

In January 1922, a Minnesotan angler named Will Dilg and a group of fisherman created the Izaak Walton League of America in response to the environmental damage they witnessed during the rapid industrialization following World War One. They began a grassroots campaign to educate the public about the environment and worked to influence Congress to adopt pro-conservation legislation.

Just a year after its creation, the Izaak Walton League successfully blocked legislation that threatened wilderness land that is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). For many years the League was the only organization working to defend this treasured landscape, which has become central to our state's identity. The Izaak Walton League of America would go on to help establish the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and prove instrumental in passing the federal Clean Water Act in 1972. The Izaak Walton League has always remained true to its founding as a grassroots organization. Their members share my belief that in order to protect our nation's wildlife and natural lands we must focus on bringing communities together around a shared appreciation of nature. They do this through school visits, educational seminars, and hands on volunteer work. In 2005, the League established the National Conservation Scholarship Program to develop future leaders who will carry on the League's mission. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to recognize the Izaak Walton League and all its members on this anniversary and wish them continued success on the next 90 years.

REQUIRE THE VA TO CONSIDER
ALL QUALIFIED VETERANS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we are remiss in our duty to reintegrate those who served in our military into the civilian workforce. The awful truth is that 16.7 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan servicemembers face joblessness upon separation. To help address this problem, I am introducing the Veterans Employment Act of 2012, which will require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire all qualified veterans before considering other applicants. The Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, has a workforce of 318,856 civilians, only 32 percent have actually ever worn the uniform. Increasing the amount of veterans they employ, while decreasing the amount of unemployed veterans, is a commonsense policy that benefits everyone.

The number of claims for veterans' disability benefits that take more than 125 days to complete has reached 560,000 unresolved cases. The VA claims backlog is leaving too many disabled veterans waiting an average of six months to receive the disability benefits they have earned. Worse, the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, IDES, designed to make the transition from wounded warrior to veteran status more efficient, averages 394 days to process each veteran.

Broadening the presence of veterans working for the VA will ultimately make the organization more responsive to the needs of our

veterans. Having served in both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps, I understand the strong bond of compassion shared between veterans of all uniforms and across all generations. There is a common culture, terminology and expectation of care among military personnel and veterans that have proven to be uncommon to civilians who struggle to connect with them. A dramatic increase in the number of veterans working at the VA is one solution to the systemic inefficiencies that have plagued the department and the reason I am introducing this bill.

My bill will require the VA to consider all qualified veterans for a job. If the VA determines none of those candidates meet the qualifications, only then may they consider non-veteran candidates. The VA will still be required to submit an explanation to the Office of Personnel Management for all veterans passed-over, in accordance with current regulation. No qualifications for employment will be changed or reduced. Requiring the VA to explain their hiring decisions introduces greater transparency into the process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues from both parties to fulfill our commitment to veterans by recognizing their increased value for employment in the VA.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HARLEM'S SOUTHERN STYLE FOOD
ICON, CALVIN COPELAND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of another Harlem's Southern Home Style Restaurant owner and Master Chef, Calvin Copeland, who passed away on Thursday morning, August 23. As we remembered and recently celebrated the life of Sylvia Woods, The Queen of Soul Food—certainly for 50 years, Mr. Calvin Copeland and his famed Copeland's Restaurant & Reliable Catering was worthy and reigned with royalty on West 145th Street, between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway in the Village of West Harlem.

Born in Virginia on May 1, 1925, Mr. Copeland headed north to live with an aunt who taught him her secret recipe to making finger licking good, fried chicken. Never one to forget his southern roots, Mr. Copeland proudly proclaimed Harlem as "the place" that made him famous by cooking and serving his delicious, and often catered, Southern foods and a little bit of live Jazz.

Mr. Copeland started the business in 1958 as a catering service, one of Harlem's first, in a modest storefront on Broadway north of 148th Street. Mr. Copeland baked and decorated cakes and only had but one worker, Ms. Gertrude Clark, who is white and grew up on a farm in upstate New York did whatever else was needed, which often included preparing Southern fare. Quoted in a New York Times Article, she stated, "I had never eaten collard greens in my life, and there I was making fried chicken and souse meat." Ms. Clark later became Copeland's banquet manager.

