

percent who earn the most and have seen the largest tax breaks over the last ten years. We can act now. If we pass The Middle Class Tax Cut Act today we can keep taxes low for the 98 percent of Americans who rely on the tax breaks and credits extended in this bill. Then we can separately debate the issue of extending the so-called Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest among us. Instead, the majority will adjourn today until September having done nothing to protect the middle class or to make sure everyone pays their fair share.

Under the Republicans' plan, 30.5 percent of tax cuts going to my home state, New Jersey, would go to the richest 1 percent, and 45.8 percent would go to the richest 5 percent. That is 76.3 percent of tax cuts going to the top 6 percent of state residents, leaving 23.7 percent of cuts for the remaining 94 percent of New Jerseyans.

I strongly support The Middle Class Tax Cut Act and the Democratic Substitute to H.R. 8. We can no longer afford to continue giving the biggest breaks to those who need them the least. It's time to put money back into the pockets of hard working Americans.

HONORING OTIS A. BRUMBY, JR.

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there is a time-old saying that one can either be respected or loved, but not both, and that leaders should always strive towards the former. As one of the most beloved and well-regarded leaders in our community, though, and as only Otis could, he managed to be both.

My family moved to Marietta in 1975 and, like so many families, we got to know the Brumbys through Marietta City schools. Our children were in the same grades, played on the same sports teams, and went to one another's birthday parties. One of our daughters, Phyllis, was particularly close to Betsy Brumby. They were, as we called it, "spend-the-night" friends. Just like he and Martha Lee, their children were respectful and well-liked by everyone. Their son, Otis III ("Little O") became the starting quarterback for the Marietta Blue Devils. My wife and I know how proud Otis and Martha Lee were on those Friday nights at Northcutt Stadium.

Otis was deeply involved in and steadfastly dedicated to Marietta schools. He was a staunch supporter of the Marietta School Board and, for a time, was a member himself. I began my political career on the Marietta School Board and have always admired his commitment to our local schools. In many ways—and for many reasons—he inspired me.

As the editor of the Marietta Daily Journal, Otis was always fair and even-handed. When he identified a problem, he drew attention to it, regardless of party affiliation. When he shined a light on something, he always left the situation better than he found it. Otis always sought the truth, but in his quest for it, he still treated everyone well. Besides being fair to Republicans and Democrats alike, the diehard Dawgs fan even managed to be gracious to this Georgia Tech alum.

Our community mourns his loss alongside his wife, children, and beautiful grandchildren. Otis will be deeply missed. But we will honor his memory today and every day. Because of one man's rich life, we've all gained so much.

### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT PATRICK J. WOOD

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from the 44th Congressional District of California who has dedicated his life to defending the people of this country and preserving the basic freedoms and liberties that we hold dear. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Master Sergeant Patrick J. Wood for his 26 years of dedicated service in the United States Air Force.

Chief Wood enlisted in the Air Force on June 26, 1986 after graduating from Divine Child High School in Dearborn, Michigan. After graduating from basic military training he was assigned to the 29th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan as a Load Planner. In September of 1990, then-Staff Sergeant Wood joined Air Force Reserve Recruiting and was again assigned to Selfridge. While there, he was recognized as "Rookie of the Year" for the Recruiting Service, an honor given to the recruiter who enlists the most airmen during their first recruiting year.

This was the first of many recruiting awards Chief Wood would receive. His other accomplishments include numerous "Two Per Week" awards, "Top Fifty" recognition for 6 years, Top Senior Recruiter, and five consecutive "Goal Excellence Awards" for his operating locations. Chief Wood was also a distinguished graduate from the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. In Recruiting Year 2011, his squadron enlisted more than 2,600 citizen airmen to become the "Top Recruiting Squadron" for that year.

As a result of his achievements, Chief Wood was eventually chosen to be the Superintendent of the largest squadron in Reserve Recruiting. During his 23 years in recruiting, Chief Wood was responsible for enlisting over 8,000 new citizen airmen. Chief Wood's innovative ideas and leadership positions allowed him to influence recruiter training practices to ensure that the Air Force Reserve Command met or exceeded goals for 12 consecutive years.

