gave life to the blustering black Harlem businessman on "The Jeffersons", one of the longest-running sitcoms with a primarily black cast in television history.

With the gospel-style theme song of "Movin' On Up," the hit show depicted the wealthy former neighbors of Archie and Edith Bunker in Queens as they made their way on New York's Upper East Side. The show often dealt with contemporary issues of racism, but more frequently reveled in the sitcom archetype of a short-tempered, opinionated patriarch trying, often unsuccessfully, to control his family.

Despite the character's many faults Hemsley managed to make the character endearing, part of the reason it stayed on the air for so long. Hemsley's Jefferson loved his family, his friends (even the ones he relentlessly teased) and had a good heart. His performance was Emmy and Golden Globe nominated. The show's producer Norman Lear said that when Hemsley read for the part "the minute he opened his mouth he was George Jefferson."

This man, the son of a printing press-working father and a factory-working mother, served in the Air Force and worked for eight years as a clerk for the Postal Service.

Having studied acting as a teen at the Philadelphia Academy of Dramatic Arts, he began acting in New York workshops and theater companies, including the Negro Ensemble Company. For years, he kept his job at the post office while acting at night, before transitioning to acting full-time. Sherman embodied the American dream, to "move on up".

He had many other production credits other than playing George Jefferson. He made his Broadway debut in 1970's "Purlie," a musical adaptation of Ossie Davis' Jim Crow-era play "Purlie Victorious." (He would later star in a 1981 made-for-TV version of "Purlie," as well.) It was while touring the show that he was approached by Lear about playing a character on the sitcom that would become "All in the Family."

In an interview Hemsley said his show business career actually began in childhood. "Making people laugh was automatic," he said. "I was in a play in elementary school and had to jump up and run away. I was nervous and tripped and fell down and everyone laughed. Their laughter made me relax, so I pretended it was part of the show."

When we visited with each other, I was truly impressed with his good-spirited personality and optimism that could brighten the mood of any room he entered. He was a fun man with a good heart. He once said, "I always told my mother I wanted a job where I could have a lot of fun and have a lot of time off. She asked me where I was going to find that, and I said, 'I don't know, but it's out there.'"

Sherman Hemsley will forever be remembered as the loud and boisterous yet good-hearted family man whom he played for almost 10 years. The world is a little less funny today, and we should all celebrate the memory of Sherman Hemsley.