

support 12 graduating students. Lincoln High School's organizing committee has hosted various fundraisers to connect students and communities through education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Lincoln High School. Schools like Lincoln High School keeps students motivated and active by ensuring that all are given the opportunity to have a bright future.

CONFIRMING FULL OWNERSHIP RIGHTS TO ARTIFACTS FROM ASTRONAUTS' SPACE MISSIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4158, to Confirm Full Ownership Rights for Certain United States Astronauts to Artifacts from the Astronauts' Space Missions Act.

H.R. 4158 preserves the rights of astronauts who served on the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s, through the time of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Flight, to retain full and complete ownership of certain artifacts such as personal logs and flight manuals that were used in training or during their flights.

For many years, it was an accepted practice for astronauts to keep mementos of their training and flight missions.

However, confusion surrounding NASA's informal policies on artifacts have led to attempts to repossess those artifacts years later.

This has resulted in questions concerning the status of items that astronauts have had in their possession for years, if not decades, or donated to museums, universities, scholarship funds, and so forth.

I support this bill, because it clarifies that the ownership of those artifacts rests with the astronauts who served during those missions, while preserving the current policy that ownership of moon rocks and lunar material will continue to rest with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, we lost an American hero, Neil Armstrong. He and his fellow astronauts fulfilled the dreams of a grateful nation by pushing the boundaries of space.

One small way to show our gratitude is by passing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 586, I was unavoidably detained and could not be present for last night's rollcall vote on H.R. 5912, a bill that would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions and provide for the return of any previously-distributed funds for deficit reduction. I am a strong supporter of this legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on one of the most important pieces of federal legislation impacting our coastal, great lakes and ocean resources stretching from Fagatele Bay in American Samoa to the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary along the East Coast. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which was signed on October 23, 1972, recognized the value of these national treasures; designating marine protected areas for current and future generations.

40 years later, communities across the country have seen real dividends from these federal investments and are expressing their interests in protecting their own waters. Reactivation of NOAA's Site Evaluation List, a scientifically rigorous and publicly reviewed list of sites, is being considered as part of the Strategic Action Plan to implement our National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes. It would bring a renewed commitment to conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of our nation's system of marine protected areas.

In my experience, the most remarkable thing about the National Marine Sanctuary Program is the transformation which occurs when communities recognize they have the opportunity to become stewards of their local marine environment. I cannot emphasize enough that ours and future generations will increasingly depend on a healthy ocean—for ecological, economic, educational, scientific, social, cultural and recreational benefits, as well as for the food we eat. For me, the best example is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which this year celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary emerged from a collaboration of local officials, civic minded citizens, environmentalists and many others who were concerned about the possibility of oil drilling on the Central Coast. Their hard work resulted in the establishment of the largest marine sanctuary in the Continental U.S. It goes down more than 2 miles and is almost as deep as the Rockies are tall. Its undersea mountain—"Davidson Seamount"—is higher than any coastal mountain, 7480 ft. tall, and it supports one of the most bio-diverse ecosystems in the world.

I am fortunate to represent a congressional district that has one of the greatest synergies of ocean science and research in the world. And it is through increased understanding of our marine sanctuaries that we become better stewards of our blue planet. The National Marine Sanctuary Program is charting the course forward through research and education and it is only fitting that, on this anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, we in Congress commend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and all of our nation's sanctuaries for their significant work in advancing understanding and protection of the world's oceans.

HONORING NASA LANGLEY'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th Anniversary of NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. In 1917, this nation's first civilian aeronautical research laboratory was established in Hampton, Virginia, by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics as the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory. Today, NASA Langley is known around the world for its cutting edge research, leading numerous aviation breakthroughs, making contributions to flight technologies across all speed regimes, and improving the safety of our national air space. I would also like to recognize the approximately 1900 civil servants and 1800 contractors who contribute to the important mission carried out at NASA Langley today and to thank the many individuals who have played a part in the Center's 95-year history in establishing the Center's strong legacy of excellence in aeronautics.

NASA Langley contributes to NASA's vision to "reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind" by developing robust aerospace systems that can perform in our own atmosphere, on the Moon, on Mars or anywhere that NASA explores with aircraft, spacecraft and satellites. These NASA technologies can be found on virtually every civilian or military aircraft flying today. NASA Langley has also conducted ground-breaking climate and atmospheric research, which has improved the understanding of our planet, its atmosphere, and the impact on human health. NASA Langley is a vital member of the Hampton Roads community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation and I am certain that the Center and its employees will continue to achieve unparalleled technology advances that will inspire generations of future explorers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending NASA Langley for continuing to drive game-changing technology innovations that support our Nation's economic vitality and leadership in aerospace.

HONORING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 225th anniversary of the United States Constitution and to celebrate its many contributions to American society. On September 17, 1788 members of the Constitutional Convention signed what would become the most important and fundamental document in the United States of America.

Our founding fathers came together in true American spirit to lay out our rights and freedoms, rights that were later extended to include all Americans regardless of race or gender. The unmatched longevity of the Constitution still maintains those values today. This

unique document represents our founding fathers' innovative strides towards democracy and has fervently outlived all of its predecessors. Our constitutional framers and those who have improved the Constitution through Amendments have ensured the preservation and enhancement of liberty, justice and equality. The Constitution has endured the test of time and now celebrates a remarkable 225 years as the foundation of American government. The Constitution represents the ability of our country to come together for the greater good. The inalienable rights laid out in this historical document have shaped our amazing nation and served as inspiration for the development of future democracies.