Most recently, Chief Wood has served as the Superintendent, Western Recruiting Squadron, Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service, March Air Reserve Base, California—the most senior ranking noncommissioned officer in the western region. In this role, he has been responsible for the oversight of recruiter production as well as the welfare of over 100 personnel across 17 states, one U.S. territory, and in three countries.

Chief Wood could not have been such a tremendous leader without the love and unflinching support of his wife Major Mia Wood (Retired), and his daughters Airman First Class Lauren Wood and Ashley Wood. Helping to build the

foundation for success early in life were his father Alfred, a United States Marine Corps Veteran from the Korean War, and his mother Anna.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Chief Master Sergeant Patrick J. Wood for his outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our great Nation. Chief Wood will retire from the United States Air Force service with more than just his experience, decorated career and remarkable accomplishments. He will also have served as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be an American patriot and leader. I am grateful for his service and salute him as he retires from the United States Air Force.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF JAMES "PAPPY" DUNN

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House's attention today to honor Mr. James "Pappy" Dunn.

James "Pappy" Dunn was born in Georgia, and was married to the former Barbara Lawson, of Talladega, Alabama. Together they had five children (Jimmy, Claudette, Bertis and Anrae) and one grandchild.

In 1939, after earning a bachelor's degree from Alabama State University and a master's degree from Fisk University, Pappy began his career in education as a teacher and coach at Hobson City's Calhoun County Training School. During this time he served in World War II and oversaw the school's integration. In 1973, he was elected as the Alabama Education Association's second black president. Students remember him as someone who defined servant leadership. In 1986, Mr. Dunn retired as the school's principal.

After his retirement from education, Pappy was elected to the Calhoun County Commission. It was here that he was named "The Anniston Star's" Citizen of the Year in 1997. In 2005 he received the SCLC Calhoun County Chapter Humanitarian Award, and in 2008 he received the Association of County Commissions of Alabama Award for Outstanding Contribution to County Government.

Mr. Dunn was involved in numerous other organizations. These include the National Association of Counties' Health Steering Committee, the Anniston-Calhoun County Fort McClellan Joint Powers Authority, the East Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the Epsilon Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Community Action Agency, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Dunn today and thank him for his dedication to Alabama's Third District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-  
LOVED, PAULA RIGGS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Paula Riggs. Mrs. Riggs was a dedicated public servant, a staple in the community, and all of Northwest Florida mourns her passing.

Paula Riggs was born in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba while her father was serving our nation in the United States Navy. As the daughter of a naval officer, her family moved around often; however, her parents instilled in Mrs. Riggs an everlasting love and affection for their native home in Northwest Florida. Her interest in public service began at a young age, when she would spend hours with her uncle Harold Goodwin, a former mayor of DeFuniak Springs, listening and learning.

After receiving her college degree from the University of North Florida, Paula Riggs decided to move her family to Northwest Florida to raise her four children along the Gulf Coast. Mrs. Riggs was a loving and devoted mother to her children, and she was also known throughout her community as a true neighbor who offered her kindness to all those she knew. She became a successful small business owner, before joining the Mary Esther City Council in 1995.

Mrs. Riggs' had a deep commitment to helping those who were most in need of assistance, and she continued her service to Northwest Florida in 1998 when she was elected as a County Commissioner for Okaloosa County, Florida. As a County Commissioner she was known for her assiduous work ethic and steadfast commitment to improving the community. In addition to her service on the County Commission, she served as Chairman of the Okaloosa-Walton County Transportation Planning Organization, as well as Chairman of the State Library Council, and her hard work and leadership earned her an appointment by Florida Governor Jeb Bush to serve on the Intergovernmental Relations Legislative Council. Although she was forced to step down from her position on the County Commission in 2004 due to illness, she remained a steadfast presence in the community.

To some, Paula Riggs will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and a successful small business owner. To others, she will be remembered as a generous and caring neighbor always willing to lend a hand. To her family, she will most fondly be remembered as a wonderful and loving mother to her four children and an inspiration to her two grandchildren. Her impact on Northwest Florida was immense, and her legacy will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Paula Riggs. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire Riggs family.

