

Women's Christian Association which was organized in 1870 by Black women in South Philadelphia. The mission of the Colored Women's Christian Association was to provide residential living in a Christian environment for young, newly freed Black women coming from the rural south and seeking jobs in Philadelphia. In 1912, after more than 40 years of petitioning, it was accepted as a branch of the Philadelphia Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA.

The SWBCA was a hub of community activity and offered a variety of programs including poetry, music and dance. It housed an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a gymnasium and meeting rooms available for use by civic groups.

Ultimately the branch became an independent, non-profit organization. The SWBCA is well respected for its leadership in support of the advancement of Black women long before the desegregation of national women's organizations.

Mrs. Garrott was involved with the YWCA movement from an early age. As a child she took part in the many programs at the SVVBCA and as a teenager she taught swimming and tennis. She was later named Director of the Health and Physical Education Department. Throughout her decades long career, she served in many administrative capacities, not only at the SWBCA but also at YWCA's across the Nation. Today she is a revered matriarch who is nationally and internationally recognized for her contributions in support of the mission and goals of the YWCA and her beloved community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Anne Marquess Garrott and the members of the Southwest Belmont Community Association for their many years of service.

RECOGNIZING JON TRAUB'S  
PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to compliment a staff member for years of service to the U.S. Congress.

Last week, Jon Traub ended his service as the Staff Director for the Majority Staff of the Committee on Ways and Means. He'd spent five years in this role working for both Chairman CAMP in the majority and Ranking Member McCrery in the good old days when Democrats controlled the House of Representatives.

Whether Democrat or Republican, I hope all Members of Congress recognize the important contributions our staffs make. In general, they work longer hours than we do, they get more into the details of policy-making, and we count on them to make us look good.

In his time at Ways and Means, I always found Jon to be a straight shooter. We didn't often agree on policy, but I always knew he'd give me a straight answer when I asked him a question and I always knew he had the confidence of the Chairman so I could count on his answer being correct.

I wish Jon the best in his future endeavors. I'm always sad to see good people leave Cap-

itol Hill, but with a young child, I can certainly understand the desire to lead a more normal life. Again, I thank Jon for his service, wish him the best in his future, and hope to see him in public service again.

TO EXTEND THE PAY LIMITATION  
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3835, a bill that represents more of a political stunt by Republicans than an honest way to address the shared sacrifice needed across the Federal Government in these difficult fiscal times. Members were not allowed to consider a bill offered by Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, H.R. 3858, that would have prevented members of Congress from receiving an automatic pay raise in 2013. I would have voted in favor of that bill. With so many Americans still looking for work and struggling to pay their bills, it is only fair and right that members of Congress put their needs first. However, Republicans chose to tie our salary freeze with those of Federal employees. Previously, they had not been linked. I regret that House Republicans thought it was more important to score political points than showing the American people that Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis support the existing Congressional pay freeze. Such actions only serve to deepen the cynicism of Americans who have grown increasingly fed up with the polarization of Congress.

HONORING MRS. LAVERDA O.  
ALLEN

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mrs. LaVerda O. Allen as she turns 80 years old. On behalf of our diverse Bay Area community, I would like to personally wish Mrs. Allen a very happy birthday surrounded by family, friends, colleagues and community leaders. Her efforts to advance equal education and work opportunities for women and people of color have spanned over 6 decades. Mrs. Allen is truly an icon in the African American community, and the broad reach of her influence continues to touch communities, both near and far.