On August 2, 1956, President Eisenhower enacted a law that acknowledged the Constitution's importance as the center of the America we now know and love and instituted an annual National Constitution Week to both celebrate the Constitution and promote its study. It is during this week that we acknowledge not only our framers with patriotic dignity, but also honor those who have ensured that this document continues to preserve equality throughout our nation. This dignified piece of American history deserves proper recognition, and I invite my colleagues to join me in renewing our vows to preserve, protect and defend this venerable document.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENZELL
PERRY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young man, Denzell Perry. Today, Mr. Perry is being honored as the Pacific Region Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of America. Mr. Perry is from Watts, California, which is in my district. He embodies the core values held by the Boys and Girls Club. He leads by example and has already made a significant difference at his local center.

Mr. Perry started going to the center at the age of six, and the relationships he built then have turned into lifelong friends and mentors. Now, he provides the same guidance and support that he received as a child.

At his club, Mr. Perry was president of the teen service group and served as a junior staff member. Also, when Mr. Perry's club wanted to help more teens receive assistance through its college access program, he designed a new Web site that really spoke to his peers.

In high school, Mr. Perry was class president, a member of the Black Student Union, and a student member of the board of education. Now he attends University of California Irvine, majoring in criminal justice. I am confident that, with his strong work ethic and sense of social justice, he will transform his community and the lives of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, he is the type of young man we should all look to for inspiration. He is a true leader in his community and has a bright future ahead of him. I am honored to have such an impressive young man in my district. I urge my colleagues to continue to support the Boys and Girls Clubs of America which has a tradition of producing great Americans such as Denzel Washington, Magic Johnson, General Wesley Clark, and now continues with Denzell Perry.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER HIGGINS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Higgins for his invaluable contribution to the infrastructure of Philadelphia. Since 1986, Walt has transformed several of Philadelphia's vital roadways, enhancing the city's travel efficiency.

After graduating Monsignor Bonner High School in 1975, Walt studied Labor-Management Relations and Construction Management at Delaware Community College, Kutztown University, and The George Meany Center for Labor Relations at the National Labor College. Walt was the Traffic Control Coordinator and Foreman for projects such as the Vine Street Expressway Reconstruction, and the 1-95 Center City Access Job. Walt also coordinated logistics with the City of Philadelphia, the Workforce and Penn Dot for several fast track projects. Philadelphians who regularly utilize the Walt Whitman Bridge, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the Patco High Speed Line understand the importance of Walt's work on these projects.

Walt has been a member of the Laborers' Local 57 for more than thirty years and presently serves as the local's Business Manager and the Vice President of the Laborers District Council of Philadelphia. He is a trustee on the Laborers District Council Pension and Health and Welfare Benefit Funds and sits on the Board of Directors of the Allied Trades Assistance Program. Aside from managing business, serving councils, and improving Philadelphia's infrastructure, Walt enjoys spending time with his wife Adele, son Tom and his wife Kelly, and his three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walter Higgins and thanking him for his service to the city of Philadelphia.

NEIL GODLESKI AND SUZANNE
MURPHY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the tragic passing of Neil

Godleski, nephew of my friend and constituent Suzanne Murphy of Southampton, New York. Neil, a rising senior at Catholic University, was fatally shot on August 22, 2010 while riding his bicycle home from a restaurant where he worked as a waiter. He was 31 years old and had returned to college with plans to pursue a career in science. His assailant was a 16-year-old boy who shot him six times with a .38 caliber handgun and then robbed him.

Suzanne's family has been wrenched with grief over the sudden end of this young man's life. More than 200 people attended his funeral in his hometown of Norwalk, Connecticut, and many others gathered at a candlelight vigil for him in his Washington, DC neighborhood of Petworth.

While no vigil or memorial could ever begin to take away the pain of this loss, Suzanne has found a way to channel her grief and focus her energy. She has become an advocate for gun control, becoming part of a movement declaring the need to seek a new path emphasizing gun safety at a time when one in three Americans knows someone who has been shot in an average year, around 100,000 Americans are killed or wounded with guns.

Columbine, Virginia Tech, Trayvon Martin, and the recent episode in Aurora, Colorado are senseless tragedies still fresh in our minds that point to the need for responsible policies that protect all Americans from gun violence but also preserve the right afforded citizens by the Second Amendment. Reasonable people can agree that we can achieve even-handed protections that do not infringe on any American's right to possess a firearm.

Efforts to curb the influx of dangerous weapons into our communities, restrictions on assault-type weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and policies on handguns are the types of actions Congress can take to protect our communities from gun violence. We must also equip local law enforcement officers with the tools needed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who wish to do our sons and daughters harm.

Unfortunately, Suzanne Murphy and her family have experienced first-hand the tragic pain and loss that comes to a family in a shooting death. At Catholic University, Neil was a teaching assistant to his biology professor. The professor told Suzanne that one of Neil's jobs was to keep an eye out for other students having trouble mastering the material. Neil especially liked tutoring and helping his fellow classmates. After his death, Catholic University awarded Neil his diploma with his class of 2011. His parents, Dan and Heidi Godleski, gratefully accepted it on his behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Suzanne's efforts to reach out and bring awareness to the problem of gun safety. We must not let her nephew become just another chilling statistic in the battle to make our communities safer—leaving another family struggling to get past the pain and loss.