

mornings, the congregation also partakes in the Synagogue's educational and social endeavors. Encouraging participating of younger generations on a spiritual level, the Temple also holds a Junior Congregation and Tot Shabbat services. Ranging from a Nursery School and Kindergarten to Youth groups, Senior Group, and a Women's league, White Meadow Temple offers everyone a chance to get involved and find their niche both in and out of the Jewish community.

After 60 years of passionate leadership, White Meadow Temple is currently overseen by President Marc Levine and services are lead by Rabbi Benjamin Adler. May that clear commitment and involvement of the congregation in the community uphold the mission of the White Meadow Temple and continue to inspire future generations!

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The White Meadow Temple of Rockaway Township, Morris County, New Jersey, on reaching their 60th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MITLA CAFÉ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding business in San Bernardino, California—Mitla Café. This September, Mitla Café will be celebrating its 75th year as their family restaurant serving the people of Southern California.

Mitla Café is the oldest continually operating restaurant in San Bernardino, and one of the oldest Mexican restaurants in Southern California. Mitla Café serves standard Mexican fare—tacos, burritos, and fresh tortillas. They pride themselves in fresh food, which keeps the locals coming back for more. Today, the restaurant remains in its original location, off historic Route 66 in San Bernardino.

This family owned business was founded in 1937, by Lucia and Salvador Rodriguez. Until her passing in 1981, Lucia ran the restaurant with the help of her daughters Theresa, Helen, and Vera. After the death of her mother, Vera continued to manage the restaurant with the same understanding and passion for the community that her mother held. After Vera passed away in 1984, Lucia and Salvador's youngest son, Frank Montano, and his wife Irene continued the family business. Today, Mitla Café is managed by the founders' great-grandson, Steven Oquendo. The family restaurant atmosphere and exceptional food keeps residents coming to Mitla Café even after they have moved out of the area. From my own personal experience, my family and I have always enjoyed dining at Mitla Café.

To celebrate their 75th year anniversary, Mitla Café hosted an event on Saturday September 8th, which featured live music by the Scott Martin Latin Soul Band. Earlier this June, Mitla Café also hosted an anniversary event, featuring Bruce Conte and the Jazz Junkies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating San Bernardino's oldest restaurant, Mitla Café for their 75th anniversary.

HONORING PEGGY COMBS' PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peggy Combs on her promotion to Brigadier General in the United States Army.

Brigadier General Combs is the commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. The change of command ceremony was streamed live to her hometown American Legion, R.K. Parkhurst Post 1448 in Oriskany, NY, where both she and her parents are members. Approximately 1,400 members of the community gathered to watch the ceremony.

Brigadier General Combs is the first female general officer to hail from the upstate New York community, and is the first general with ties to Oriskany since Gen. Nicholas Herkimer, who led local militia during the famed battle of Oriskany during the Revolutionary War.

Brigadier General Combs is the eldest of Jack and Pat Huther's four children and is a 1981 graduate of Oriskany Central School. Brigadier General Combs was the first member of her family to go to college. In 1985, she graduated from the esteemed Syracuse University and received her direct commission as a second lieutenant through the university's Army ROTC program, where she was a distinguished military graduate. Together with her husband Brad, they have raised three grown children. Brigadier General Combs stands as a role model for women and female soldiers throughout the United States of America. Only in America can a young girl from rural upstate New York climb the ranks of the best Army in the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I would like to recognize Brigadier General Peggy Combs on her promotion in the United States Army. Brigadier General Combs has been an asset not only to the United States Army but to the people of New York State and certainly Oneida County and her hometown of Oriskany. It is an honor and a privilege to applaud Brigadier General Combs' promotion and I wish her great success as she continues her upward journey in the United States Army.

CONSTITUTION DAY 2012 CELEBRATION—MIAMI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, next week, Monday, September 17th is Constitution Day.

This day marks the 225th anniversary of the adoption of the United States Constitution by our Founding Fathers.

On that day in 1787 the members of the Constitutional Convention of Philadelphia reached a watershed moment, collectively adopting the Constitution that embodies the ideals of a new nation and a free people.

Over the course of this upcoming week, Americans from all walks of life will gather to commemorate this sacred document by collectively reading the Constitution in Constitution Day events nationwide.

Tomorrow, at 5:30 p.m. at the Miami History Museum on West Flagler Street, local law firm Higer, Lichter & Givner, in conjunction with History Miami, will host students, veterans, business and community leaders, and all who wish to join, as they gather together to read and honor the Constitution.

This is a wonderful tradition, and I strongly encourage everyone to take part in this important event.

H. RES. 484 AND H.R. 1410

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the two bills before us on human rights in Vietnam. These bills will enhance U.S. efforts to promote media and religious freedom in Vietnam, while communicating our concern and desire to protect the courageous advocates for freedom who risk everything to change their country for the better. I urge my colleagues to support both.