A long-time Oakland and East Bay resident, Mrs. Allen moved to Oakland with her family in 1943. After graduating early, with honors, from Oakland Technical High School, she attended the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State University, where she received a B.A. in Social Work and an M.A. in Education Administration. During her early career as an educator, Mrs. Allen helped to develop curriculum throughout the Berkeley Unified School District and Peralta Community College District. She also assisted in developing the first financial aid program for state

community colleges. Together with her husband and business partner, she ran Bay Cities Beauty Supplies, an entrepreneurial enterprise focused on hair care products for African Americans. Furthermore, her trailblazing experience as a woman and minority business owner led her to a path of advocacy that would pave the way for countless others to follow.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Allen has been Owner and Principal of The Allen Group, LLC, (TAG) a project and construction management firm committed to advocating on behalf of minority businesses in the engineering-construction industry. She is a stalwart leader in the development of minority, woman-owned and disadvantaged business enterprise programs, and has been a consultant developing agendas to empower architects, engineers and construction contractors in this field since 1971. She and TAG have held management roles in large-scale, complex projects that have been critical to the future of sound Bay Area infrastructure.

Among her many accolades, LaVerda Allen has received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She is an active and prominent member of myriad organizations advocating for the rights of children and the mentally ill. She co-authored the Nation's first Affirmative Action program that called for minority participation by craft, has served on the San Francisco Human Rights Advisory Committee, and was instrumental in the passage of the San Francisco Minority and Woman Owned Business ordinance in 1988. She was a cofounder of the National Association of Minority Contractors, served as the chair of the Berkeley chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Education and Labor Committee during the civil rights movement, and was a board member of the Berkeley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, Mrs. LaVerda O. Allen, I salute you for your amazing achievements and on this remarkable milestone. Thank you for your many continued contributions to equality, prosperity and justice in our communities. I wish you much more success, happiness and well-being in the coming years. And, once again, Happy Birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2010, I regret that I was not present to vote on H.R. 306, H.R. 1162, and H.R. 2606.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all bills.

IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Rosa Parks,

whose extraordinary deeds and achievements performed with great moral and physical courage and quiet determination, make her one of the most consequential persons of the 20th Century.

Rosa Parks, who was born 99 years ago today in Tuskegee, Alabama, ignited the modern civil rights movement in the United States in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Rosa Parks stood up for justice and equality by this simple act of sitting down. And her quiet courage and dedication to the cause of justice and equality led her to join Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others in launching the Montgomery Bus Boycott, an act of civil disobedience that changed America, and forever coined Ms. Parks as the first lady of civil rights.

Ms. Parks' act of quiet civil disobedience inspired similar protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, marches, and other non-violent direct action across the segregated south, including the "Little Rock Nine" in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 1957, where nine black students were blocked from entering the formerly all-white Central High School leading to government intervention; the famous "Greensboro sit-in" on February 1, 1960 where four black students refused to leave a Greensboro, North Carolina Woolworth's lunch counter after being refused service; the Freedom Rides during the Spring and Summer of 1961 in which young black and white students, referred to as "freedom riders," began taking bus trips through the South to challenge Jim Crow practices banning integration in interstate transportation; and the 1965 "March from Selma to Montgomery" for voting rights, during which occurred "Bloody Sunday," the event that shocked and horrified the Nation and led directly to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As a leading activist for civil rights and equality, Ms. Parks actively advocated for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was present at the signing into law of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by President Johnson.

Ms. Parks continued her work for civil equality and rights and served on the staff of U.S. Representative JOHN CONYERS. Her strong belief in the constitutional principles of equality and freedom led her to establish the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in 1977. The institute strives to teach children throughout the U.S. about the history of their country and of the civil rights movement. Her efforts in the fight for civil rights earned her the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

Upon her death in 2005, Rosa Parks was the first woman and second non-U.S. government official granted the posthumous honor of lying in honor at the Capitol Rotunda. Hundreds of thousands of mourners came to pay their final respects to the "First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement."

Now, a year before the anniversary of her 100th birthday, her work lives on as we continue to fight for justice and equality in this Nation. As Ms. Parks once said, "As long as there is unemployment, war, crime and all things that go to the infliction of man's inhumanity to man, regardless—there is much to be done, and people need to work together."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in honor and remembrance of Rosa Parks, a

heroine of courage and a pioneer for civil rights in the history of this Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me for a moment of silence in memory of the great Rosa Parks.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ALAMAR  
YOUNG OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring someone who has given 50 years of exceptional service to our country, Ms. Mary Alamar Young.

