

grandchildren. I know that many of his family still reside in our great city of Pittsburgh.

Andy's family and all those who knew him are exceedingly proud of his fine career and service to our country. I want to join with them today by expressing my best wishes for Andy's family as we honor Andrew G. Roman—an American patriot.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes the afternoon of February 3, 2012, which included rollcall votes 31, 32, and 33.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 31, the Motion to Recommit Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 32, final passage of Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 33, the conference report for Representative MICA's (FL-07) H.R. 658.

#### RECOGNIZING MRS. GERTRUDE L. MALLETT FOR HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HORTICULTURE

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of our society, Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett. Mrs. Mallett is a conservationist and agriculturalist from Hinds County, Mississippi. Her wisdom and sincere affection for everyone leaves everlasting impressions.

Born December 18, 1919, she is the widow of Frank Mallett and mother to their six children. Mr. and Mrs. Mallett believed in God, family, and hard work and raised their children to believe in such.

The Mallett family is proprietor of roughly 200 acres of land in Hinds County, Mississippi, where they raise and harvest cattle, corn and cotton.

Up until 1995, when Mrs. Mallett obtained her General Education Diploma from Hinds Community College in 1995 at the age of 75, she had only attained an 8th grade education.

Today, at 92 years of age, Mrs. Mallett remains active; she advises the day-to-day farm operations of their family farm in addition to maintaining her annual garden. Mrs. Mallett is an all around craftsman and self-taught ceramicist. She crafts quilts and crochets in addition to other handiworks.

Mrs. Mallett is a servant to God and faithful steward of Saint John's Missionary Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school for over 30 years, served as the church secretary for more than 50 years and still remains active in the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett for her unwavering commitment to horticulture.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAROLD GEORGE BELAFONTE, JR.

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of National Black History Month and to recognize the lifetime achievements of my good friend, Harold "Harry" George Belafonte, Jr., an American and International Hero. Black History Month is an appropriate time to pay homage to Harry Belafonte and his amazing, incredibly impressive, inspiring and historic renowned career, which began at the age of 19 in the United States Navy during World War II. After taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, his career soared as an actor, musician, singer, producer, and civil rights and humanitarian activist. Due to Harry Belafonte's lifetime achievements our nation and the world are far better.

After the Great War, Harry attended and graduated from The New School for Social Research in New York City. Harry began appearing in jazz clubs, cabarets, and soon began recording his wonderful pop, folk, and world music albums. His acting career took off after his 1953 film debut in *Bright Road*. Many movies and performances later, Harry Belafonte received a Tony Award nomination for his Broadway performance in *John Murray Anderson's Almanac*. Although he was acknowledged for his talent, it wasn't until he played a lead role in the film *Carmen* that he became a true star. Harry was able to use his new popularity to boost his album sales and create a need in the United States for Caribbean music that had lacked before. He then went on to win an Emmy for his special *Tonight with Harry Belafonte*, and was bestowed the honor of first African American producer.

With Paul Robeson as his inspiration, Harry took art and activism to new levels. During his 43 years of fame, Belafonte worked against social injustice. Throughout the civil rights movement, he advised and served as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s confidant and he worked to provide for King's family. His dedication led Harry to be blacklisted during the McCarthy era, like many other civil rights activists. He bailed King out of the Birmingham City Jail and raised thousands of dollars to release other civil rights protesters. Harry managed to mobilize the Hollywood community, finance Freedom Rides, support voter registration drives, and help to organize the March on Washington in 1963, where he delivered an inspiring speech. Harry went on to serve in President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's administration, as cultural advisor to the Peace Corps.

A true humanitarian Harry Belafonte is best known for his landmark music collaboration, "We Are the World," which joined many musicians—including songwriters and producers Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian—together. USA for Africa was able to use this song to help raise millions of dollars to help relieve famine in Ethiopia. Harry continued his work by becoming UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador in 1986. Harry carries on his incredible work by sup-

porting causes such as HIV/AIDS and cancer research and educating children.

Harry was an outspoken critic of apartheid in South Africa, and he and Arthur Ashe Cochaired Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid, which played a major role in international sports boycott against South Africa. In 1988, Harry released his first album of original material in over a decade, *Paradise in Gazankulu*. The album contains ten protest songs against the South African former Apartheid policy. He was the Master of Ceremonies at a reception honoring African National Congress President Oliver Tambo at Roosevelt House, Hunter College, in New York City. The reception was held by the American Committee on Africa, ACOA, and The Africa Fund. Today, Harry is a current board member of the TransAfrica Forum and the Institute for Policy Studies.

Following his appointment Harry traveled to Dakar, Senegal, where he served as chairman of the International Symposium of Artists and Intellectuals for African Children. He also helped to raise funds, alongside other artists in the largest concert ever held in sub-Saharan Africa. In 1994 he went on a mission to Rwanda and launched a media campaign to raise awareness of the needs of Rwandan children. In 2001 he went to South Africa to support the campaign against HIV/AIDS. In 2002, Africare awarded him the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award for his efforts to assist Africa. In 2004 Harry went to Kenya to stress the importance of educating children in the region. Harry has also been involved in prostate cancer advocacy since 1996, when he was diagnosed and successfully treated for the disease.

On June 27, 2006, Harry was the recipient of the BET Humanitarian Award at the 2006 BET Awards. He was named one of nine 2006 Impact Award recipients by AARP The Magazine. On October 19, 2007, Harry represented UNICEF on Norwegian television to support the annual telethon—TV Aksjonen—in support of that charity and helped raise a world record of \$10 per inhabitant of Norway.