Mr. Copeland eventually rented the store next door, opened up a hole in the wall, expanded the kitchen and started serving break-

fast and lunch, cafeteria style. In 1980, As small business restaurateur, Copeland faced many challenges. In 1981, the restaurant burned to the ground and the insurance company went bankrupt before Mr. Copeland was able to recoup his losses. He lost everything, but the liquor. Back in the day Banks were not prone to lending money to restaurants located in Harlem, but because of the generosity of friends and special loyal worker, Copeland was able to reopen in grandeur. That very special worker was Gertrude Clark who mortgaged her property in upstate New York, which along with a small business loan helped her boss secure financing for a new location, on West 145th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam in Hamilton Heights.

Calvin Copeland became an institution, when he moved his business to 547 West 145th Street and opened Copeland's Restaurant & Bar Lounge and Reliable Catering Service, which was also a community buffet style diner. Copeland's became a destination for black families from as far South as Florida and the Carolinas and as far North as Buffalo, New York to Canada. Black entertainers, like Harry Belafonte and Stevie Wonder; and other notables would stop by when in town. Desmond Tutu, the retired Anglican archbishop, ate there once, and so did Muhammad Ali and the comedian Richard Pryor, who threw money in the air when he left the restaurant so as to distract the crowd that had surrounded him. Mr. Copeland stated that Natalie Cole was a regular. Michael Jackson came by once for take-out.

One of my fondest memories was the eve of the Mayoral General Election in 1989 when David N. Dinkins and I campaigned at the subway stop on 145th Street and Broadway and ate at Copeland's Restaurant. I don't know if it was the lucky fried chicken, the collard greens or Copeland's corner, but the next day David N. Dinkins won the election and became the first African American and 106th Mayor of the City of New York.

Copeland Restaurant was a place where you can catch Kathy Sharpton, Candi Staton, Lonnique Youngblood, Gloria Lynne and other great Jazz, Gospel and R&B artist perform. Where politicians held court and Harlem players and shakers hung out for breakfast. I miss those fried apples, chicken livers and cat fish, and that amazing banana pudding and sweet potato pie.

Unfortunately, in 2007 due to the economic downturn and poor health, Mr. Copeland had to close. Mr. Copeland always dreamed that one day he would make a comeback to the food business that he loved so much. He was a great teacher and mentor to those in need of a trade to make a decent living, Mr. Copeland trained many into the restaurant business. Even people coming out of prison with no real job options could depend on him for a professional introduction into the culinary arts.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Calvin Copeland, a Harlem Mainstay was there when rioters burned and looted stores in 1964, when crack cocaine and HIV/AIDS tore families apart, when brownstones were for sale for \$50,000 and few outsiders dared move in. He endured fire and financial ruin, yet each time he picked up the pieces and prospered, as bold and resilient as the neighborhood around him. If he could be the master of his fate, he would live out his days in Harlem. Please join me and

my colleagues as we salute another Harlem icon, Mr. Calvin Copeland who has contributed to the greatness in which Harlem is known.

**WEST CALDWELL VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department of West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey for the celebration of its 100th Anniversary this year.

Although the Borough of West Caldwell received its charter in 1904, it was not until August 5, 1912 that the pressing need for organized protection against fire prompted the incorporation of a fire department. With the help of an appointed committee, the department soon legitimized, purchasing fire equipment and property for a firehouse, on which the first WCVFD firehouse was built. Additional investments in horse drawn wagons, a 700 foot fire house, and sounding fire alarms further improved the efficiency of the department.

Beginning in 1917 the Borough motorized the department, continuing to purchase automobile fire apparatuses throughout the 1950's and 1960's in response to the demands of industry, business, and an increasing population.

Despite the fact that the department's first initial firehouse no longer stands, in 1968 the West Caldwell Borough constructed a new firehouse. This firehouse, located on 6 Fairfield Avenue, is home to the present day headquarters of the department.

Today, the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department clearly maintains its initial principles of teamwork and commitment. Under current Chief James Alvine, the department consists of approximately 60 dedicated individuals who work together to save lives on a daily basis.