Ms. Young was born and raised in Devine, Texas just South of San Antonio, and she began her federal civil service career with the Air Force in 1960 as a clerk typist. Over the years, she rose to various positions of prominence due to her exemplary work ethic and her willingness to fight for the opportunities of others. As Program Operations Manager for the Air Force Affirmative Employment Program, her work expanded the opportunities for the minority community to contribute to and excel in our nation's armed forces.

Mary Alamar Young recently retired on December 31, 2011 after 50 consecutive years as a Federal civilian employee. Her expertise and consistently high level of performance contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the United States Air Force mission. Throughout her career, Ms. Young set the standard by which our nation's military operates today. This is evidenced by the many awards she has received over the years, including the Air Force Distinguished EEO Award and the Texas Governor's Yellow Rose of Texas Award. Additionally through her advocacy, Ms. Young has been critical to empowering students in the Latino community and working to provide increased opportunities for the young leaders of tomorrow.

It is my proud honor to represent constituents like Ms. Mary Alamar Young in our nation's capitol. Once again, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing a true public servant.

HONORING CHANCELLOR DAVID J.  
PRIOR

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Chancellor David J. Prior, a devoted educator and gifted leader from Southwest Virginia. Chancellor Prior left us suddenly on February 2, 2012. At the time of his passing, Chancellor Prior was serving as the seventh chancellor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Chancellor Prior was born in Anniston, Ala. on December 13, 1943. He earned a number of degrees, including an A.B. in biology from Olivet College in Michigan, a master's in animal physiology and biochemistry from Central Michigan University, and a Ph.D. in neurophysiology from the University of Virginia in 1972. He was also a post-doctoral fellow in

neurobiology at Princeton University from 1972 to 1973.

He began his career in education at the University of Kentucky in 1973, where he eventually held dual full professorships in biological sciences and physiology and biophysics. In 1987, Chancellor Prior became chairman of the Department of Biology at Northern Arizona University and was later named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1992. He also served as dean of the graduate school of Northern Michigan University and as a provost in the University of Wisconsin system. He came to the College at Wise in 2005, and was inaugurated on April 11, 2006, as its seventh chancellor. Chancellor Prior was also a prolific researcher having been published numerous times. He is survived by his wife, Merry Lu; daughter, Andrea and her husband, Tom Martin; and son, Christopher and his wife, Sarah.

During his time at the College at Wise, Chancellor Prior worked tirelessly to focus on the importance of education throughout Southwest Virginia. He also encouraged economic development in the region by promoting the College and a STEM initiative to encourage students to enter the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. While chancellor, he oversaw the construction of the Convocation Center and several buildings on campus, conducted a successful fundraising campaign, and increased student enrollment. He enjoyed interacting with students and impacted countless lives through his work as an educator and administrator.

Chancellor Prior was a dreamer who allowed the College to achieve beyond what it could have imagined. The growth and successes of the University of Virginia's College at Wise in recent years will long serve as a reminder of his legacy. I am honored to pay tribute to this great man's many contributions. Chancellor Prior will be missed, but never forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THELMA  
POND

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Thelma Pond of Holliston, MA on her 100th birthday. Thelma has lived in Holliston since she was 4 years old. She attended Holliston High School and Framingham Normal School. After graduation, Thelma began her teaching career in Holliston at her beloved Wilder School. Thelma's passion for teaching continued long after retirement. She continued her service at Wilder School on a one-on-one basis volunteering for about twenty years—giving the students an extra boost with their reading.

Thelma has impacted the lives of countless families in Holliston. Her fondest memories growing up in Holliston include seeing a horse pulling the plow to clear sidewalks on snowy days, and the young man who would arrive at her house in his wagon to collect her mother's grocery list and would deliver them later that day. Thelma also proudly participated in the annual Maypole Dance each year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Thelma for her wonderful contributions to her community. Her