Harry is additionally known for his visit to Cuba which helped ensure hip-hop's place in Cuban society. According to Geoffrey Baker's article "Hip hop, Revolucion! Nationalizing Rap in Cuba." Harry, in 1999 met with representatives of the rap community immediately before meeting with Fidel Castro. This meeting resulted in Castro's personal approval of the incorporation of rap into his country's culture. In a 2003 interview Harry reflected upon this meeting's influence:

"When I went back to Havana a couple years later, the people in the hip-hop community came to see me and we hung out for a bit. They thanked me profusely and I said, 'Why?' and they said, 'Because your little conversation with Fidel and the Minister of Culture on hip-hop led to there being a special division within the ministry and we've got our own studio'."

On October 17, 2011, HBO Films released the documentary, *Sing Your Song*, which details a close look at the life of a patriot to the last and a champion for worldwide human rights. Told from Harry's point of view, the film charts his life from a boy born in New York and raised in Jamaica, who returns to Harlem in his early teens where he discovers the American Negro Theater and the magic of performing. From Harlem to Mississippi to Africa and South Central Los Angeles, Sing Your

Song takes us on a journey through Harry Belafonte's life, work and most of all, his conscience, as it inspires us all in a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, my colleagues and a very grateful nation as we celebrate National Black History Month to recognize the achievements of the world's humanitarian, and Harlem's beloved, Harry Belafonte.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE- FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my excused absence from the House last week, and to discuss how I would have voted on H.R. 658, conference report for the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act," if I hadn't been pulled away by the funeral of my dear friend, Frank Herrera.

Frank was a World War II veteran, a titan in his community of Wilmington, and a good friend of mine. He will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

While I was at his funeral, the House took action on the first long term FAA reauthorization since the last one expired in 2007. After the embarrassment of twenty-three short-term extensions, I was glad to see our Nation's aviation infrastructure finally given the certainty of long term funding. Finally, we will bring our aviation infrastructure into the 21st century with NextGen, and give long overdue certainty to modernization projects across the country.

However, I was appalled to see that this "compromise" was bought with the rights of hard working men and women. I agree with the Communications Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the National Education Association, the Teamsters and other advocates of working people that the American people deserved a clean FAA reauthorization, not this attempt to interfere with a worker's right to chose to form a union.

Had I been here on Friday, I would have voted "on" on H.R. 658.

#### RAISING AWARENESS OF CON- GENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise public knowledge of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, which is February 7–14, 2012. This week encourages all citizens to increase their awareness, education, and services for Congenital Heart Defects, which each year affect thousands of babies in the State of Texas.

Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defects and the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths worldwide.

Over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with Congenital Heart Defects. Every year, 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects.

Some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth, and undiagnosed Congenital Heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes. Despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects, and research on these heart conditions has only recently begun catching up to the problem—but more must be done.

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone. Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week also provides the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring February 7–14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTOR CRUZ AND THE NEW YORK GIANTS

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Cruz and the New York Giants on their thrilling victory in Super Bowl XLVI on Sunday night, in which they defeated the New England Patriots by a score of 21 to 17. As a fan, I am excited that the Giants have once again brought a Super Bowl championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy back home to New Jersey. After last winning a championship in 2008, this is the second Giants Super Bowl victory in the past five seasons, for an impressive all-time total of four Super Bowl wins amongst their eight National Football League championships.

Leading the charge for the Giants was the pride of my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, wide receiver Victor Cruz. Paterson, located just a few miles from the Giant's home field, is home to thousands of proud Giants fans. Victor Cruz was born in Paterson, attending Paterson Public School #21 and Paterson Catholic High School before playing football at the University of Massachusetts, where he remains fourth in all time receptions. He fought his way off the streets of Paterson, finding a path to a college education. Starting as an unknown just two years ago, Victor gained the attention of Giants scouts and now competes on the highest level. Victor serves as a true inspiration to the people of Paterson, who gave him an enthusiastic send-off when he revisited School #21 before the team departed for the Super Bowl in Indianapolis.

On Sunday night, Victor Cruz scored the first touchdown of the contest on a reception from the game's Most Valuable Player, Giants quarterback Eli Manning. With this touchdown, Victor had the opportunity to showcase his signature "Silk City Salsa" touchdown dance, a fan favorite. This move shows Victor's con-

tinued connection with his home town, since it is named for the city of Paterson, which was once the center of a thriving domestic textile industry.

Since being signed by the Giants, Victor already holds the franchise record for single season receiving yards after going undrafted in 2010. He has also tied the NFL record for longest touchdown reception of 99 yards. Now, he can add a Super Bowl title to the long list of accomplishments he has already attained in just two years of playing professional football. Victor Cruz's story so far proves that anyone can achieve greatness with hard work and perseverance. I hope that Victor enjoys a long career with continued successes.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet I am especially honored today to recognize and commemorate the achievements of the New York Giants and Paterson's hometown hero, Victor Cruz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the citizens of New Jersey, and me in recognizing the Giants for their victory in Super Bowl XLVI, and in wishing continued success to Victor Cruz, Eli Manning, Coach Tom Coughlin, owners John Mara and Steve Tisch, and the rest of the team. I am sure that former Giants owner and my fellow Fordham University alumnus, Wellington Mara, who passed away in 2005 after 80 years with the team, was also watching from above with a smile on Super Bowl Sunday. Let's Go Giants!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed a series of votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall 34, On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 35, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, a bill to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe tsunami and flood protection, I would have voted "yea."

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,337,881,657,918.14. We've added \$10,536,476,482,623.86 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could