JIM AND BOBBIE MELLO'S 70TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Jim and Bobbie Mello on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on September 6, 2012.

James Mello, born in Turlock on April 18, 1922, was destined to meet Barbara (Bobbie) McDonald, born in Turlock on April 12, 1926. Fate finally intervened on a summer day when they met when she was picnicking at Crane Park. Jim came by riding his horse and spotted her. Being a 20 year-old romantic, he devised a plan to meet Bobbie. The plan was to come back a while later and throw watermelons at her. Well, it worked perfectly, and Jim and Bobbie were married about two months later.

The plan was to borrow the best man's car and drive to Minden, Nevada on September 5, 1942, to marry. However, on that day, the best man had his tires repossessed. Undaunted, they borrowed the car of Jim's employer, drove to Minden, and were married the next day.

Two months later, in November, Jim left to join the U.S. Army. Bobbie moved back to live with her Grandmother, who had raised her and her younger sister, Gloria, since they were very young children. Three years later, Jim returned from World War II, where he served as a tanker under General George Patton and was in the famous "Battle of the Bulge."

After his return from service, he worked for Turlock Trenching Company. Jim and his brother-in-law, Clinton Hayes, bought the company in 1951 and ran it out of Jim and Bobbie's 10 acre ranch for many years. In 1987, Jim went to work for Swanson Farms until his retirement in 2003.

After Jim retired, he and Bobbie moved into their present home in the city of Turlock. They have two daughters—their eldest daughter is Sandra, married to Steve Vieira. Sandy and Steve just celebrated their 49th anniversary. Their youngest daughter, Janice, married Bob Borba. Jan and Bob will soon celebrate their 47th anniversary. Jim and Bobbie have four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

In addition to running their own business, Jim and Bobbie were very involved in their community. Jim served 30 years as a volunteer fireman and retired as Assistant Chief of Turlock Rural Fire Department. They both are lifetime members of the Turlock Horsemen's Club and belong to several organizations including American Legion, VFW, Native Daughters of the Golden West, and have volunteered for many organizations and causes over the years. They serve as great role models for their family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the partnership, love, and trust that aided Jim and Bobbie in reaching this milestone of an anniversary. Congratulations on the past 70 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
MAJOR GENERAL GERALD L.  
PRATHER AND HIS BEING  
NAMED "PERSON OF THE DEC-  
ADE" IN DEL RIO, TX BY THE  
BOY SCOUTS

**HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of a true American hero—Air Force Major General Gerald L. Prather. General Prather was born in LaGrange, Georgia in 1935. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1954, and received his pilot wings and commission in August of 1956. During his distinguished career, General Prather has flown F-84F's, F-100D's, C-130's, and was a B-52 pilot and training instructor. In 1967 he was assigned to Mactan Isle Airfield in the Philippines, where he completed more than 500 combat support missions in Southeast Asia. The general eventually became the commander of the European Communications Area in 1977, and was promoted to Major General in March of 1983, with date of rank July 1, 1979. General Prather's military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with two oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force and Marine Presidential Unit Citation Emblems, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Organization Excellence Award Ribbon.

General Prather's life and career embodies the best of America and of our armed forces, and just recently he was named by the Boy Scouts as the "Man of the Decade" in Del Rio, TX, home of Laughlin Air Force Base. General Prather was also honored this past weekend when Laughlin Air Force base named a street on the base after him—a great honor for a great American.

As the representative of the 23rd District of Texas, which includes Del Rio and Laughlin Air Force Base, I wish to congratulate General Prather on his recent honors and thank him for a tremendous life of service to our nation.

NAVY LT. BRAD SNYDER EARNS  
OLYMPIC GOLD

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide my colleagues with an update on a remarkable young man, Navy Lt. Brad Snyder, of St. Petersburg, Florida, an American hero who lost his eye sight in Afghanistan while carrying out an extremely dangerous mission as a member of an explosive ordinance detail.

When I last reported to you in July, Lt. Snyder, who I had the privilege to appoint to the U.S. Naval Academy, had just qualified to represent the United States swim team at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Today, I am proud to report to you that Lt. Snyder has brought home two gold medals and one silver