It is evident that the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department exhibits the unity and teamwork required of the fire service. The merits of courage, pride, and passion that permeate the department serve as a testament to its long withstanding success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department of West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey, for the achievement of its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CHET WALKER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chet Walker of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who was elected to both the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on September 7, 2012.

Mr. Walker began his career as the star of Benton Harbor High School's basketball team,

leading the school to the Class A Boys' state finals in 1958. He then matriculated to Bradley College in Peoria, Illinois, where he became the school's all-time top scorer and rebounder, and was a two-time unanimous First Team All-America pick. Mr. Walker led the Bradley Braves to victory in the 1960 National Invitation Tournament and finished his college career with an outstanding 69–14 win-loss record.

His success as a college athlete caught the attention of the NBA, and after graduation Mr. Walker was drafted by the Syracuse Nationals in the second round. Mr. Walker continued in his tradition of success, and was named to the first ever NBA All-Rookie Team. The rest of his professional basketball career proved to be exceptional: over the span of his 13 years, Mr. Walker scored 18,831 points and grabbed 7,314 rebounds, had a free throw percentage of 79.6, was a seven-time All-Star, and won the 1967 NBA championship with what is considered by many today to be the greatest basketball team of all time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Walker's achievements and am glad that he is being properly respected for his contributions by the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Chet Walker is one of the greatest to ever play the game and we are so proud in southwest Michigan.

**IN HONOR OF THE ANDERSON
POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT**

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn that, for the second time in less than a month, the community of Anderson is mourning the loss of a police dog. On July 26, 2012, Anderson Police Department K-9 Kilo was lost during a shooting that took the life of a Pendleton resident and injured two police officers. Just weeks later, on August 18, 2012, while tracking the scent of a bank robbery suspect, Anderson Police Department K-9 Magnum was shot and eventually succumbed to those wounds.

Both Kilo and Magnum were lost in the line of duty and while some may believe their service is far different from the officers who choose to wear the uniform, those who stand on the thin blue line see police dogs as partners. Kilo and Magnum both were loyal to the end. With their instincts and training, these police dogs were the front line of defense, protecting their human compatriots.

I couldn't be more proud, that in the wake of these tragedies, the community has rallied around the Anderson Police Department. Students at both Anderson Preparatory Academy and Anderson High School have raised funds to help the city bring on another K-9.

Police dogs, like Kilo and Magnum are often visible within our communities and can be very valuable with public outreach efforts. Yet, as we have learned, these animals often are the front line of defense for officers and the public at large.

Let us keep the Anderson Police Department, especially Officers Marty Dulworth and Matt Jarrett, the handlers of Kilo and Magnum, in our prayers. These instances demonstrate

that our first responders put our lives ahead of their own on a daily basis. For that, we will be forever grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, due to transportation issues beyond my control, I was unable to cast my votes on Monday, September 10, 2012. If able to cast those votes I would have voted Aye on H.R. 6122, to Re-vise the Authority of the Librarian of Congress to accept gifts on behalf of the Library; H.R. 2139, the Lions Club Commemorative Coin Act; and H.R. 6186, to Require a study of community-based flood insurance options.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 557–559. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes" on all three votes.

**TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF PETTY OF-
FICER 3RD CLASS CLAYTON R.
BEAUCHAMP**

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Petty Officer 3rd Class Clayton R. Beauchamp who was killed on August 7, 2012 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Petty Officer Beauchamp was serving with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, based at Camp Pendleton, California.

Petty Officer Beauchamp was from Weatherford, TX. He graduated from Weatherford High School in 2009 and enlisted in the Navy that July. Petty Officer Beauchamp is one of three siblings who have all chosen to serve in the United States Navy. His brother, Christopher Beauchamp, is a six-year Navy corpsman serving his third tour overseas, and his younger sister, Cheyenne Beauchamp, is in the Navy Security Forces, stationed in Virginia. According to friends, Clay always knew he wanted to serve after high school, and he signed up at the first possible opportunity on his 17th birthday, Jan. 16, 2008, more than a year before graduation.

Petty Officer Beauchamp, a medical corpsman, had earned a Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Expert ribbons in rifle and pistol and the Fleet Marine Force Enlisted Warfare Specialist device, and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Clayton R. Beauchamp was a true patriot and made the