H. Res. 484 condemns the increasing repression by Vietnam's government of community organizers, bloggers, and democracy activists. Across the world, social media has empowered people to push for the rights that should be inherent in their citizenship. It has been like a wind filling the sails of movements pushing for more freedom, stronger accountability, and greater commitment to justice.

But we cannot forget that behind these social media are courageous individuals who risk everything to achieve those goals. This bill will make it clear to the government of Vietnam that their use of vague national security provisions in the penal code has been noted, and that the U.S. Congress will continue to press for freedom for people who are swept into prison under such shameful circumstances.

People like Nguyen Quoc Quan, a peaceful democracy activist and a U.S. citizen, who was arrested while visiting his home country. Recently, his prison sentence under one article has been extended four months under another. He was charged with terrorism under Article 88, and then the prosecutor rescinded that judgment and extended his jail term for "attempting to overthrow the government" under Article 79. We call this what it is: arbitrary, cruel, and unfair, and with this bill we call on the Vietnamese authorities to release all political prisoners, especially activists, writers, and bloggers who have been imprisoned under these provisions of the Vietnamese criminal code.

H.R. 1410 emphasizes that, while the United States will continue to work together with the Government of Vietnam on important issues of mutual concern, we will not increase our commitment of assistance until and unless they make substantial progress on media and religious freedoms, minority rights, access to U.S. refugee programs, and ending trafficking in persons.

This bill will bring hope to Vietnam's courageous democracy advocates that the United

States values their efforts and will keep human rights at the center of our relationship.

The United States has taken important steps to demonstrate that that we hope to build a common future with Vietnam built on cooperation, development, and peace. In recent years, we have maintained a robust program of bilateral aid to Vietnam because it is in our national interest and it is in the interest of the people of Vietnam.

But Vietnam cannot reach its potential as a nation if its people are denied basic rights. And sadly, the government of Vietnam is taking the country backwards in terms of human freedom. These two bills make clear that a good relationship requires progress on this critical issue.

CELEBRATING 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
ALVAR "AL" EDWIN SPERRING

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved veteran, Alvar "Al" Edwin Sperring on his 90th birthday. Alvar was born in San Francisco, California on September 18, 1922. He is the youngest of five brothers, born to John Edward Sperring and Anna Emily Sperring.

Mr. Sperring's parents moved to Sonoma, California during his early childhood, where he attended local schools and graduated from Sonoma Valley Union High School in 1940. Upon graduation, he went to work for the Pacific Telephone Company in San Francisco as a lineman working throughout Northern California and Nevada.

Alvar was drafted into the United States Army on January 30, 1943, in San Francisco, California. He applied and was accepted for the Aviation Cadet School. He graduated from Pilot School on May 22, 1944, with the rank of Second Lieutenant at Stockton Field, Stockton, California, Class 44-E.

On May 28, 1944, he married his high school sweetheart, Alyda Bernadette Picchi, at St. Edward's Church in San Francisco, California. Together, they raised four sons: Roger, Robert, Ronald, and Randall. He is proud of his six grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sperring's first Air Force assignment was at Muroc Army Air Base in Lancaster, California for B-24 Liberator Bomber Pilot training. In 1945, he served overseas with the 38th Bombardment Squadron stationed in Guam in the Pacific Theater. He was honorably discharged on April 3, 1946, with the rank of First Lieutenant and remained in the U.S. Army Air Force Reserves until November 1963.

Alvar returned to his former employment with Pacific Telephone Company in San Francisco and was promoted to Line Foreman. In 1950, he was transferred to Lodi, California. Lodi had transitioned to a dial system, and he was instrumental in achieving that endeavor. He retired in 1983 with 42 years of loyal and dedicated service in various supervisory capacities.

Alvar is a sixty-year member of The American Legion, active member of International Order of Odd Fellows, Telephone Pioneers, Past Big Sir of Branch 18 Sons in Retirement and one of the early founders of the Lodi Boys and Girls Club. He is a long-time member of the Woodbridge Golf and Country Club, where he plays golf three times a week.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honouring Alvar E. Sperring and expressing our congratulations on his 90th birthday. Best wishes to him and his family for continued success, happiness, and good health in years to come.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF
SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today, we remember those lost eleven years ago on September 11, 2001. We also remember the extraordinary acts of bravery and heroism performed by courageous passengers and crew on United Flight 93, by the first responders who rushed into burning buildings, and by the thousands of nameless volunteers who provided assistance on that terrible day.

We think, too, of our troops around the world who stand in harm's way, many of whom enlisted in the days and weeks that followed the attack on our country. And of those troops we have lost, and who paid the ultimate price for our liberty.

For millions of Americans, September 11th serves a day of solemn reflection. For others, it has become a day of community—gathering together in remembrance and in service. No matter how we choose to remember, ours is a tribute that is a deeply personal one.

We lost a great deal on that tragic day, but America also revealed herself to be resilient, and more unified and determined than ever.